The background of the cover is a stylized, teal-colored map of a city. It features a complex network of streets and blocks, with some areas containing circular shapes representing trees or parks. The map is rendered in a flat, graphic style.

IMPLEMENTING THE
**INTERNATIONAL
GUIDELINES ON
URBAN AND
TERRITORIAL
PLANNING**
2015-2017

UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Implementing the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning 2015-2017

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IMPLEMENTING THE
IG-UTP
2015-2017

Foreword



In the past decade, the world has witnessed a global paradigm shift with a renewed focus on urban planning and design as the world's urban population crosses the threshold of fifty percent of the global population. As the world becomes more and more urbanized and new challenges emerge in cities and their rural hinterland, a variety of approaches to planning are being tested and implemented worldwide without basic, universally agreed principles to guide decision makers towards more sustainable urban development.

Approved by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in Resolution 25/6 of 23 April 2015, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning were developed to bridge this existing gap by providing a global reference framework for planning that enables actions across different levels and sectors, with the participation of a variety of stakeholders who have a role in shaping both the built and natural environment.

Similarly, the Guidelines present an integrated and territorial approach to urban planning, instrumental for achieving sustainable urbanization as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda agreed upon at the Habitat III conference in 2016.

In addition to supporting member States and partners to adopt and use the Guidelines, the resolution called upon UN-Habitat, "in close consultation with member States and other relevant stakeholders, to report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session." As such, the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning was developed to track the implementation of the Guidelines by member States and partner organizations, for which UN-Habitat acknowledges



the support of country representatives and the participating professionals throughout the monitoring process.

As the first two-year implementation period of the Guidelines comes to an end, *Implementing the IG-UTP 2015-2017* examines the outcomes and reflects upon lessons learned from the preparatory and primary phases of the implementation program of the Guidelines.

I commend this effort and I hope the report will inspire more cities and countries to apply the Guidelines and become part of a global network of experiences towards more compact, socially inclusive, better connected and integrated, and climate-resilient cities and territories.

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN-Habitat

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List of Acronyms



CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
GC	Governing Council of UN-Habitat
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
IG-UTP	International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning
ISOCARP	International Society of City and Regional Planners
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUP	National Urban Policy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SUD	Sustainable Urban Development
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UTP	Urban and Territorial Planning
WHO	World Health Organization

Summary



Resolution 25/6 of the Governing Council requested UN-Habitat to report on the progress made on the implementation of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP or Guidelines) at its twenty-sixth (26) session. Thus, the **IG-UTP Implementation Report 2015–2017** was developed as a collection of experiences and findings, both by UN-Habitat and IG-UTP countries and partners, in using the Guidelines within local contexts. The report covers the **first biennium of implementation** (2015-2017) since the approval of the Guidelines and builds upon the results of the **Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning** formulated by UN-Habitat to track the adoption and use of the IG-UTP among Member States.

Noteworthy among the discoveries is the ‘booming’ interest in the Guidelines by both countries and partners. The IG-UTP have become an increasingly relevant framework to guide urban and territorial planning, instrumental to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda (as stated in paragraph 93 of the declaration) and, consequently, influential to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Guidelines have been showcased as a **foundational framework to trigger interventions** towards the improvement of planning systems, working in-hand with the development of national urban policies and local spatial strategies.

From the UN-Habitat perspective, this process has left two key lessons to be considered in the formulation of future activities within the IG-UTP program. First, is the diversity of entry points for implementation, meaning there are multiple angles, sectors and planning processes through which the IG-UTP can be approached, all derived from the different drivers and needs of the stakeholder groups of the Guidelines. Second, the different entry points

are only made possible by **entering in partnership**, as illustrated by the multi-stakeholder spirit of the Guidelines. Under this context then, the IG-UTP are a universal planning framework with a **multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, multi-level** approach for the improvement of planning systems.

Yet, these achievements have not come unchallenged. Concerns have been raised by both member States and partners in regards to the knowledge needed to localize the Guidelines and the financial capacity to gather international and local expertise to support their implementation. UN-Habitat is working to overcome these challenges through capacity building initiatives, advocacy platforms, and tool development, to assist countries in using the IG-UTP. Similarly, the international community has taken a step forward in support of the Guidelines, where, a number of partners have come together to form a **community of leadership** to promote their adoption, local application and monitoring at the global level. Still, efforts must be enhanced to fully grasp the benefits of the IG-UTP and their outcomes for sustainable urbanization, for which this report makes a Call to Action for member States to advance their commitments and support to the use of the Guidelines within their cities and territories.



Key Achievements 2015-2017



- Since their adoption in 2015, the IG-UTP have been translated and are now available in **11 LANGUAGES**.



- The Guidelines are UN-Habitat's most popular publication with over **105,000 DOWNLOADS¹** (English version) from the UN-Habitat website.



- The Guidelines have been **LAUNCHED IN 4 countries**: Belarus, Japan, Indonesia and Iran.



- A total of **28 PARTNERS**, collaborators and supporters of the Guidelines have been engaged over this past biennium, and many more to come.



- The Guidelines informed the drafting of and are referred to in the New Urban Agenda as a medium for its effective implementation: As a result, a total of **33 OUT OF 175 POINTS** in the New Urban Agenda highlight the importance of urban and territorial planning:



We will encourage the implementation of sustainable urban and territorial planning, including city-region and metropolitan plans, to encourage synergies and interactions among urban areas of all sizes and their peri-urban and rural surroundings...(New Urban Agenda, paragraph 96)



- A total of **540 "FRIENDS OF THE GUIDELINES"** are subscribed to the IG-UTP mailing list.



- The Guidelines have been cited and made reference to in a total of **9 MAGAZINES AND ACADEMIC ARTICLES**, along with multiple postings on social media.



- The **FIRST GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING** will be held in 2018.

¹ Number of downloads at the time of this report.

I. INTRODUCTION



Introduction



The time for urban and territorial planning is now. Over the past decade, there has been an increased interest in urban and territorial planning (UTP) given the recent paradigm shift to a more people-centered approach and the momentum generated by major global events focused on urban development (e.g. the World Urban Forum), a movement that culminated with the Habitat III conference held in Quito, Ecuador in 2016. This renewed interest in the planning profession comes as no surprise, however, as the world's population becomes predominantly urban and efforts must be enhanced in order to guide urbanization in a sustainable manner. As a result, new approaches to planning have been brought forth and tested to ensure a more holistic-sustainable urban development (SUD) worldwide.

Approved by UN-Habitat's Governing Council (GC) through Resolution 25/6 in 2015, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP or Guidelines) are part of this movement as an enabling framework for addressing the challenges presented by modern urbanization through their **integrated and territorial approach** to urban development. Being a first reference for framework for planning at the global level, the Guidelines can assist all countries and cities to effectively guide urban demographic changes and improve the quality of life in existing and new urban settlements. For planning constituents, the Guidelines represent a **collective voice for planning**, as they enable [different roads and entries to the improvement of planning systems](#) through their **multi-level, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector perspective**, but all leading to [one common goal: sustainable urban development](#).

Furthermore, the Guidelines are becoming an increasingly relevant instrument for the attainment

of universal objectives, acknowledged in the New Urban Agenda as a key means for its effective implementation, and consequently, a contributor to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and interlinked targets in the areas of health and well-being, climate action, poverty reduction and economic growth. This increased interest has also been made visible by UN-Habitat's partners considering the Guidelines are now working with 28 organizations and professional associations and reach out to more than 500 individuals to take its worldwide implementation forward through a [global network for the improvement of urban and territorial planning](#).

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

In Resolution 25/6, the Governing Council requested UN-Habitat:



...in close consultation with member States and other relevant stakeholders, to report on the progress made in the implementation of the [Guidelines] to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session.



As a response, UN-Habitat developed the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning as a tool to track the progress made by member States in the implementation of the Guidelines, and at the more general level, to identify planning practices and instruments bringing about change in local planning systems compliant with the principles and recommendations of the IG-UTP.

Under this context, and as a culmination to the first biennium of implementation, the following report provides the Governing Council with an overview of UN-Habitat's progress during the period 2015 – 2017

in the process of generating knowledge, providing assistance, and the establishment of partnerships to support the localization of the Guidelines within countries. The information presented builds upon UN-Habitat's perspective throughout this process and the accounts of member States and IG-UTP partners in adopting and using the Guidelines within their specific contexts.

In line with the spirit of the Guidelines, continuous monitoring will enable UN-Habitat to assess not only the impact of, but also to identify strengths and points for improvement in the IG-UTP program. While the activities described in this report illustrate UN-Habitat's accomplishments in the diffusion and development of the IG-UTP, the path towards implementation has also encountered challenges to overcome on the road towards the achievement of universal objectives, Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda, for more sustainable urban development.

HOW THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED

UN-Habitat has prepared the following report building on the experiences and activities carried out during the first biennium (2015-2017) of implementation of the IG-UTP since their approval in 2015. As a response to the GC's request in Resolution 25/6, UN-Habitat established the **first Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning** in 2016 in order to track the implementation of the Guidelines within member States, but also to identify other tools and practices triggering change in local planning systems, particularly those experiences in alignment with the principles and recommendations provided in the IG-UTP.

The monitoring survey was conducted with both member States of UN-Habitat (Country Survey) and partners of the Guidelines (Partner Survey). The channels for its diffusion were enabled by the Governing Council Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya, who was responsible for outreach to the member States in the process of delivering and collecting the survey responses. In the end, a total of **21 member States** out of the 58 in the Governing Council responded to the survey, represented by institutions mostly working at the national level such as ministries of regional development, urbanization, infrastructure and the environment, and other related areas to UTP.

OUTLINE OF THE REPORT

Chapter I provides with a background and rationale for the formulation and development of this report, setting the context for the activities described in the coming chapters. Chapter II delivers an introduction to the Guidelines and how they serve as a channel for the achievement of universal agendas. Moreover, this chapter includes a brief description of UN-Habitat's Implementation Framework for the Guidelines and its expected outcomes. From here on, the following sections are structured according to the Implementation Framework (Chapter III) in order to illustrate through examples how stakeholders (whether United Nations bodies, international organizations, national or local governments, and professional associations, to name a few) can take the IG-UTP forward through different means and at different levels. Lastly, the concluding section of the report (Chapter IV) provides with key lessons learned, highlights, and challenges of the first period of implementation of the IG-UTP and the way forward towards the future expansion of this program.

II. MEET THE GUIDELINES



Meet the Guidelines



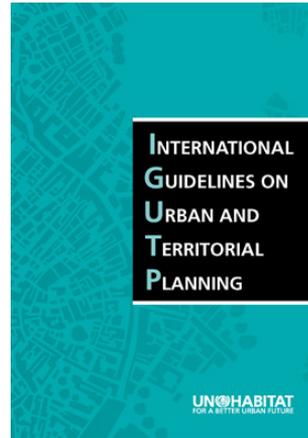
Different types and approaches to urban and territorial planning are being used worldwide without simple and universally agreed principles to guide decision makers towards SUD. In light of this, UN-Habitat's Governing Council requested in 2013 for a guidance document on urban planning that could be globally relevant, in line with the guidelines so far developed on Decentralization (2007) and Access to Basic Services for All (2009). Following a consultative process of normative work and consensus building at the global level, the **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning** were adopted by the GC in 2015 under Resolution 25/6 as:



a global reference framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change (pp. 1)



Based on strong evidence and lessons learned from various regions and contexts, they consist of **12 key principles** and **114 action-oriented recommendations** targeted to **four stakeholder groups**: national governments, local authorities, planning professionals and their associations and civil society and its organizations.



The Guidelines emphasize the need for an **integrated approach** to planning and cover areas of urban policy and governance, sustainable urban development, planning components, and implementation and monitoring mechanisms. They enable the integration of the vertical and horizontal dimensions of planning systems by opening thematic entry points for its improvement, while taking into account the potential for interventions to occur at different levels. Moreover, the Guidelines bring forth a **territorial perspective** to planning as their application is not constrained to the problematic taking place within the urban boundary, but instead, takes into consideration the processes, actors, and issues taking place throughout the spatial planning continuum (Figure 1), meaning, all the way from urban to rural.

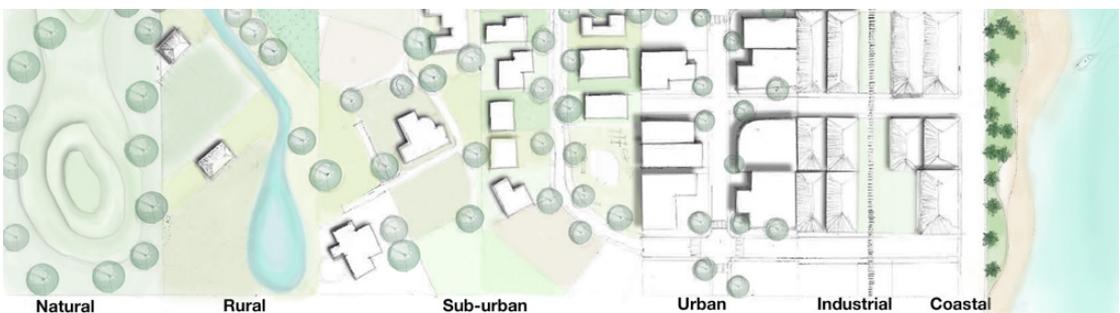


Figure 1. Spatial planning continuum.

KEY FACTS



- A **MULTI-LEVEL, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER, MULTI-SECTOR** approach to urban and territorial planning.



- Instrumental to achieve the **5 QUALIFIERS** of UN-Habitat for more sustainable cities and territories: more **compact**, socially **inclusive**, better **integrated**, better **connected**, and climate **resilient**.

Multi-scale Multi-stakeholder Multi-sector

- They build upon a **3-PRONGED APPROACH** to urban and territorial planning: urban planning and design, supported by urban rules and regulations and municipal finance.



- **12 PRINCIPLES** and **114 ACTION-ORIENTED RECOMMENDATIONS** for planning constituencies.



- They work across the **5 LEVELS** of the planning continuum: supranational and transboundary, national, city-region and metropolitan, city and municipal, and neighborhood levels.



- The Guidelines are addressed to **4 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS**: national governments, local authorities, planning professionals and their associations, and civil society organizations.

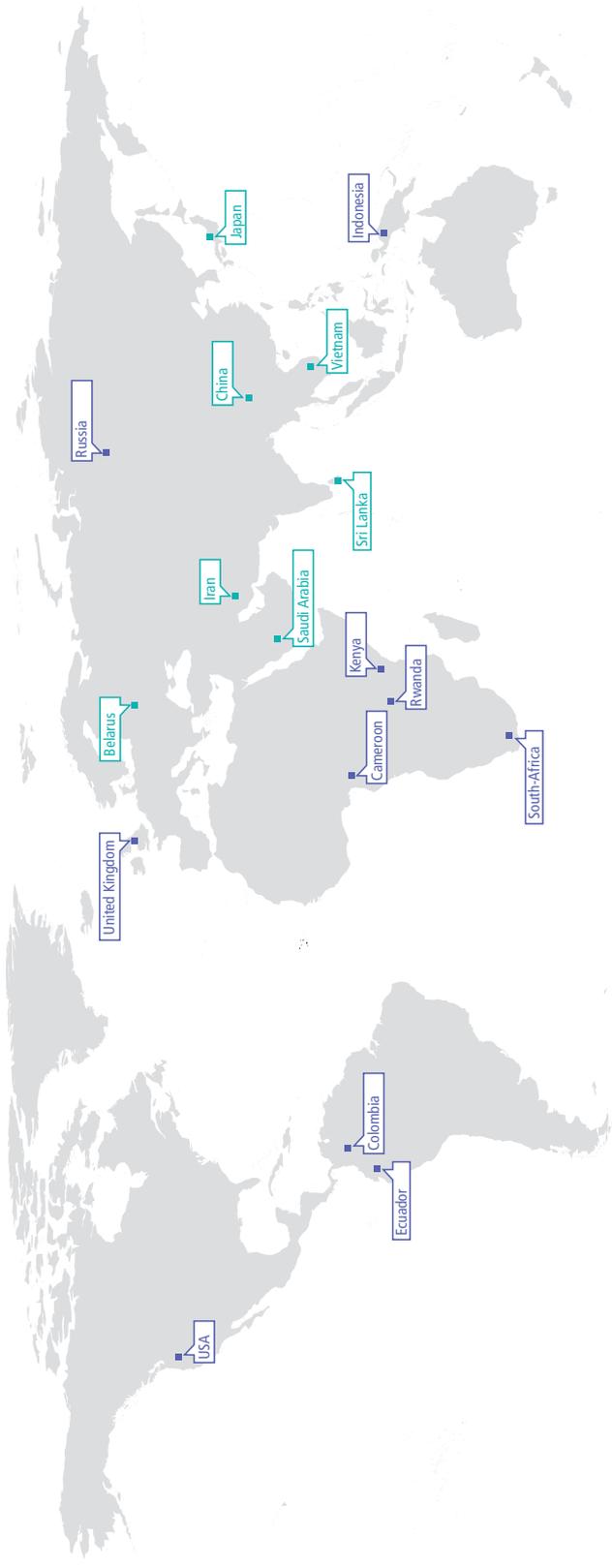


- A series of tools and capacity development materials are in development to support member States in adopting and using the Guidelines, including a **HANDBOOK AND TOOLKIT FOR LOCALIZATION**.



- The Guidelines have been piloted and tested in different locations around the world, along with the establishment of a global network of partners for their implementation (see Map on page 10).

THE GUIDELINES AROUND THE WORLD



- Country Experiences & Launches
- Diffusion & Training Events

A CHANNEL FOR ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL OBJECTIVES

The release of the IG-UTP has been timely considering the renewed interest in the planning profession around the world over the last decade, and the declaration of two major global agendas since their approval in 2015: the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the **New Urban Agenda**. Being a global framework guiding actions towards more sustainable urban areas and territories, the IG-UTP are strongly interlinked to the spatial dimensions of both targets, thus becoming a tool to support their implementation.

The establishment of **Sustainable Development Goal 11** (SDG 11): **Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable** in 2015 marked the acknowledgement of urbanization as a driver for development among the international community, opening opportunities to direct efforts towards guiding the growth of cities and their rural hinterland. The IG-UTP were developed with the three pillars of sustainable development in mind (the social, economic, and environmental pillars) accompanied by urban policy and governance, in order to become a medium for the achievement of these objectives. In addition, due to the territorial and integrated approach of the Guidelines, they present opportunities to link across all relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for example, linking SDG 11 to SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being (see Box 1 in Section III). For an effective implementation of the Guidelines in line with the targets contained in the SDGs, it is important to capitalize on the indicators being developed, particularly for SDG 11.

In the case of the **New Urban Agenda** (NUA), agreed upon during the Habitat III conference on October 2016, paragraph 93 explicitly acknowledges the Guidelines as a key mechanism for its effective implementation in cities and territories. The IG-UTP informed its formulation as one of the building blocks of the Habitat III Issue Paper 8: Urban and Spatial Planning and Design. As a result, a total of 33 out of 175 points outlined in the NUA highlight the importance of planning and managing urban spatial development (e.g. paragraphs 94, 95 and 98), while many others are informed by the foundational concepts and principles of the Guidelines. Therefore, considering the NUA advocates for a re-invention of planning towards a more integrated people-centered approach, opportunities arise for the adoption of the Guidelines by member States as they represent an enabling mechanism for merging sectors and levels and ensuring stakeholder involvement throughout the planning process.



“

“By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.” (SDG 11.3)

“Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.” (SDG 11.a)

”



We acknowledge the principles and strategies for urban and territorial planning contained in the **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning**, adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its 25th session in April 2015.

NEW URBAN AGENDA, PARAGRAPH 93

THE IG-UTP IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

While the Guidelines serve as a **compass to guide decision-makers** in the review, development and implementation of their urban policies and frameworks, there is scope for more practical guidance and experience on how to operationalize them at different planning levels. In light of this, UN-Habitat has formulated a global implementation strategy for the IG-UTP in order to guide both the organization and its partners through a concerted effort to adopt and localize the Guidelines to various contexts.

It is envisaged that the Guidelines can (1) help assess and improve planning system practices, (2) strengthen institutional capacities and planning education, (3) inspire adjustments in regulatory frameworks and financing systems that support spatial planning, and (4) activate **multi-stakeholder, multi-level** and **multi-sector** policy dialogue.

Thus, the implementation strategy accommodates a range of possible actions (Figure2), moving between the normative and operational activities as listed below, in which stakeholders can take part and contribute to the application of the IG-UTP at different levels.

The normative set of activities is targeted towards the global and local improvement of knowledge, while the operational activities place emphasis on improving local planning practice; the establishment of partnerships is a cross-cutting effort between the two as entering in partnership empowers stakeholders to take action both at the normative and operational levels.

UN-Habitat plays a leading role in the implementation framework for the Guidelines serving as both a catalyst and convener for partners within the global IG-UTP network. In addition, a range of supporting activities and areas for collaboration between UN-Habitat and the member States have been identified, including:

- Providing technical assistance to member States for localization;
- Developing supporting tools for UTP and capacity building schemes for planning constituencies;
- Coordinating functions and tracking partner activities in the projected global UTP monitoring framework to follow the adoption and use of the Guidelines; and
- Monitoring and reporting on the mandate's progress to the GC.

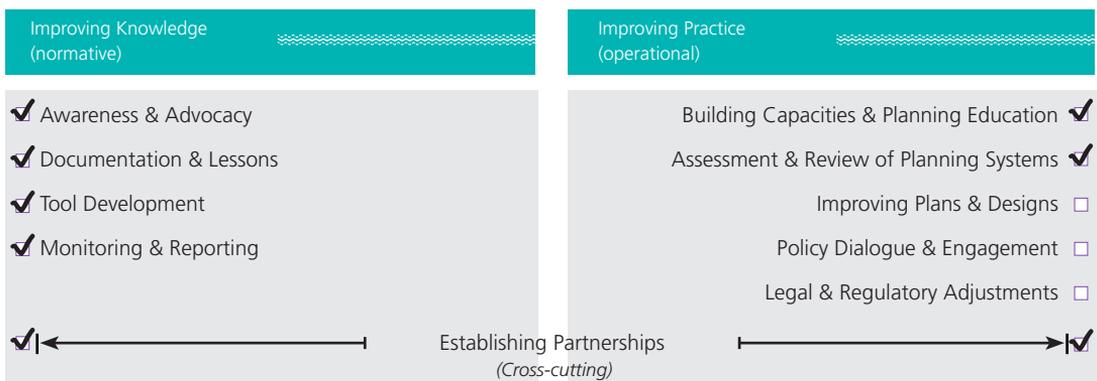


Figure 2. UN-Habitat's implementation framework for the IG-UTP

Moreover, even though the framework outlines a particular set of activities and focus areas (Figure 2), the lessons learned from this process feedback into the work program of UN-Habitat and partners (see Section III on Entry Points), and thus, the strategy for the IG-UTP is **a living document shaped by country demand and partner interest.**

In the end, the global implementation of the Guidelines is expected to lead to outcomes in both the improvement of knowledge and practices for UTP, in order to achieve the long-term vision of sustainable urbanization set by the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Expected outcomes from the global implementation of the IG-UTP:

Improved Knowledge

1. Enhanced knowledge and partnerships established to support the implementation and monitoring of the IG-UTP.
2. Tools developed to assess, formulate, implement and monitor UTP in compliance with the Guidelines.

Improved Practice

3. Enhanced engagement between stakeholders and capacities strengthened to implement UTP principles and practices.
4. The Guidelines used to improve policies, plans, designs and implementation processes.

III. TWO YEARS IN REVIEW



Two Years In Review



The first biennium of implementation since the approval of the Guidelines in 2015 has represented a period of preparation (formulating activities, identifying champions, establishing commitments, and developing the supporting knowledge and tools to take the Guidelines forward in their second biennium), setting the foundation for piloting tools and projects to localize the IG-UTP in cities and territories over the forthcoming years. UN-Habitat, the member States and several IG-UTP partners have conceptualized and fulfilled the activities described in the following subsections, in alignment with the Implementation Framework illustrated in Section II, to answer the GC call set out in Resolution 25/6 to:



...assist interested member States in using the guidelines and adapting them to their territorial and national contexts, where appropriate, and further developing tools and monitoring indicators as part of their support for the implementation of the Guidelines.” (paragraph 4)

“...develop partnerships [...] to support the adaptation and use of the Guidelines to local, national and regional circumstances, including through capacity and tool development.” (paragraph 5)

“...support the future work of UN-Habitat with all levels of government on urban and territorial planning, especially in promoting the use of the Guidelines. (paragraph 6)



The following paragraphs therefore highlight the accomplishments of this process, offer insight into the lessons learned and outline the challenges to implementing the Guidelines in order to inform planning constituents and provide some initial guidance for the future work of UN-Habitat and its partners. These projects, initiatives and lessons are described in the following outline:

1. Entry points to the implementation of the IG-UTP,
2. Activities in the area of ‘improving knowledge’,
3. Activities in the area of ‘improving practice’,
4. The establishment of partnerships for taking the Guidelines forward, and
5. Challenges encountered during their implementation.

1. ENTRY POINTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The first two-year period of implementation has left **two key lessons** from for further expanding the adoption and use of the Guidelines within member States. The first lesson is that **different partners have different needs, and thus, different roads to the adoption and use of the Guidelines.**

As illustrated in Figure 3, the diversity of approaches ranges from the development of **products** (spatial plans, policies or designs), by making an institutional-level entry through the existing **processes** that compose the planning system, or by focusing on a particular **sector** or pressing issue (e.g. urban health or public space). Hence, there is **a diversity of entry points** to the implementation of the IG-UTP, but all leading to one universal goal: a sustainable development for cities and territories as advocated by the NUA and SDG 11.

An example of implementation of the IG-UTP from a **thematic perspective or sectorial issue** is the area

of urban health, where, an opportunity emerged to explore this specific entry point for the localization of the IG-UTP. Paragraph 18 of Resolution 25/4 requested UN-Habitat

“*to consider health and well-being aspects, including the promotion of and access to health services, in developing policies on urban and territorial planning and human settlements and in the operational work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.*”

In response to the request, and with funding from the Government of Norway, UN-Habitat is working with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the implementation of the Guidelines with particular focus on addressing health issues in urban planning and development in selected countries, including Ghana, Liberia and Belarus (Box 1).



Figure 3. Entry points for localizing the IG-UTP

The second lesson learned from this biennium of implementation is a reflection of the spirit of collaboration expressed in the Guidelines, where, **the different entry points** to the improvement of planning systems **are made possible by entering in partnership**. Although UN-Habitat leads the implementation of the IG-UTP at the global level, **champions of change** of UTP (Figure 4) have stepped into the picture at multiple levels and in multiple locations around the world (see section

4 on Entering in Partnership), resulting in a range of typologies and methods for the localization of the Guidelines in various contexts. Through this discovery, the importance of outreach has increased for taking the Guidelines forward, outreach not only between UN-Habitat and partners, but also between partners and/or collaborators themselves for a more integral approach to UTP.

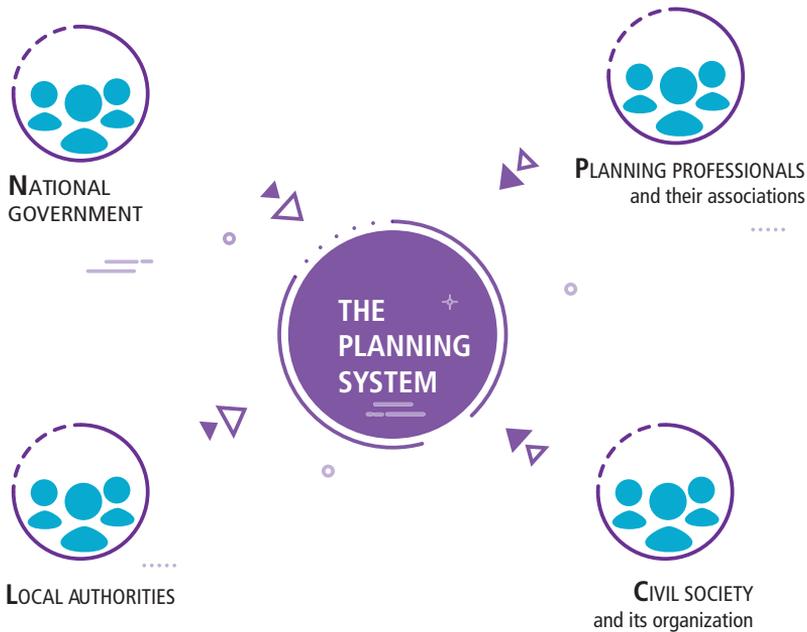


Figure 4. Champions of change of IG-UTP



Box 1. THEMATIC ENTRY POINT: **HEALTH**

Urban planning and land use patterns are intrinsically connected with health. Urban policies can impact the air we breathe, the quality of the spaces we use and the water we drink, the way we move, as well as the access to healthy-nutritious foods and healthcare services. However, populations in cities and their surrounding areas worldwide are facing negative consequences for human health due to the deteriorating quality of both the built and natural environment (e.g. air pollution, noise, and water contamination). The causes lie in the use of polluting fuels and technologies, inadequate waste management, poor design of buildings, and framed through the bigger picture, due to unsustainable sectorial policies.

Although up-stream policy options are often the root cause of both diseases and environmental problems, the solutions are being sought at the individual or community level. This is happening partly because governments and professionals are not aware of the inter-linked processes that induce this result, but also because breaking down barriers between sectorial activities requires systematic thinking and a deliberate effort to identify how these activities can be mutually reinforcing.

Under this context, the IG-UTP offer an opportunity to bridge this gap by providing with a set of tools and recommendations that work across the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the planning system. Through this integrated approach, the Guidelines will better coordinate different stakeholders (sectorial and multi-level), avoiding conflict, in order to develop policies and actions towards a common goal. Guidance for planners that informs and enables them to consider that

“

...health in urban planning is one main mechanism to ensure that the New Urban Agenda delivers healthy, safe, inclusive, and equitable cities.

(Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda) ”

UN-Habitat is being supported by the Government of Norway, in collaboration with the WHO, with aims to localize the Guidelines for improving the quality of the built environment, resulting in health benefits to urban citizens through the implementation of this framework. The collaboration was launched at the Habitat III conference in 2016 during the ‘Planning for Clean, Green and Healthy Cities’ event, where a number of partners came together to discuss the linkages between planning and health. Over the course of the year 2017, the partnership will therefore develop the Healthy Urban and Territorial Planning program. Among the main goals of the project is the generation of knowledge and development of tools for the acknowledgement and inclusion of health in planning practice, and to demonstrate this thematic approach to the IG-UTP by exploring entry points such as healthy-public spaces and planning for health care.

2.IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE

✓ Awareness and Advocacy

The IG-UTP are UN-Habitat's most popular publication, with a record of over 105,000 downloads (English version only) at the time of reporting.

In order to accommodate the growing demand for a holistic and universal planning framework, and to ensure its diffusion from the global to the local level, the Guidelines are being translated and are currently available in 11 languages (Bahasa, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Spanish).

Furthermore, the Guidelines have been diffused across a series of 19 global, regional and local events (Annex 1). The Habitat III conference held in Quito, Ecuador particularly served this purpose, considering a total of six events were held here to promote the Guidelines and highlight collaborations and approaches to their implementation. Likewise, these events served to strengthen existing partnerships with partner countries, international professional associations, and other UN bodies and regional economic commissions.

Box 2. COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

Several communication instruments have been developed for the diffusion of the IG-UTP in parallel to the launches and events held over the period 2015 – 2017. The **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning: A Synopsis**, for example, provides readers with an overview of the background, main components, and current developments for the implementation of the IG-UTP.

Other communication materials have taken the form of digital media. In the online video "International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning", the Guidelines are summarized to the viewer and broken down according to their main achievements. In addition, the IG-UTP are introduced in the Urban Thinkers Voices video series of the World Urban Campaign. Lastly, other types of communication resources produced to diffuse the Guidelines include flyers, bookmarks and factsheets (a narrative featuring country experiences with the Guidelines) prepared for the PrepCom3 and Habitat III events.



The need to raise awareness on UTP and diffuse the Guidelines has been made explicit by several member States through the monitoring survey, where 'low awareness of the Guidelines' and 'lack of information on what it means to use and implement the Guidelines' have been described as two of the major challenges faced for adapting and using the IG-UTP in their local context (see section 5 on Challenges Encountered). This comes as no surprise considering that the IG-UTP cannot be put into practice if there is an absence of knowledge.

With this in mind, UN-Habitat has developed a capacity development strategy and an IG-UTP learning package in order to assist interested member States and partners in better understanding the Guidelines, empowering them to move forward with their local application.

In addition, while UN-Habitat has diffused and promoted the implementation of the Guidelines around the world, partners have taken on the task of advocating for the IG-UTP themselves as motivated by Resolution 25/6, where:

“*[The Governing Council] encourages member States and partners to support the future work of UN-Habitat [...] especially in promoting the use of the Guidelines (paragraph 6)*

”

Thus, the Guidelines have been cited and referenced in a total of nine (09) magazine and academic articles (including the magazines *Ruimte* and *The Thinker*), multiple postings on social media, and they are explicitly made reference to, along with the *Compendium of Inspiring Practices*, in the Habitat III message from HRH Prince of Wales:

“

We also have excellent and authoritative documents, such as UN-Habitat's Guidelines on [Urban and Territorial Planning with its compendium of successful and sustainable cities that have stood the test of time and provide us with clear examples to follow.

- HRH Prince of Wales, Habitat III message

”

“

Much is made in planning of the fact that the world's urban population is now predominantly urban. An important example is UN-Habitat's recently promulgated International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning...an instrument to promote sound urban and territorial planning around the world, based on universally agreed principles.

- Journal of International Planning Studies, 2016

”

“

Local and regional authorities play an increasingly important role in urban planning and management. This role has recently been highlighted in the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, approved in 2015 by the UN-Habitat Governing Council.

- *The Thinker*, 2016

”

Box 3. THE GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

UN-Habitat has tracked references to the IG-UTP made on social media throughout the process of raising awareness on and diffusing the Guidelines. Multiple postings, particularly during the Habitat III conference, showcased how the Guidelines were being promoted by partner organizations and individuals through communication platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

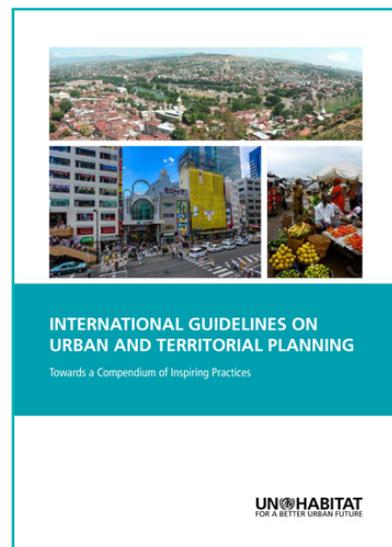
A number of tags across social networks have emerged since for the IG-UTP and other related areas of work, including the NUA and SDGs.

#NUA
#urbanandterritorialplanning #planningguidelines
#IGUTP #IGUTP2016
#internationalplanningguidelines
#IGUTP2016 #NUA
#urbanplanning #IGUTP
#urbanandterritorialplanning
#planningguidelines

✓ Inspiring Practices of UTP

Released in 2015, the IG-UTP: Towards a Compendium of Inspiring Practices was developed as an evidence base to support and illustrate the principles provided in the Guidelines. It is a collection of 26 international experiences in UTP that provides with inventive, ambitious and unique cases that address common issues of urban and territorial development. The overall goal of the compendium, in the end, is to raise awareness, build evidence, and enhance knowledge of planning stakeholders to encourage them towards the adoption and localization of the Guidelines within their specific context.

Therefore, this global database of inspiring UTP cases is an ongoing and open initiative within UN-Habitat for which new experiences are constantly being collected in order to document different practices taking place for the improvement of planning systems, and moreover, to share them with the IG-UTP network. Considering the examples collected from the Global Survey represent successful stories on interventions to a planning system as well, these accounts are to take part in this continuously evolving project



for the implementation of the IG-UTP. More than **half of the survey respondents** (52%) indicated that they would like to share their experiences with developing national or subnational policies or planning frameworks in the collection.

Similarly, in the thematic area of implementing the IG-UTP through the 'lens' of health, one more collection of inspiring practices on 'Planning for Health' is well underway as part of UN-Habitat's work program. The examples range from experiences with the provision of basic services within communities, planning interventions promoting healthier lifestyles among urban residents, all the way to the development of city and regional-level strategies for environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Ultimately, the aim of this thematic compendium of the IG-UTP is to provide with reliable knowledge and evidence on the impacts of interventions that have introduced UTP as a means to achieve healthy built and natural environments, and at the broader level, demonstrate the potential of localizing the Guidelines from a thematic entry point.

✓ Tools for Localization

Resolution 25/6 requested UN-Habitat to "*assist interested member States in using and adapting the guidelines to their contexts, where appropriate, and further developing tools and monitoring indicators for their implementation*".

In order to achieve this objective, UN-Habitat is developing a Handbook and a toolkit for the implementation of the Guidelines with funding from the Government of Sweden. The objective of the Handbook is to better illustrate and clarify the principles and recommendations of the IG-

UTP, making the proper links to existing tools and practices that can inspire UTP actors to take action. Furthermore, the Handbook will provide with a set of indicators to measure, monitor and evaluate the performance of planning components. Equipped with the Handbook, countries, cities and their citizens should be better able **to self-apply the IG-UTP** by taking action in the development or improvement of national or local plans, strategies and frameworks.

The Handbook and its associated toolkit for localization have been drafted, along with a set of methodologies to assist member States and other stakeholders from the planning sector in reviewing and reforming their planning systems, including a self-assessment questionnaire addressed to the four stakeholder groups of the Guidelines. Similarly, **a monitoring framework** is being developed to guide such UTP reforms in alignment with the UN agenda for sustainable development. In addition, the **monitoring framework** and its **set of 39 planning-oriented indicators** will support the efforts of UN-Habitat in tracking the influence of the Guidelines at the global, national, and regional levels.

Furthermore, since the Guidelines are designed to be implemented through a collaborative effort between UN-Habitat, governments and key supporters, these tools are being tested and validated by multiple IG-UTP partners in order to increase their relevance and make them suited to their needs. UN-Habitat has reached out to international organizations such as the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to collect the technical expertise and the endorsement required to finalize these tools. Therefore, not only this organizations have supported UN-Habitat by

providing channels for the diffusion of the IG-UTP and the localization tools, but have also opened platforms for their validation and building capacities for UTP.

✓ Tracking Implementation

As part of UN-Habitat's goal to track the global implementation of the Guidelines within member States, the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning assisted in identifying if and how the use of the Guidelines is happening in countries, in alignment with the call in Resolution 25/6.



[The Governing Council] encourages member States, according to their circumstances, needs and priorities and as appropriate, to consider urban and territorial planning principles outlined in the Guidelines while developing, reviewing and implementing their national urban policies and territorial planning frameworks.



The following results from the survey thus provide insight into the level of familiarity with the IG-UTP among country representatives, and their current or prospective use for the Guidelines. Ultimately, these lessons will enable UN-Habitat to improve future activities for application and a continuous monitoring of this use within the member States.

CONSIDERING THE PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IG-UTP

Interestingly, nearly half (48%) of the survey respondents indicated not using the recommendations provided by the IG-UTP (Figure 5).

The remaining respondents indicated that they are considering the Guidelines at least partially, or are focusing on parts A (Urban Policy and Governance) and B1 (Urban and Territorial Planning and Social Development) of the Guidelines. Interest is given to a lesser extent for section B2 (Urban and Territorial Planning and Sustainable Economic Growth) and B3 (Urban and Territorial Planning and the Environment), while the least consideration is given to parts C (Urban and Territorial Planning Components) and D (Implementation and Monitoring of Urban and Territorial Planning).

In the cases where the Guidelines are being used, linkages between specific excerpts from the Guidelines and local frameworks were made explicit. For example, **Colombia** placed emphasis on the importance of using recommendations that foster inter-municipal cooperation, the reduction of the urban and rural divide in regional development, the development of well-connected polycentric regions, and the management of natural resources in UTP, all recommendations in alignment with their 'Systems of Cities' national policy framework.

When it comes to the level of support given to the implementation of the IG-UTP, answers stemming from government representatives indicated strong support at the national level, followed by city-region level engagements. Top willingness to give support at the national level was stated for the following activities for localizing the principles of the Guidelines: Institution building (63%), policy dialogue (63%) and support through financial incentives or instruments (50%). At the city-region level, the activities outlined were legal and regulatory adjustments (36%), adapting planning instruments (32%) and adapting planning practices (32%).

Furthermore, the results illustrate that **both consideration and implementation are at an initial stage**, placing the social aspects of UTP as a key focus point for the interventions.



Figure 5. Considering the principles and recommendations of the IG-UTP

The reduced interest in the recommendations for planning components (Part C) is perhaps a result of each individual context as planning components to follow might already be established. As for implementation and monitoring (Part D), it may be too premature for the survey participants to be in a position to comment on or consider this element of the Guidelines. Overall, the responses indicate a need for further investigation to identify the reasons why some sections are being considered more than others.

Nevertheless, even if a considerable number of respondents are not fully making use of the Guidelines, their concepts might already be embedded in the UTP systems in place. For example, countries with long-standing physical planning traditions, such as the **Republic of Croatia**, have already accounted for integrated approaches to UTP within their frameworks. Taking a deeper look into the country's Physical Planning Act of 2014, similar

principles have been considered throughout its formulation, building upon 'an integrated approach to spatial planning', 'horizontal integration in the protection of space', and 'vertical integration'.

Thus, it is worthy to draw attention to the fact that, **in a way, the Guidelines are rooted to some extent within the existing planning systems**. Still, whether such principles are actually taken to the practice remains a point for further exploration in the review of planning systems against the IG-UTP.

EXPERIENCED OUTCOMES FROM USING THE GUIDELINES

From the responses, it can be observed that the outcomes of using the Guidelines are still not experienced in several member States due to a more recent application of the IG-UTP concepts within their planning systems. For others, their experiences with the Guidelines have inspired the adoption of concepts of sustainable development by providing with a reference framework, "**the ideal state of play**" as described by **Turkey**, towards better urban and territorial development.

For example, the **Czech Republic** indicated that a general consideration of the Guidelines in spatial planning practices and overall national urban development is on its way, and were described by **Malaysia** as "**a good guidance for the formulation of national urban policy**". In the case of **Sri Lanka**, the experience with the Guidelines has assisted the transition from ad hoc interventions to a more strategic territorial development that "includes more provisions on environmental disaster concerns in policies and encourage participatory decision-making [towards] greener and sustainable cities". For the Government of **Mexico**, the use of the IG-UTP

3. IMPROVING PRACTICE

✓ Building Capacities for UTP

has led to a stronger relationship with UN-Habitat to address urban issues under a common language.

The more critical voices indicated that the Guidelines were used merely as one of various formal and informal instruments and tools already in place within their respective planning systems. The experience with the Guidelines could, therefore, not be determined on its own but must be put into the context of the legal and administrative capacities at hand. Hence, the experiences with the IG-UTP showcase their **potential to be incorporated into preexisting systems or to serve as a foundation to build upon** in the formulation, development and review of policies, plans, designs and implementation processes.

A CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GUIDELINES

Lastly, the respondents of the survey expressed interest in continuing their engagement with the IG-UTP through several means. For instance, **39% of the respondents indicated their interest in being illustrated as an inspiring planning intervention in the compendium of inspiring practices, while 43% expressed interest in technical assistance from UN-Habitat and/or partners to adapt and use the Guidelines** for an assessment of the planning system, improving policies and plans or demonstrating the use of the Guidelines through pilot projects. Additionally, 65% of the respondents requested to and have been added to the IG-UTP mailing list which now boasts 540 members. The elevated interest expressed in collaborating with UN-Habitat for technical assistance for localizing the Guidelines indicates a clear enthusiasm to begin using the IG-UTP, opening an opportunity for UN-Habitat to further expand the implementation of the Guidelines.

UN-Habitat has drafted the IG-UTP learning package with the purpose of effectively building competencies among planning constituents. Its learning strategy expands from a transfer of learning and theory of change focus all the way to practical application. The learning package includes an instructor's guide and a participant's workbook through which, when used, stakeholders can take on the role of promoting the principles and recommendations of the Guidelines in their respective urban contexts by designing learning events that bring a variety of UTP actors together.

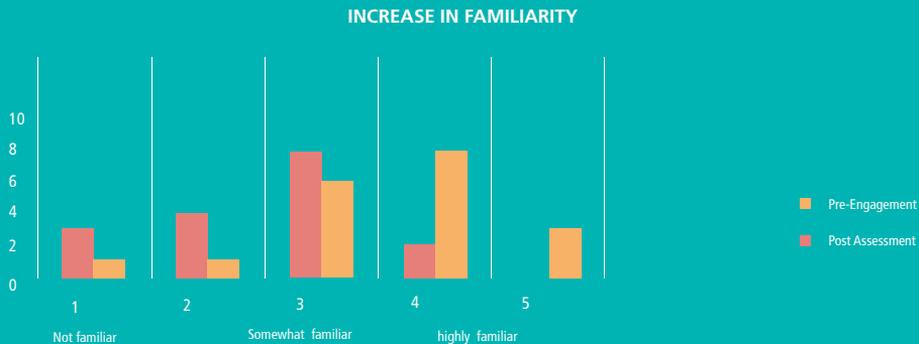
In addition, UN-Habitat hosted a number of training and awareness raising events over the year 2016 in collaboration with partners ISOCARP and UCLG. First, a training event for planning professionals on the localization of the Guidelines was held during the 52nd ISOCARP Congress in Durban, South Africa in September 2016 (Box 4). Secondly, dissemination of the localization package to local governments took place during the 5th UCLG Congress in Bogota, Colombia in October 2016. And third, both partners were brought together during the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador on October 2016 for a training event on the use of the localization package. In addition, a different approach to capacity building on the IG-UTP was tested in November 2016 in the form of a land policy workshop hosted in Kigali, Rwanda with partners Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), Land Policy Initiative (LPI), AU-ECA-African Development Bank (AfDB) initiative and Regional Centre for Mapping of Resource Development (RCMRD), in order to illustrate how the IG-UTP can be applied through the specific 'lens' of land management and policy (Box 5).



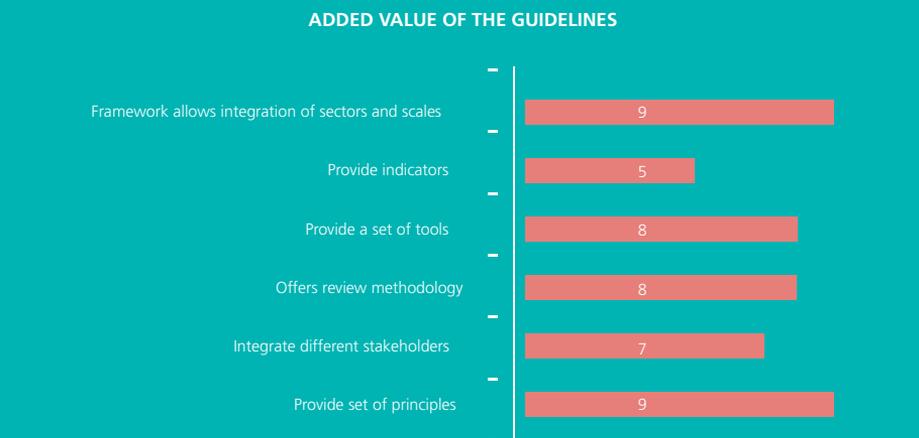
Box 4. LEARNING IN DURBAN: CONNECTING PLANNING PROFESSIONALS TO THE IG-UTP

A **training event** on localization of the IG-UTP was held during the 52nd ISOCARP Congress in Durban, South Africa on September 2016 as part of the collaboration between UN-Habitat and ISOCARP. On the one hand, the session targeted the use of the Handbook and toolkit of the Guidelines by planning professionals and related actors attending the event, opening the opportunity for participants to test and review the self-assessment on UTP. On the other hand, the event aimed to **highlight the role and potential contribution of planning professionals to the adoption and use of the Guidelines**. In addition, several lessons were extracted from pre- and post-engagement phases of the training, including the following:

(1) An **increase in familiarity** with the Guidelines could be observed among the participants before and after the event, demonstrating that an effective learning took place during the session through the chosen methodology.

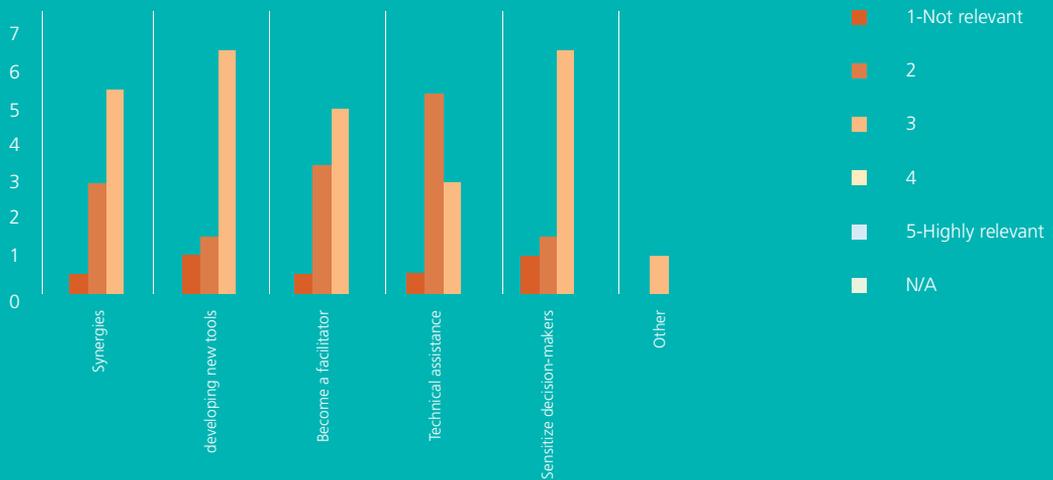


(2) Planning professionals see the **added value of the IG-UTP** to their work in the fact that they provide with guiding principles and they enable the integration of the vertical (levels) and horizontal (sectors) dimensions of planning. There is value from the tools and methodologies of the localization package to a lesser extent. Conclusively, these are strong points to consider in the future work of the Guidelines and engagements with planning professionals.

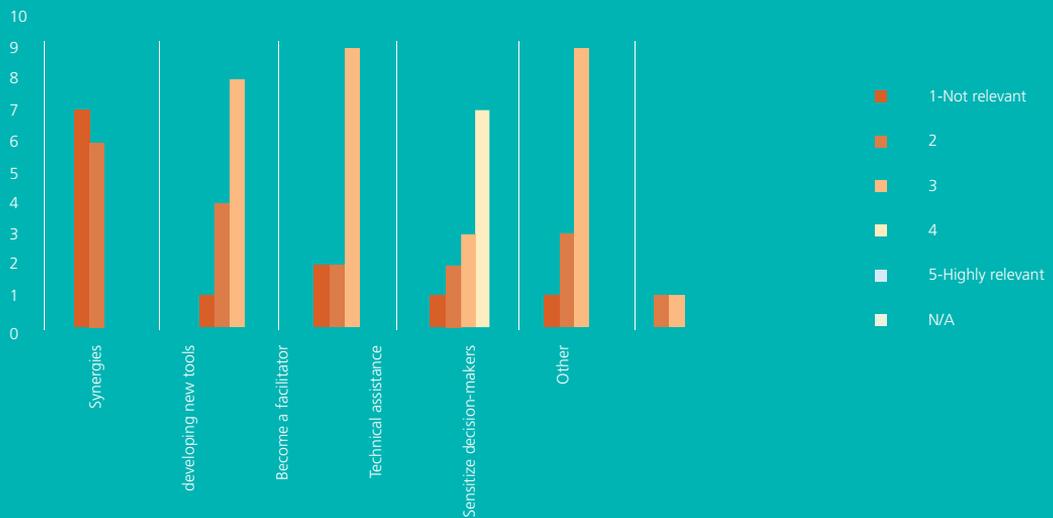


(3) Regarding the contributions of planning professionals and research institutions to the IG-UTP, the participants initially outlined potential in the areas of 'becoming a facilitator of the process of developing and revising policies, plans and designs' and in 'sensitizing decision-makers and the public when it comes to urban and territorial planning'. Afterwards, most respondents indicated their potential is really in the area of 'developing tools and transfer knowledge across levels and sectors to promote integration' and, once again, in sensitizing stakeholders. Thus, this stakeholder particular group of the IG-UTP can be mostly engaged in normative activities within the implementation framework of the Guidelines.

PRE-ENGAGEMENT: POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION



PRE-ENGAGEMENT: POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION



✓ Assessing & Reviewing Planning Systems

UN-Habitat is working with local planning authorities and constituents to pilot and test the Guidelines for the development, review, and implementation of urban and territorial planning and policy frameworks in countries such as **Belarus, China, Palestine** and the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**. Following the launch of the Guidelines in these countries, UN-Habitat has engaged in a discussion with relevant stakeholders (Belarus Institute of Regional and Urban Planning (BIRUP), Wuhan Land Use and Spatial Planning Centre (WLSP) in China, and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MoMRA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) with the aim of strengthening local planning practices and capacities by making use of the principles and recommendations of the IG-UTP.

Technical assistance has been provided to **Sri Lanka** and **China** in the form of a rapid assessment of their regional and local development plans, respectively, with the aim of identifying strengths and opportunities for the improvement of their planning systems and the way forward towards its reform. In the case of **Minsk, Belarus**, a pilot project, one training event and two seminars have taken place to support the improvement of implementations processes and outcomes of master-planning. In addition, through the establishment of partnerships, UN-Habitat has collaborated with other international bodies to advance the implementation of the IG-UTP. For example, supporting **Cities Alliance** for the formulation of city development strategies in two **Vietnamese cities**: Tam Ky and Quy Nhon.

PILOTING THE IG-UTP IN BELARUS

Belarus has a strong planning framework that is in line with the principles of the IG-UTP. However, notable challenges have been recently identified

by stakeholders, with support from UN-Habitat, to ensure participatory planning processes, effective financing mechanisms, more inclusive urban areas, and infrastructure development. As a follow-up activity to the launch of the IG-UTP in Minsk in April 2016 and as part of the development of the Handbook, UN-Habitat is working with the Belarus Institute of Regional and Urban Planning (BIRUP), with support from UNECE, in the formulation of a pilot project to test the self-assessment methodology for the implementation of the Guidelines. An initial evaluation has already taken place with representatives of the national government, local authorities and members of civil society, in order to reveal strengths and points of improvement within their urban development frameworks.

It is expected that the outcome of the multi-stakeholder self-assessment of the Belarus planning system will lead to a national 'Planning Reform Action Plan', setting the country on the path towards for the achievement of the NUA and the SDGs. Among the potential impacts of its application are an increase in public participation throughout planning processes, and the improvement of financing mechanisms. From the UN-Habitat perspective, this pilot case is an opportunity to explore means of implementation for the Guidelines, and consequently, better equip UN-Habitat to further assist member States in localizing the IG-UTP in the coming years.

ASSESSMENT OF THE WESTERN PROVINCE MEGALOPOLIS PLAN IN SRI LANKA

In order to guide Sri Lanka's process of rapid urbanization in a sustainable manner, the central government has embarked in the development of the 'Western Province Megalopolis Master Plan'

to power large-scale economic growth across the province, with the city of Colombo at its core. As a follow-up to the launch of the IG-UTP in Sri Lanka in 2016, UN-Habitat carried out a rapid assessment with local planning authorities to identify positive or negative outcomes of the plan's implementation within the region.

The results of the discussion illustrated how the plan emphasizes compact growth and increased connectivity, although several issues such as spatial inclusiveness and preparedness for rapid population growth remain to be addressed. Through these results, local planning authorities were informed of the strengths in their planning framework and where they can improve.

Thus, they are now committed to place further emphasis on compact, integrated and connected housing developments and community-led slum upgrading, taking into account the challenges of climate change adaptation and mitigation for the finalization and application of the Megalopolis plan. This is to be done by adopting the international principles and approaches to UTP contained within the Guidelines, and in cooperation with UN-HABITAT.

The participants outlined in the discussion that although there has been planning for unparalleled growth and the renewal of existing precincts in the past decades across the region, further emphasis is to be given to the need to match the quality of urbanization with quantity in order to achieve people-oriented place making. Moreover, WLSP showcased how the IG-UTP are being implemented in two of their most recent urban renewal initiatives: Zhongshan Avenue Revival Plan and the Tanhualin District Renewal Project. The meeting concluded that the IG-UTP can ensure integrated planning at all levels (including the precinct level) and thus hold the capacity to assist in improving implementation processes, particularly for tackling challenges of public participation and consultation. Lastly, more cities are expected to take part in expanding the use of the Guidelines in China as part of the collaboration between UN-Habitat and WLSP.

PLANNING SYSTEM ASSESSMENT FOR WUHAN

The city of Wuhan, China hosted an Expert Group Meeting in 2016 organized by the Wuhan Land Use and Spatial Planning Centre (WLSP) to formulate and test the implementation of the Guidelines through a pilot intervention. During the event, a rapid planning system assessment took place with local planning authorities and related institutions focused on two thematic areas of UTP: public space and urban renewal, and mixed-policies and designs.

Box 5. THEMATIC ENTRY POINT: LAND

The two-day workshop “Using the IG-UTP to Support Land Policy Processes in Eastern and Southern Africa” took place in November 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda bringing together over 40 government delegates from directorates of physical planning, land administration and management from 17 Eastern and Southern African countries. The event was co-convened with partners Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Africa Land Policy Initiative (LPI) and Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

Through interactive sessions and engaging presentations on urban and territorial planning, land policy and land administration and management, the participants gained the knowledge required to develop a communiqué and roadmap towards a **commitment to the IG-UTP**. The importance of consultation and dialogue between local authorities, civil society organizations and planning professionals in the review, development and implementation of land and urban policies was conveyed.

The workshop linked the Guidelines with thematic issues in Eastern and Southern Africa, giving the attendees a better understanding of concrete use and implementation of the IG-UTP in planning practices. Likewise, cross-cutting issues and inter-sectorial approaches were targeted, along with the sharing of experiences and inspiring practices in the area of planning for land management and policy development.

✓ Improving Urban and Territorial Planning

Part of the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning was to explore current developments in UTP within member States in order to identify existing practices and mechanisms being used for the improvement of planning systems, and more specifically, identify actions that are in compliance with the principles and recommendations provided in the IG-UTP.

The following accounts of UTP interventions from both UN-Habitat and member States act at different levels and illustrate different types of engagements taking place between national-level institutions and other stakeholder groups for the improvement of local planning frameworks and practices.

All respondents of the Global Survey indicated they are embarking on a process to improve urban

policies and/or UTP frameworks since sustainable urban development is a priority for each country (Box 6). In addition, a number of countries, including **Argentina, Croatia, and Portugal**, among others, deepened into which urban policies and planning frameworks are being strengthened and through which mechanisms. There is consensus in the rationale behind the interventions, as there is a **general need to develop “comprehensive planning frameworks to promote and guide urbanization for a coordinated and efficient sustainable urban development”**, as stated by **Malawi**. Furthermore, the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) noted the need to address processes in urban governance as well to encourage a more effective central government and decentralized territories for the implementation of UTP strategies and frameworks.

The level at which the interventions take place is mainly at the national level, followed by the city-region and city level interventions. The top three targets aimed by the initiatives were ‘better integrated urban areas’, ‘better connected urban areas’ and ‘socially inclusive urban areas’ (Figure 6 and Figure 7), while in the more descriptive accounts the countries provided more detailed information on where their priorities fall. For example, **The Netherlands** listed the targets to be agreed upon by the Parliament in 2017: “integrated planning including the development of liveable, sustainable and connected cities, energy transition, greening the economy and the built environment, and protecting cultural heritage, nature and landscapes”.

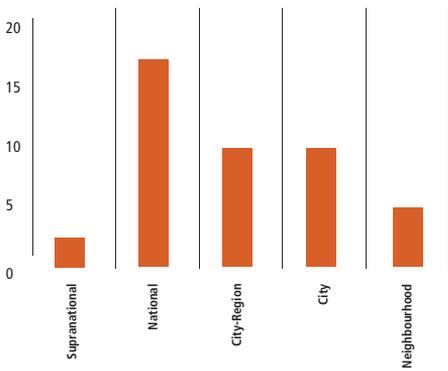


Figure 6. Level of the intervention

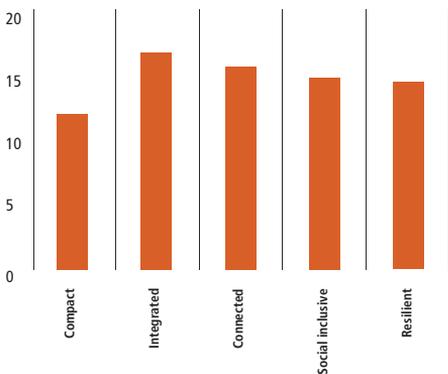
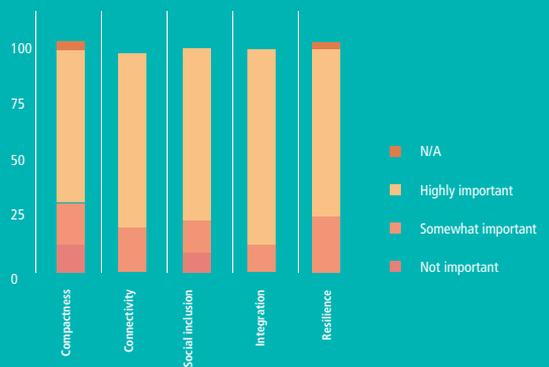


Figure 7. Target of the intervention

Box 6. MAKING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT A PRIORITY

The increased interest in UTP and its prioritization in national-level development plans was made explicit in the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning, where all except one of the respondents indicated that UTP is a priority for their country. The figure below illustrates which targets of UTP, aligned with the NUA and SDG 11, are considered as highly important by the member States. It is worth noting that ‘compactness’ and ‘social inclusion’ were deemed as not important by a select few participants. Still, both aspects should have a protagonist role in spatial planning processes just as their complementarities to ensure a balanced and comprehensive territorial development. Therefore, this merging issue from the results of the survey indicates the role of the Guidelines in raising awareness for these universal targets to pave the way for more sustainable urban development.



Priority targets for urban and territorial development.

When it comes to the types of actions taking place within member States to improve UTP, the examples ranged from the development of national urban policies (NUP) to trigger holistic planning processes, as in the case of the National Policy for Consolidating the Systems of Cities in **Colombia** and the Program for Urban Development (PDU by its French acronym) in the **DRC**, all the way to the development of regional and metropolitan plans and frameworks, as in the example of **Norway** with its Development Programme for City-Regions initiated in 2013. In addition, there are multiple mentions to and targets in the area of city-region development. **Guatemala**, for example, has identified nine city-regions to be developed in accordance to the country's Strategic Metropolitan Plans in order to ensure a balanced territorial development in a rapidly urbanizing country.

Focusing on the national level, **Mexico** has been working on the improvement of territorial planning supported by NUP since 2013 with the establishment of the Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development; the country is well underway in

this process as several laws and frameworks (e.g. National Policy on Housing and Urban Development and the Urban Resiliency Guide) are now in their implementation phase. Furthermore, Mexico takes part in international initiatives, such as the rolling out of the City Prosperity Index in the country with UN-Habitat, covering now a total of 152 cities in Mexico alone. In the case of **Turkey**, an innovative mechanism for improving UTP has been established in the form of a (national) Urbanization Council, a commission composed by representatives of public institutions, professional organizations, academia and the private sector. The Council is responsible for supporting and evaluating the development of legislative proposals, and revising international frameworks for UTP.

At the transnational level, member countries of the European Union (EU) such as **Portugal, Germany,** and **The Netherlands**, to name a few, work under European-wide frameworks to guide the development and implementation of their local policies and plans, among which the Urban Agenda for the EU is included.



Box 7. THE ROLE OF NUP IN FOSTERING URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING

Two sets of laws are currently under development in the Dominican Republic to enable the formulation and drafting of territorial development frameworks at the national level: The Law on Territorial Planning and the Law for the Unique Framework on Regional Planning. As stated in their vision:

“

territorial planning is an instrument to achieve social and territorial cohesion and the improvement of the quality of life [of urban and rural residents]. Still, the effectiveness of territorial public policies depends to a large extent on the specific legal instruments on which they are based. Thus, it is necessary to develop a new legal framework that guides governments and agencies to take action at the various levels and scales of planning.

”

Following an extensive process of socialization and consultation, both laws have been drafted and are pending approval, while the formerly developed Law on Land Use is already in operation. The momentum generated such developments has also triggered the establishment of the National Geographical Institute of the country. As a result, the formulation and consequent implementation of subnational policies has taken place as well, such as the development of the Partial Plan for Urban Development for the city of Juan Bosch. The plan takes into account principles of compact urbanization, with the goal of producing more efficient transportation services, and protects the rural hinterland from sprawl, paying attention in parallel to the role of public space in urban development.

While the legal frameworks stated beforehand target an impact at the national level, the plan for the Juan Bosch city is acting at the city-region level. For the latter, it is worth noting its emphasis on managing the ‘territory’ and not the ‘urban area’ solely by recognizing “*The rurality as a complementary territory to the urban*” as advocated by the IG-UTP. Such examples showcase the importance of NUP in fostering more strategic-SUD, and ultimately, enable the inclusion of UTP in NUP to harness its potential in both the public and private agendas.

WHO IS IMPROVING UTP?

When it comes to the actors participating in the promotion and/or refinement of UTP frameworks, the survey results illustrated elevated levels of direct engagement among the higher-level institutions (Figure 8). This coincides with the observed trend of the level of engagement being in-hand with the working scale of the stakeholder in discussion. Among the stakeholder groups working with the respondents are other national-level stakeholders (e.g. ministries of housing and urban development, directorates for urban planning, and national habitat committees, among others), planning professionals organizations (national associations of architects and town planners), international organizations and cooperation agencies (including the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), development banks, and UN bodies), regional associations of cities, and business organizations.

The nature of the engagement with stakeholder groups is primarily centered around the formulation

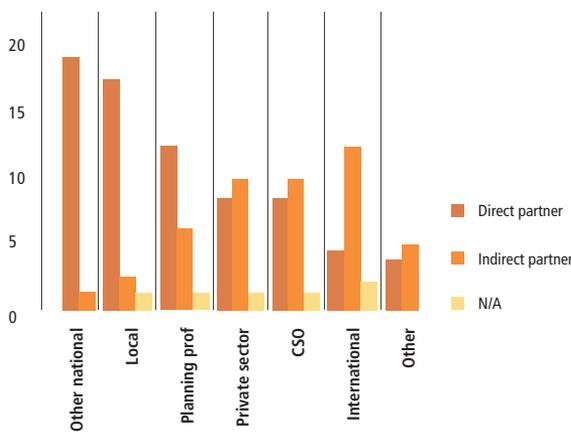


Figure 8. Stakeholders being engaged for improving UTP policies and frameworks

and development of policies, plans and frameworks, as enabled by the planning system in place in cases such as that of **Moldova** and **Slovenia**. Similarly, in the **Czech Republic**, cooperation mechanisms are in place to include national representatives, regional authorities, and professional organizations (e.g. the chamber of Architects or the Association for Urban and Regional Planning) at different stages of the drafting process. Governmental institutions and local agencies make use of consultation platforms for stakeholder involvement as illustrated by the multi-stakeholder focus groups carried out in **Malaysia**, while public participation was mentioned to a lesser degree in a select few examples since the involvement of this particular group occurs in the later stages of the process.

Still, the outreach from national-level institutions to other stakeholder groups is ultimately determined by the character of the partner. For example, local authorities and the central government have a direct engagement as they are the ‘ambassadors’ of national targets at the municipal level, in contrast to the rest of the groups that are engaged indirectly and/or on limited occasions within the planning cycle. The list of indirect partnerships and collaborations mainly referred to the involvement of international organizations (e.g. World Bank, USAID, Asian Development Bank, and the Development Bank of Latin America), who have stepped into the picture to support with financing, technical expertise or research-related projects as in the cases illustrated by **Colombia**, **Lebanon** and **Peru**.

4. ENTERING IN PARTNERSHIP

✓ ← Establishing Partnerships → ✓ (cross-cutting)

Partnerships are no longer an option. As established by the SDGs and the NUA, urban and territorial planning must be supported through the establishment of partnerships in order to mobilize the necessary means to ensure comprehensive interventions for the achievement of SUD.

“
We urge all national, subnational and local governments, as well as all relevant stakeholders, in line with national policies and legislation, to revitalize, strengthen and create partnerships, enhancing coordination and cooperation to effectively implement the New Urban Agenda and realize our shared vision. (paragraph 21, NUA)

The need to establish partnerships must not come as a surprise, however, as the current planning paradigm shift now acknowledges the complex reality urban development faces, a reality which needs of cooperative planning and integrated project implementation. In light of this, the Guidelines have been targeted to four stakeholder groups that work across the five levels of the planning continuum: **national governments, local authorities, planning professionals** and their associations and **civil society organizations** (CSOs), attributing different roles and responsibilities to each one for the improvement of UTP.

As a response to the call of the Governing Council, and in line with the multi-stakeholder spirit of the Guidelines, UN-Habitat has engaged with a total of **twenty-eight (28)** partners for the adoption of the IG-UTP to various contexts (Annex 2). Still, this achievement has not been attained by UN-Habitat alone. A number of partners have taken a step forward to work with the Guidelines and become

an advocate of their principles and/or to support tool development. One example to highlight is the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), which has supported the preparation of a book that provides the critical narrative behind the key elements of the Guidelines; the book is expected to be released during the 9th session of the World Urban Forum to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2018.

In addition to these initiatives, the Guidelines periodically reach out to individuals through a database that includes representatives from organizations and individuals who have expressed interest in working with the Guidelines or receive updates on the progress for their implementation. From its initial conception, the **IG-UTP mailing list** has expanded from an estimated 100 members in the second half of 2016 to **540 people** at the time of this report. This growth can be highly attributed to the Habitat III conference in October 2016, where a number of events on the Guidelines served as an opportunity for both organizations and individuals to become acquainted with this reference framework for UTP.

A COMMUNITY OF LEADERSHIP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

As stated beforehand, **the adoption and implementation of the Guidelines is not a task for UN-Habitat alone**, but one in which all actors of UTP are invited to take part in for the improvement of urban policies, plans, and designs towards better cities and territories. During the first biennium of work since the approval of the Guidelines, outstanding partners of the IG-UTP have taken leading roles in raising awareness

and supporting tool development for the Guidelines. These **Champions of the Guidelines** were brought together for the first time at the Habitat III summit during the “Partnership on Sustainable Urban and Territorial Planning” event, with the aim to develop a shared vision and clarify roles within the implementation framework of the Guidelines to support the implementation of the NUA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

International professional associations have taken a lead role in the partnership for implementation as well. The ISOCARP and UCLG organizations have established a partnership with UN-Habitat to support the adoption and use of the IG-UTP through their professional networks.

This leading role has been visible during their respective annual congresses, acting as hosts and organizers of IG-UTP events. In addition, they have supported the drafting and validation of the IG-UTP localization tools (see section 2) on Tools for Localization) and have come forth to bring about new ideas to extend the work of the Guidelines through a continuous partnership with UN-Habitat.

When it comes to member States taking leading roles for the adoption and use of the Guidelines within their cities and territories, there are a number of activities taking place through the initiative of several IG-UTP partner countries. For example, the **Government of Japan** has announced its

Box 8. THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

As follow-up to the event “Partnership on Sustainable Urban and Territorial Planning” held during the Habitat III conference, a number of IG-UTP partners convened one more time in London, United Kingdom on February 2017 for the establishment of a Community of Leadership for the implementation of the Guidelines within member States. It is worth highlighting the role of the **Prince's Foundation For Building Community** for this meeting as both host and catalyst between members of the IG-UTP network for the formulation of this community.

Being a supporter of the IG-UTP through their Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit (ISU), the foundation has taken on the task of becoming a lead advocate and representative of UTP and a coordinator of activities within the implementation framework for the Guidelines, consequently making the ISU a leader in the formulation of a commitment for the Quito Implementation Plan.

In the end, the February 2017 meeting served as a platform to identify knowledge gaps and share tools and experiences through a new entry point for localizing the Guidelines: planned city extensions, in alignment with the ISU's program. Additionally, the way forward in operationalizing the global partnership on “Sustainable and Urban and Territorial Planning” was agreed upon for member countries of the Commonwealth in terms of applying the Guidelines through the thematic perspective of planned city extensions.

it comes to member States taking leading roles for the adoption and use of the Guidelines within their cities and territories, there are a number of activities taking place through the initiative of several IG-UTP partner countries. For example, the **Government of Japan** has announced its commitment for the establishment of a spatial planning platform to support international initiatives in UTP, a platform in which the Guidelines will have a protagonist role.



UN-Habitat has created the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning in collaboration with several countries; we need to further foster such constructive trends [...] establishing a platform to implement international initiatives with a view to sharing systematic knowledge.

- Opening statement by the Vice-minister of Japan during Habitat III



In addition, the **Government of Norway**, in collaboration with the **World Health Organization**, is now supporting a thematic approach to the Guidelines through the ‘lens’ of urban health, a partnership through which a new collection of inspiring practices around this topic is being developed along with several tools to provide guidance on how to do Healthy Urban and Territorial Planning. It is expected that through these efforts, institutional capacities will be strengthened for this particular area of work through the thematic implementation of the IG-UTP (refer to Box 1).



Box 9. THE EXPERIENCE OF CITIES ALLIANCE WITH IMPLEMENTING THE IG-UTP

A selected number of IG-UTP partners were consulted as well during the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning. The international organization Cities Alliance came forth to indicate an extensive use of the Guidelines and to illustrate the adoption of IG-UTP concepts in the formulation and development of activities within their working program. For example, the implementation of the Guidelines is being supported through multi-stakeholder engagements and through tool adaptation at the national, regional and city levels as part of their projects.

Furthermore, several partners of the organization have been engaged in the process, including the governments of Vietnam and Tunisia who work at the national and regional levels, the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN) and the Fédération nationale des villes tunisiennes (FNVT) in Tunisia acting at the local level, and transnational bodies such as UN agencies (UN-Habitat and UNDP) and other international organizations (GIZ) to provide with technical assistance under these contexts.

However, the implementation of the Guidelines has been challenged throughout these experiences due to lack of awareness on this framework and low consensus among planning constituents for their adoption. Action must be taken in both areas to ensure political commitment and the allocation of resources for improving UTP, and to strengthen communities to have a voice along the planning process.

Moreover, due to the foundational character of the IG-UTP, their use needs to be complemented by practical tools to aid their implementation. As a response, Cities Alliance developed the City Development Strategies 2.0 toolkit in order to localize these principles.

Lastly, through the collaboration with UN-Habitat, the organization is now equipped to support the Guidelines in terms of advocacy, sharing knowledge and experiences on UTP, providing with technical assistance and tools for implementation across different levels and sectors, and by piloting the Guidelines within partner countries to demonstrate their use and raise interest at the broader levels.

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES WITH PARTNERSHIPS

UN-Habitat's member States and IG-UTP partners were consulted on if and how they have engaged with other stakeholders to support the adaptation and use of the Guidelines during the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning. The following paragraphs highlight outstanding accounts of such experiences, including how national-level institutions are collaborating with other stakeholders and how non-governmental institutions are engaging in partnerships for the use and adoption of the Guidelines.

a) Engagements between national-level institutions and other stakeholders. A wide range of interaction was visible from national-level institutions, although the objectives targeted from

their interventions remained mostly at the national or international level, reflective of the working level of the participants answering the survey. Ministries of housing, economy and development lead the establishment of collaborations between the national government and other stakeholders.

At the international level, UN-Habitat and the EU were labeled as important partners in their engagements. Planning professionals appear to be limited to the Architecture industry, while the involvement of the private sector featured mainly among the Real Estate and Construction sectors. Lastly, the results of the survey showcased a comparatively small partnership or involvement with NGOs and CSOs.

Box 10. PARTNERSHIPS IN MALAYSIA

The country of Malaysia is featured in this case to illustrate and showcase how national-level authorities can involve other stakeholder groups of the Guidelines in the improvement of UTP practices. As indicated in the survey, the Federal Department of Town and Country Planning of the country has established a number of partnerships which operate at multiple levels and through different channels for the achievement of SUD. For example, the Department has engaged with the following institutions:

- At the national level, with the Ministry of Wellbeing, Housing and Local Development
- At the local level, with the Department of Local Government
- At the international level, with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- With the Malaysian Institute of Planners association
- With the Real Estate and Housing Development Association Malaysia, a private sector organization

Other types of stakeholders included universities and the research sector. The means for outreach and engagement are focus groups and technical working groups, the latter being described as a group responsible for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Under this setting, these meetings have fostered knowledge exchange among partners, becoming a valuable and effective method of engagement for this particular stakeholder group.

b) Engagement between IG-UTP partners and other stakeholders. The experiences collected from the Partner Survey varied greatly as survey representatives came from a diversity of backgrounds ranging from national-level institutions, local government representatives, and academia. Their collaborations mainly focus on working with higher-level institutions or organizations, such as ministries and other governmental representations.

Thus, the level of engagement is strong at the national level, but an increase in **the importance of local level involvement** was witnessed in comparison to the outcomes of the Country Survey.

UN-Habitat (listed by the Institute of Regional and Urban Planning in Belarus) and the Association of European Cross Border Regions (listed by the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure in Serbia) were the only international organizations mentioned, and whose partnerships are centered around policy development and rely heavily on meetings and discussions.

Through representation in these countries and capacity development initiatives, the engagement between these partners and their correspondents has added value to the issue of inclusion in the planning process.

Box 11. PARTNERSHIPS IN SERBIA

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure in Serbia is also a representative of national-level institutions working on establishing partnerships with other stakeholders of urban development as encouraged by the IG-UTP. Among the alliances formed to support the implementation of the Guidelines are the following:

- At the national level, with the Urban Planning Institute of Belgrade
- At the local level, with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities
- With the international organization Association of European Border Regions
- With the Serbian Spatial Planners Association
- With the Central European Service for Cross Border Initiatives (CESCI), a CSO working across the Balkan region

Such collaborations demonstrate that cooperation with other stakeholders is possible and that the establishment of partnerships can take place at different levels. The activities taking place between these stakeholders include initiatives for advocacy, enabling knowledge exchange, technical assistance to facilitate implementation, and policy development.

5. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Through the Global Survey, the member States outlined **the top three challenges** encountered in the adoption and use of the Guidelines over this past period (Figure 9). These were: 'low awareness about the Guidelines' (74%), 'lack of financing for international or local expertise' (52%), and 'lack of information on what it means to use and implement the Guidelines' (48%).

The biggest challenge, 'awareness', is being addressed as a restriction at multiple levels. On the one hand, it represents lack of understanding of the IG-UTP principles among local authorities and planning professionals, while on the other hand, it is a lack of understanding from the general public in regards to the potential of UTP for improving the quality of the built environment. Despite the many initiatives developed by UN-Habitat and partners to raise awareness on and advocate for the use of the Guidelines, insufficient outreach and advocacy abilities cloud these efforts making it a priority in future initiatives considering awareness is the first step to adopting and using the IG-UTP in cities and countries. Still, the potential role of member States was addressed by the countries, including **Malaysia**

planning process. For example, the development of urban policies and frameworks appears to be, as stated by one respondent, "**judicially challenged**", meaning that an absence of institutional integration during the development of policies and plans often generates loops and delays in the system for their approval. To a lesser degree, the lack of tools and initiatives to perform changes in the planning system was addressed, although this may be accompanied by the feeling of lack of information, a challenge to tackle in future work with the IG-UTP between UN-Habitat and implementation partners.

Concerning the low consensus among UTP stakeholders, issues in terms of policy dialogue and overall interest in the adoption of planning practices were highlighted. Countries, including **Peru, Moldova, and Sri Lanka** identified participatory platforms, community awareness programs, workshops, and roundtables as potential actions to tackle this issue, activities which could be carried out by local authorities and planning institutions with participation from the public. Moreover, this issue extends to the institutional level as it also implies a lack of coordination, information sharing, and

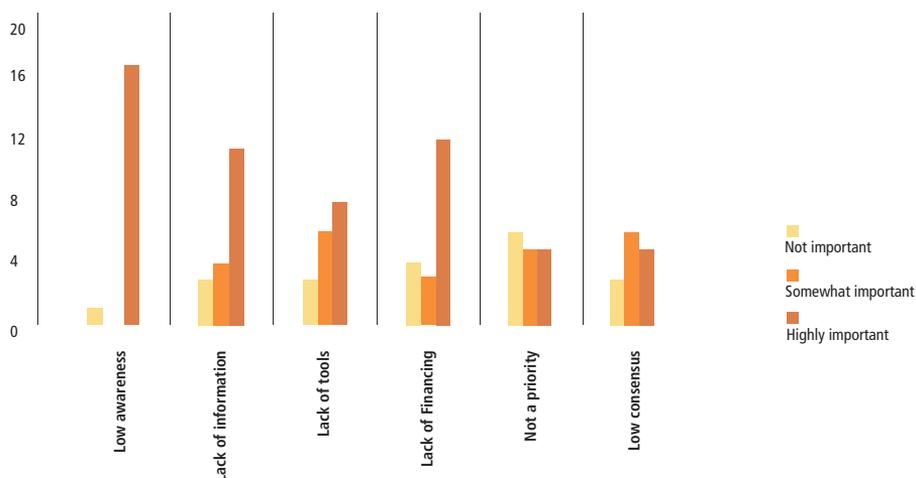


Figure 9. Challenges encountered in implementing the IG-UTP

and **Argentina**, who suggested knowledge-raising events, capacity development schemes, conferences, and even the use of mass media to raise awareness on the Guidelines, actions which could be led by a collaborative effort between UN-Habitat, national governments (e.g. planning ministries) and local authorities in forthcoming activities.

The second-most stated challenge, **‘financing for international and local expertise’**, is an aspect that requires further attention and exploration to be addressed in the future as the more detailed accounts from the member States do not make reference to this issue. In addition, the absence of financial support has become **UN-Habitat’s major challenge for further expansion of the IG-UTP program**. Without continuous financial support in the form of a full-fledged support plan, efforts cannot be extended to technically assist fellow cities and territories to localize the Guidelines and continue to develop the tools and exchange platforms needed to take this forward at the global, national and local levels.

For the third place, the **‘lack of information on what it means to use and implement the Guidelines’**, the issues being raised by the respondents regarded obstacles in the process of updating existing plans and strategies to reflect current sectorial priorities, along with an absence of capacities throughout the

hindrances in planning processes between relevant institutions. Thus, another opportunity for UN-Habitat to take action arises in the area of connecting and promoting synergies among the stakeholder groups of the Guidelines.

Lastly, respondents, including **Portugal and Turkey**, expressed the need for customization of the Guidelines to their local contexts, meaning that, **it is not yet clear how to translate global principles into local reform**, as the IG-UTP are operating at the normative level. Therefore, even once the challenge of awareness has been addressed and overcome, the path towards localization still requires tailor-made technical assistance in the form of tools and capacity building to review and reform planning systems. However, considering the financial issues stated beforehand, UN-Habitat cannot always be there to provide with the technical assistance needed, and therefore other, channels such as peer-to-peer learning between the actors themselves should be sought in order to address this issue.



Planning is a process of policy development, coordination and monitoring and it needs tailor-made legal and administrative capacities to take place both at the national and local levels.

– Respondent from Turkey



IV. THE WAY FORWARD



The Way Forward



The first biennium (2015-2017) of implementation has concluded. While it served mainly as a period of preparation for stakeholders worldwide, the Guidelines are now moving towards a more action-oriented endeavor to extend their adoption and use within cities and territories. UN-Habitat and partners have placed considerable efforts in the implementation of the IG-UTP as a response to the call in Resolution 25/6 of the Governing Council, however, the lessons learned during this past period indicate several areas for improvement of the activities outlined in the Implementation Framework of the Guidelines. Moreover, not only will these learnings guide the future work of UN-Habitat and the IG-UTP network, but will be taken in parallel to new enterprises to advance the use of the Guidelines at the operational level, moving from the global to the local level.

Awareness and advocacy are instrumental in the agenda. Although considerable emphasis has been placed to this area in the past couple of years, forthcoming activities should not undermine the importance of ‘awareness and advocacy’ as a [key step for countries and partners to meet, comprehend, and ultimately, adopt the Guidelines to their local context](#). In addition, the need to continue with this line of work was made explicit through the results of the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning, where, more than half of the respondents described low awareness among planning constituents as the main challenge for the use of the Guidelines, and furthermore, requested UN-Habitat to take this activity forward all the way down to the local level.

Capacity building at all levels. In alignment with the above remark, an up-scaling of capacity building schemes is necessary [to empower the four stakeholder groups to adopt and use the Guidelines](#) within their local context. As observed in the experiences with the IG-UTP, once the challenge

of awareness is overcome, the path to localization must be enabled with the supporting knowledge, tools and learning structures. Therefore, UN-Habitat acts as a ‘trigger’ for countries and cities to take ownership of the improvement of local UTP policies and frameworks. In addition, capacity building must take into account the different targets and interests of each stakeholder group through the customization of learning materials, which could be directed towards growing awareness of the higher-level actors, building technical capacities of local practitioners, and raising knowledge on UTP among the public as suggested by the respondents of the Global Survey.

The role of local authorities in UTP. Local authorities play a leading role in the improvement of UTP. UN-Habitat’s experience with the IG-UTP and the accounts from the Global Survey showcased how this particular actor is both a catalyst and convener among the stakeholder groups of the Guidelines as, in the end, they are the ‘ambassadors’ in charge of [translating national-level policies and frameworks to punctual actions at the local level](#). Inversely, placing emphasis on local-level actions can prove useful to get traction at the higher levels, a reflection on how making different institutional entries as inspired by the IG-UTP generates complementarities to bring about change in planning systems.

Integration as a determinant of success. The experiences with the Guidelines demonstrated how institutional integration is a determinant for the successful improvement of policies, plans, designs and implementation processes of UTP. That status of the different sectorial interactions will define whether UTP holds a comprehensive and effective stance towards the achievement of SUD. Thus, emphasis should be placed in this area to build consensus among stakeholders and reduce friction

or conflicts that may arise throughout the process. By coordinating sectorial objectives, policies and actions towards a common goal, the inherent synergies can be captured, ensuring that development is guided in a holistic-sustainable manner.

Experiencing impact from use of the IG-UTP.

Even though the implementation of the IG-UTP is a long-term endeavor for the improvement of planning practices among member States, outcomes from the foundational activities executed within the program are already visible (e.g. the increased interest in the Guidelines). Still, further implementation must take into account [the value of monitoring and evaluation \(M&E\) in the process](#) to ensure a continuous improvement of practices and activities taking place for the IG-UTP. Moreover, [M&E must build upon the concepts and indicators developed for universal frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), in order to align the path of the Guidelines to universal objectives. The Global Survey served as a first exercise in this arena, and it is expected that the forthcoming surveys will inspire all parties into identifying their roles and actions in the improvement of UTP and take part of the global monitoring framework to track the implementation of the Guidelines.

As a response to a number of issues raised over the period 2015-2017, UN-Habitat is in the process of developing multiple tools and formulating activities that can assist member States and partners to overcome these challenges towards a successful implementation of the IG-UTP. In the area of knowledge, the finalization of a capacity development strategy and learning package is underway to introduce and familiarize stakeholders with the Guidelines. Similarly, communication materials are constantly in development to continuously raise awareness and interest on, not only the Guidelines

themselves, but on the overall importance of doing UTP.

Moving to the application of the Guidelines, the forthcoming IG-UTP Handbook will provide technical guidance on how to translate the global principles contained in the Guidelines to the local level. In addition, the Handbook's supporting toolkit for localization will include a series of methodologies and e-tools that will assist stakeholders in the review and reform of their local planning system. Similarly, in the area of Healthy Urban and Territorial Planning, a guidance document and a collection of best practices, among others, are in development with the support of the WHO in order to assist planning constituents in making health a central objective within the discipline. Lastly, the first International Symposium on Urban and Territorial Planning will take place in 2018, a collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Government of Japan, serving as a platform to consolidate the progress made so far and to further advance the normative and operational work of the Guidelines.

Still, the worldwide implementation of the IG-UTP is not a responsibility of UN-Habitat alone, but a venture to be taken in partnership with members of the four stakeholder groups of the Guidelines. So far, UN-Habitat and a number of IG-UTP champions have taken the lead, setting the foundation for taking the Guidelines forward. However, additional support is needed to attain the objectives outlined in the IG-UTP, and at the broader level, reach the targets established by the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Under this context, UN-Habitat makes the following Call to Action for member States to further assist and make possible the adoption and use of the Guidelines within cities and territories for the achievement of sustainable urban development.



IG-UTP Call to Action for Member States

The overarching goal of the IG-UTP Call to Action is to encourage UN-Habitat's member States to advance their commitments and support to the adoption and use of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning within cities and territories.

The urbanization phenomenon of the past 50 years has become one of the most critical issues for development of the 21st century. Furthermore, the coming decades will bring even more changes in this respect as the proportion of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to increase to 66 per cent by 2050, a growth projected to take place mainly in developing countries. Considering the future for a majority of the population will be urban, the solutions to the most pressing issues – poverty, healthcare, food security, education, climate change – must be found in cities and their rural hinterland.

The establishment of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) in 2015 to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” and the declaration of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted by nearly 170 countries in the year 2016, set the stage for the global community to take action against the challenges of urbanization.

Still, in order to achieve these objectives, countries will need to be better equipped to address this phenomenon through a sustainable development of cities and territories that are inclusive and able to cope with the trials posed by climate change. As a response to this issue, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP or Guidelines)

were approved by UN-Habitat's Governing Council in 2015 as “a global reference framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more **compact**, socially **inclusive**, better **integrated** and **connected** cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are **resilient** to climate change”.

Moreover, the Guidelines are an increasingly relevant document for urbanization processes worldwide, as established in paragraph 93 of the NUA, consequently making them a channel for attaining the targets provided by SDG 11.

Over the past couple of years, the Guidelines have achieved a number of milestones in the process of improving urban and territorial planning within member States. Still, the path towards their global implementation has not been undisputed as UN-Habitat and partners continue to be challenged by insufficient financial support, advocacy abilities, and technical capacity to take the Guidelines forward.

These findings, coupled with the lessons of the first period of implementation (2015-2017), have made possible the identification of strategic priorities within the IG-UTP Implementation Framework for the forthcoming period 2017-2019.



IG-UTP Call to Action for Member States

The advancement of the IG-UTP program will require member States to continue or expand their support to the Guidelines through multiple actions taking place across different levels.

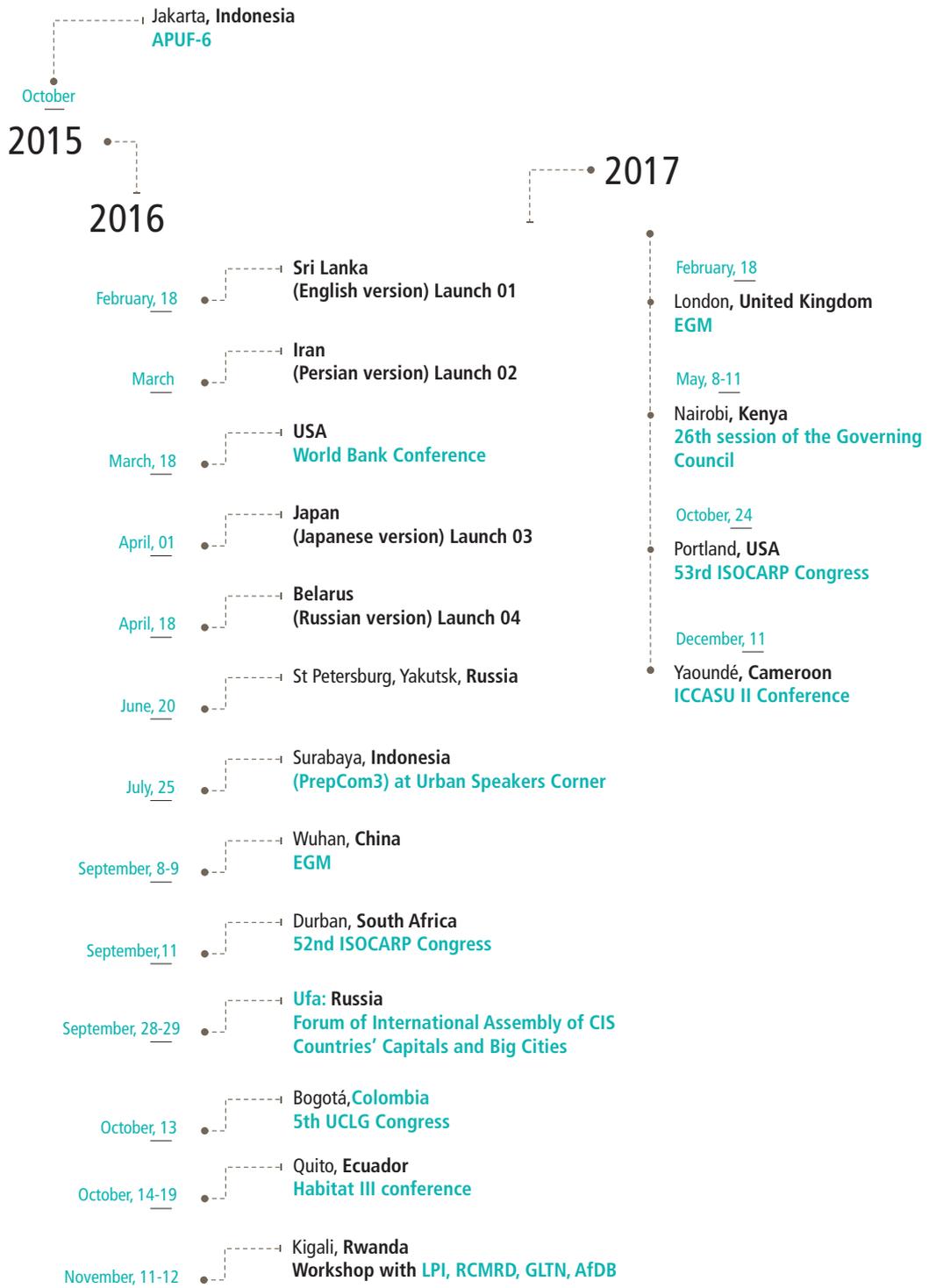
These actions include:

- Provide **financial support** for activities in your own country or other countries, in order to carry out review and reform or demonstration projects for the improvement of local planning systems.
- **Raise awareness and advocate** for the improvement of urban and territorial planning, by translating the Guidelines to the local language, by hosting a launch or symposium, or enabling other types of advocacy platforms.
- **Document and share** inspiring practices or experiences from your country, whether it is a neighborhood-level intervention or a national urban policy, the IG-UTP work across the five levels of the planning continuum.
- **Support tool development** for localizing the Guidelines across different levels and sectors, either through financial support for their formulation or by providing with a testing ground for validation and diffusion.

- Encourage the use of the Guidelines in **planning education** to build local capacities on urban and territorial planning using the IG-UTP as a reference framework.
- **Host learning and/or training events** for representatives of the target groups of the Guidelines in your country: national and local governments, planning professionals and civil society organizations.
- **Participate in the biennial Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning** to track the implementation of the Guidelines and become part of the global monitoring network for the IG-UTP.

The next step will be working together to determine who will participate and/or lead the identified actions. UN-Habitat invites the member States to review this Call to Action, find themselves in it, and join the conversation for the improvement of urban and territorial planning towards more sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat is committed to make this Call and the IG-UTP Implementation Framework a living document shaped by country demand and partner interest, to be evaluated on a biennial basis according to the call in Resolution 25/6 of the Governing Council.

Annex 1. IG-UTP Events



Annex 2. IG-UTP Partners

National Governments

- Government of Japan
- Government of Indonesia
- Government of France
- Government of Norway
- Government of South Africa
- Government of Uganda

Local Authorities & Associations

- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- City of Fukuoka
- International Assembly of Capitals and Big Cities (MAG)
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

International Organizations

- Cities Alliance
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- World Bank
- The Prince's Foundation for Building Community

Associations of Planning Professionals

- International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)
- Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN)
- Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)
- Belarus Institute of Regional and Urban Planning (BIRUP)

Civil Society Organizations

- Enda Tiers Monde
- International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI)

UN Agencies

- United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

UN-Habitat Regional Offices

- UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
- UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS)

UN-Habitat Branches

- Urban Legislation, Land and Governance Branch of UN-Habitat (ULLG)
- Urban Economy Branch of UN-Habitat (UE)
- Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat (UPDB)
- Research and Capacity Development Branch of UN-Habitat (RCBB)

Get Involved

Even though the IG-UTP Implementation Report is being published on a biennial basis, partner countries and supporters of the Guidelines are invited to continue their engagement with UN-Habitat by participating in the **Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning** at any time and join the [global monitoring network](#) for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes on the road towards more sustainable urban development worldwide.

Contact Us

If you would like to contact us for further queries or involvement with the Guidelines, including joining our IG-UTP mailing list, please contact our team, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit of the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, at the address IG.UTP@unhabitat.org

To Know More...



Approved in 2015 by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning are a global reference framework that promotes more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change.

Since their release, the Guidelines are becoming an increasingly relevant instrument for the achievement of universal objectives as acknowledged in the New Urban Agenda, consequently becoming a key contributor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The IG-UTP Implementation Report has been developed as a collection of experiences and findings both from UN-Habitat and IG-UTP countries and partners in using the Guidelines at the global, national and local levels. It is the culmination of the first biennium of implementation of the Guidelines,

the period 2015 – 2017, and it builds upon the results of the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning formulated by UN-Habitat to track the adoption and use of the Guidelines within countries.

For the actors illustrated in this report, the Guidelines represent a collective voice for planning as they enable different roads and entries to the improvement of planning systems worldwide through their multi-level, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector model that leads all to one common goal: sustainable urban development.

Still, the path towards implementation has not been unchallenged; efforts must be enhanced to fully grasp the benefits of the IG-UTP and their outcomes for sustainable urbanization, for which this report makes a Call to Action to advance the commitments and support to the use of the Guidelines within cities and territories.

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