



Kigali, Rwanda, Africa © Flickr/oletoe *

NEW GENERATION OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES

What is a National Urban Policy (NUP)?

A National Urban Policy (NUP) is a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term (which can be from 20 to 30 or even 100 years horizon).

An NUP is an interactive process that could have at least four phases: **diagnostic, formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation**. A specific analysis framework has been developed for the diagnostic phase. Other complementary tools for each of the phases and processes are under development.

UN-Habitat is prioritizing NUP in low and middle income countries with rapid urbanization. The approved NUP should be the stakeholder's framework for implementation of inclusive urban development.

What makes the new generation of NUPs so special?

The new generation of NUP asserts urban space and territoriality, the positive role of urbanization in national socio-economic development, and provides an overarching coordinating framework to address urban challenges. The NUP aims at maximizing the benefits of urbanization, while mitigating inequalities and potential adverse externalities.

The new generation of NUP guides the urbanization process by promoting more compact, socially inclusive, better connected and integrated cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change.

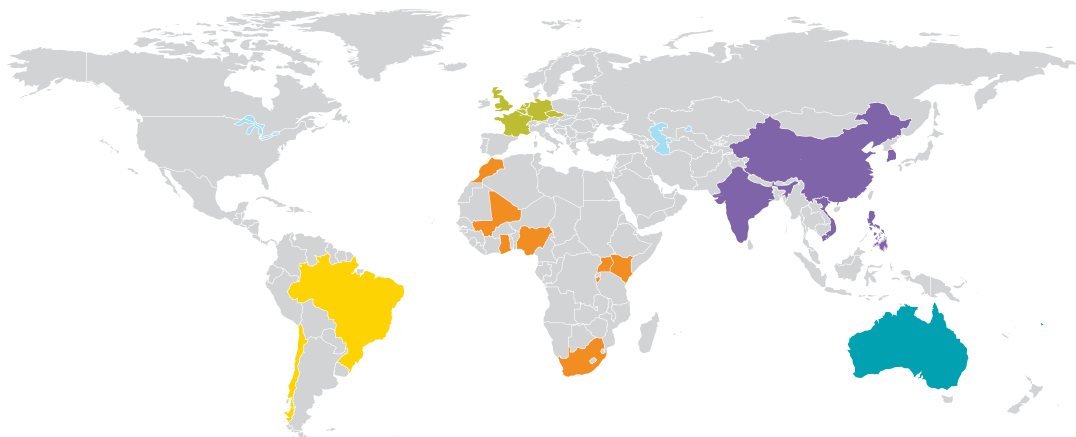
The key **principles** underpinning the new NUP are: participation, inclusion, implementable, measurable, affordable (cost-effectiveness and resourceful), pragmatic, action oriented and people-centered.

The new generation of NUP aims at fostering outcomes such as: (1) adequate space for street and mobility, (2) high and sustainable density, (3) mixed land use and built-up areas/public space, (4) adequate spatial distribution of land use, and (5) improved social cohesion and community wellbeing. An NUP document addresses the systems of cities by informing other processes such as sectoral policies and strategies, urban strategies, urban plans and planning.

What are key issues in the new NUP?

While the new NUP is context specific, there are three **main thematic areas** that need particular attention: (1) **urban legislation** with focus on buildability or development rights, building code, plotting regulations, and protection of public space; (2) **urban economy** with particular reference to job creation, land value sharing, municipal finance; and (3) **urban planning and design** with emphasis on planned city extension, infill, public space, adequate ratio for street -open space- built-up (for example 30, 20 and 50% respectively). Sectoral issues such as housing, basic services, infrastructure and multi-level governance ought to be addressed throughout the NUP process.

Selected Countries with Experience in NUP



	Country name	Title of Policy
SOUTH AMERICA	Brazil	Ministry of Cities, City Statute
	Chile	National Urban Development Policy: Sustainable Cities and Quality of Life
EUROPE	Belgium	Berg, L. van den, E. Braun and J. van der Meer (2004), National Urban Policies in the European Union, Euricur, Rotterdam
	Czech Republic	Principles of Urban Policy, 2010
	France	Berg, L. van den, E. Braun and J. van der Meer (2004), National Urban Policies in the European Union, Euricur, Rotterdam.
	Germany	National Urban Development Policy
	Netherlands	Berg, L. van den, E. Braun and J. van der Meer (2004), National Urban Policies in the European Union, Euricur, Rotterdam
	United Kingdom	Berg, L. van den, E. Braun and J. van der Meer (2004), National Urban Policies in the European Union, Euricur, Rotterdam
AFRICA	Burundi	Lettre de politique Nationale d'habitat et D'urbanisation, 2008
	Ghana	National Urban Policy Framework, Action Plan
	Kenya	A draft National Urban Development Policy exists
	Mali	Politique Nationale de la Ville, 2014
	Morocco	Villes Sans Bidonvilles (Cities Without Slums), Politique de la Ville
	Nigeria	National Housing and Urban Development Policy
	South Africa	Draft Integrated Urban Development Framework
	Uganda	Uganda National Urban Policy
ASIA	China	12th Five Year Plan (2011-2015), National Plan on New Urbanization (2014-2020)
	India	NUSP, NUTP, NUHHP, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Rajiv Awas Yojana
	Philippines	National Urban Development and Housing Framework (NU DHF)
	South Korea	Korea's Urban Vision for 2020
	Vietnam	Vietnam Urban Upgrading Project, National Urban Upgrading Strategy
OCEANIA	Australia	Our Cities, Our Future: A National Urban Policy for a Productive, Sustainable and Livable Future
	Samoa	The Samoa National Urban policy: "Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive City"

Who are the actors?

The new NUP is a participatory process where all urban stakeholders get involved in the design and implementation of the coordination framework. These actors include various ministerial departments, local authorities, private sector, civil society organizations and research institutions.

What tools and instruments have been used for the new NUP?

UN-Habitat has developed and is developing a range of tools and capacity development interventions to assist countries in the NUP process. These instruments include diagnostic tools, assessment, monitoring and review tools, urban financing, regulatory instruments and urban planning tools. NUP implementation is based on the integration of urban systems and institutions as well as regional planning frameworks.

How is UN-Habitat developing the NUP programme?

The development of the NUP programme is based on knowledge management, lessons learned from various countries, expert group meetings, networking and partnership engagements. It is perfected through pilot-testing, tools development, support to country fund raising and capacity development.

How is UN-Habitat assisting countries in their NUP processes?

Scoping the need, providing technical and advisory services, undertaking diagnosis for urban policy formulation, implementation or review, reviewing existing urban policy and regulatory frameworks; supporting the development of NUP instruments; supporting capacity development activities on NUP, creating space and platform for sharing knowledge and experiences on NUP.

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