

# URBAN GOVERNANCE - Habitat Universities Thematic Hub

Hosted by: London Metropolitan University, UK

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## PART A: Description

### 1. Name of Hub:

Urban Governance – Promising practices for effective dialogue and delivery of sustainable urban development

### 2. Main UN-Habitat thematic priorities to which this Hub connect:

- *Urban Legislation, Land and Governance*
- *Urban Planning and Design*
- *Urban Economy*
- *Urban Basic Services*
- *Housing and Slum Upgrading*
- *Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation*
- *Research and Capacity Building*

### 3. Link to Millennium Development Goals

- *MDG 1: Urban poverty reduction*
- *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*
- *MDG8: Develop a global partnership for development*

### 4. Key words/ roles:

- A RESOURCE of urban governance methods
- Provision of CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICAL ANALYSIS of urban governance practice
- PROMOTION of promising practice, and evidence of research into reality
- REFLECTION of practice and INFLUENCE of urban policy development
- An ANCHOR for all theme hubs, to gather effective urban governance models for delivering sustainable urban development in relation to each hub's specialisms.
- A NETWORK of theorists, practitioners, experts, local and national governments involved in sustainable urban development

### 5. Short description of Hub:

To document, analyze and promote effective governance models, processes and tools to deliver sustainable urban development in line with current global trends. The Hub will create an evidence base of practical knowledge and expertise involved in researching and delivering urban governance, alongside evaluation of such practices, to enable impact on education and policy, and enable others to deliver promising practice.

#### *What:*

Documentation, analysis, and promotion of promising practices regarding sustainable urban governance. with the aim to deliver more inclusive, participatory and effective governance, particularly in relation to the three macro trends of: planning and design for urbanization; the near ubiquity of mobile and other information and communication technologies in developing countries; and the demographic reality of youth being the preponderance of urban populations in most/all developing countries.

*“UN-HABITAT recognizes that good urban governance is characterized by the interdependent principles of sustainability, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, security, civic engagement and citizenship.”<sup>1</sup>*

**People and Experience:**

Urban governance involves a number of structures, skills, processes and tools in order to be effective and enable sustainable urban development. This Hub will provide a network of local and central government functionaries and associations, academics and professionals that can connect and share their practice and policies of effective urban governance, and by doing so, create a resource that can be promoted to influence the practice of others.

**Research and Lessons learnt:**

The hub will include and promote analysis of successful urban governance models and how they have achieved this success in their specific context. Dialogue on these specifics will be facilitated through online forums and meetings at UN Habitat conferences. Key themes that emerge can be further supported, developed and enabled to create specialized knowledge bases.

**The Hub will record:**

- › Government structures, working processes, organization charts
- › People involved, skills, relationships, roles in project delivery
- › Programmes, events and activities, digital systems used in urban governance
- › Urban laws and regulations
- › Deliverables of governance models and lessons learnt
- › Assessment of key issues, such as decentralisation, transparency, accountability, equity, local democracy, civic engagement and service efficiency practices
- › Assessment of delivery of sustainable urban development through the various urban governance methods

The Hub will focus on how urban governance is reacting to current global trends. Current global trend proposals include:

**Macro trends:**

- › Urban design and planning at local, regional, national and international levels
- › Information and communication technologies
- › Youth and gender

**Other trends:**

- › Decentralization
- › Public participation and accountability
- › Public private partnership and development
- › Other global trends will be further defined through Hub core group discussions.

**Why:**

To share promising practices, lessons learnt, actions, outcomes, and connect education, urban professional development, governance and policy (in line with outcomes and activities of HPUI policy and pillars). To raise awareness for these promising practices and engage academia and governments in supporting their further spread, development and application

*"Ninety-five percent of the world's urban population growth is a result of population increases in developing countries cities, most of which are prepared for rapid urbanization and struggle to adapt existing means to cope."<sup>2</sup>*

*"For many years, local governments have been recognized as key actors in the economic and social development of any society and also as the starting point for democratic expression.*

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<sup>1</sup> UN- Habitat Urban Governance workstream, UN-Habitat website ([www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org))

<sup>2</sup> Our Urban Change, UN-Habitat website ([www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org))

*Local authorities can be representative, legitimate and efficient steering local urban development.*<sup>3</sup>

Often the elements that deliver urban governance are intertwined within various government departments and are difficult to access and make known. This Hub will allow a collective resource to be developed and shared through the network.

There is also often a disconnect between policies, planning, implementation and feedback processes. The research of the hub will enable all these elements to be considered and evaluated holistically, and allow for each element to influence the other to produce a supportive set of tools to deliver sustainable urban development.

The principals of promising practice of governance are often challenging to relay, so the collective resource will allow practice to be shared with universities and open up opportunities for methods to be analyzed and improved through academic study that is linked to the realities of urban environments, and subsequently make a useful contribution to practices and policies that improve the lives of those in urban places. Urban governance involves the participation of many people of different backgrounds and skills. This Hub will enable a collective resource of expert knowledge to be gathered and shared through the network.

*Who:*

The Hub will be reliant on a wide range of participants from inter-disciplinary and inter-regional backgrounds, in order to be reflective of the people involved in ensuring good urban governance, and those being governed.

The initial proposal is for 15 regional university-government representatives to be part of the core group. University-government representatives are those that work in both sectors, or have strong connections with each other. The Hub will be closely connected with other related HPUI thematic Hubs, other UN-Habitat programmes, key local government contacts, and ensure collaboration with civil society, national government, NGO's, youth organisations, and the private sector (including telecoms). For a list of proposed partnerships and connected projects, see point 5 below, and point 2. in part C.

*How:*

The Hub will serve as a platform for recording information, exchanging knowledge and enabling promising practice, and ensuring collaboration between other HPUI hubs and wider academic and governance specialists.

The first phase of this will happen online, where a digital platform will be created through the HPUI portal. A template to record promising practice will be available online and sent to interested parties.

Completed templates will then be disseminated and a summary for each project will be completed by the hub core team. The case study template along with the evaluation will form the basis of the online resource library.

Following this, an online discussion meeting will be held, with invited guests and specialists asked to participate and discuss the initial case studies and evaluations.

This program will be repeated several times in order to build up the resource. Each time it is repeated, an online discussion forum will be held to disseminate findings of the case studies and evaluations, which will help direct the agenda of the subsequent research.

*Stages:*

- › Online set up
  - Core Think Tank 'meet' online, and test the HPUI portal
  - Develop HPUI portal to provide for hub needs and areas of work
  - Core team create project templates to record information on HPUI portal.
  - Template made available to all Hub members
  
- › Hub knowledge
  - 'Call out' to Hub network for case studies on urban governance, to begin the online resource

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<sup>3</sup> Decentralization in Iraq, UN-Habitat website ([www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org))

- Following evaluation of case studies and an online discussion, a report will be written on key themes.
- › Hub outreach
  - Finalize the list of committed representatives from university-government partnerships, youth CSO/NGOs, private sector etc. from 10 global cities.
  - Hub works toward sharing areas of focus and collaboration with other UN programmes at WUF7 in 2014 and Habitat 3 in 2016
  - Hub links research and researchers together, and supports development with collaborators.
  - Based on the initial gathering of promising practices, initiate collaborations between academia engaged in the hub in the direct development and spreading of these practices.
  - Offer consultancy services to governments and other parties involved.
  - Create wider group of other university-government partnerships (long term aspiration - 100 cities represented).

#### **4. Linkages to HPUI Pillars**

##### *Education:*

The Hub will serve as an online platform to share knowledge and lessons learned regarding promising practices and teaching methodologies on topics related to urban governance and practice. Connecting institutions across regions and disciplines will also facilitate exchange opportunities and shared knowledge for students. Over time interested members of the Hub could exchange students, and be partnered with specific knowledge bases through the Hub for mentorships, events and exposure.

The evidence base will provide teaching material for courses in urban development and governance.

##### *Research:*

The Hub will help build and connect an international framework of researchers across institutions, disciplines, and governments in global regions on research topics relating to urban governance.

##### *Professional Development:*

The Hub will enable professional development between academic institutions and different academic fields, and link academia with private and public practice, through its online network. The Hub can enable new relationships to be formed and new collaborations to be explored between the multitude of disciplines involved in urban governance for sustainable urban development.

Key experts in local and national contexts will be listed within the Hub network, allowing links to be made to specific people.

##### *Policy Advice:*

This will be a key area of influence for the Urban Governance Hub. Issues affecting urban governance are in constant flux, however the structure of governance can not always respond quickly. Research within this Hub will be presented in a way to ensure changes to urban governance can be implemented effectively and efficiently, and ensure knowledge is easily sourced within the Hub. The Hub will 'meet' twice a year to review the online resource and draw out key findings that can be developed into policy.

##### *Knowledge Management:*

The Hub strongly supports the gathering of city specific knowledge to be shared across the network. In this it facilitates the work of all the network members, both institutional and individual, as it raises awareness for promising practices for sustainable urban governance which could be replicated in other cities, and the adaptation of which could be supported by Hub initiated university-city collaborations.

The UN-Habitat HPUI website will serve as a central collection point where members can upload relevant research and documents, ensuring visibility, awareness and the dissemination of material and findings developed within the network. Members as well as UN-Habitat can benefit from the dissemination of UN-Habitat's wealth of urban data and information on project precedents. Access to this data would be a primary incentive for universities to engage with UN-Habitat on research questions and also allow UN-Habitat to maximize use of this important resource.

### 5. Possible linkages to related projects: UN-Habitat and other universities/institutions/organizations

- › 100 Cities initiative
- › Training Institutes (Hague as an example)
- › City Mayor networks, UNACLA
- › Mayors and Ministers engaged in Habitat 3
- › Habitat 3, Ministers and Mayors joint meetings and agendas
- › UN-Habitat City Profiles
- › Global Urban Observatory (GUO)
- › Youth 21
- › City Prosperity Index
- › Urban Governance Index
- › Millennium Development Goals
- › Youth and urban governance work stream

The below table lists possible linkages to the related projects of UN-Habitat and/or other universities/institutions or organizations. Note that this is only a proposed list by UN-Habitat, intended to facilitate communication from the Hub Coordinator to the listed contacts.

UN-Habitat Branch	Unit	Contacts	Current Projects
<b>Urban Legislation, Land and Governance</b>		Diana Lopez	
<b>Urban Planning and Design</b>		Elkin Velasquez	National Urban Policies
<b>Urban Economy</b>		Douglas Ragan	Urban Youth Research Network
		Eric Luguya	Urban Youth Fund
		Mutinta Munyati	One Stop Youth Resource Centers
<b>Urban Basic Services</b>		Daniel Adom	Water and Sanitation
		Debashish Bhattacharjee	Mobility
		Vincent Kitio	Energy
<b>Housing and Slum Upgrading</b>		Mohamed El-Sioufi	Global Housing Strategy (overarching project for the below)
		Kerstin Sommer	Slum Upgrading (PSUP etc)
		Katja Dietrich	Housing Strategy and Policy
		Roberto Carrion	Housing Finance
		Emma-Liisa Hannula	Sustainable and Green Housing
		Jagoda Walorek	Housing Rights
		Christophe Lalande	Housing Culture and Diversity
	Jan Turkstra	Community Development	
<b>Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation</b>		Dan Lewis	
<b>Research and Capacity Building</b>	Capacity Development Unit	Claudio Acioly	Habitat Universities
		Fernando Cabrera	Training activities
		Asa Isacson	Online tools

<b>Global Initiatives, Regional Offices etc.</b>	Advocacy, Outreach and Communications	Christine Auclair	World Urban Campaign
<b>Other UN-Habitat Connectivity</b>		Kyle Farrell	UNACLA

**PART B: Output**

**1. Description and frequency of outputs: (based on proposed 2 year plan)**

a. Online resource:

- i. Database of existing promising practices in relation to information and communication technologies supporting effective and participatory governance – continually growing, 4 every 4 months minimum
- ii. Database of documentation and governance models and project delivery – continually growing
- iii. Case studies of sustainable urban governance in practice – case study gathering will take 4 months, so alongside other outputs, we will have 3 rounds of case study gathering in the next 2 years.
- iv. Opportunities for students to participate in case study evidence – output in first quarter of 2014, and could be repeated yearly.
- v. Opportunities for students to complete internships in developing hub knowledge – output in first quarter of 2015, and could be repeated yearly.

b. Research reports

- i. 1 report on current global trends per year.

c. Presentation of Urban Governance Hub at WUF7 2014/Habitat3 2016

- i. Host meeting to present Urban governance hub
- ii. Participate in HPUI meeting
- iii. Participate and encourage joint Ministers and Mayors meeting

a. *Online resource*

The HPUI website will provide an online base for the Hubs network, research and collaborations. The first output of the Hub will be to develop areas of the website that can record case studies, current policy and practice, and contacts in various fields of work and geographical locations.

Member institutions will be required to be active participants on the HPUI website. All institutions will maintain updated profiles describing their research work and interests. Relevant publications and data should also be shared on the website.

The online resource will also include:

- > Database of documentation and analysis of metropolitan area governance models
- > Database for proposals for metropolitan area governance models (promising practices)
- > Database of existing and potential ICT's for governance for current global trends
- > Case studies of sustainable urban governance in practice
- > Resource of tools and governance models for engagement and participation with youth.
- > Reports of current global trends
- > Student teaching material
- > Network of sustainable urban development experts, teachers and deliverers

b. *Research reports*

Following evaluation of case studies, a report will be issued on current research and findings within the Hub.

Following the 'call out' for papers on urban governance, the core Hub team will create a report to summarize the submissions and suggest topics of specific research within urban governance.

Reporting of all outputs will be done annually via the HPUI Hub reporting template.

*c. Presentation of Urban Governance Hub at WUF7 2014/Habitat3 2016*

Member institutions will present the work of research initiatives and collaborations developed by the Hub. Depending on how developed the research initiatives are at the time of the conference, member institutions could also present their own work directly related to the Hubs agenda. Members could also present any research work making use of UN-Habitat's data and/or project database.

TIMELINE		2013												2014												...
OUTPUT		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	...
1	Online resource						-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2	Research reports											-	-	-												
3	Presentation of Urban Governance Hub at WUF7 2014/Habitat3 2016													-	-	-	-	-								

**2. Expected accomplishments at end the of term (WUF7 2014/Habitat3 2016):**

We propose to raise global awareness of current promising practices regarding effective and participatory urban governance, as well as an increased engagement from academia in supporting the development and spread of these practices. We will deliver increased direct university-city linkages in relation to urban governance, and a comprehensive database of ongoing promising practices, including an overview of current governance models, facilitating the above. Each member should be an active participant on the website with a current profile detailing past and present research initiatives. It is also expected that at least 2-3 joint research initiatives will be underway, with academic and professional collaborations in their formative stages. A suggested accomplishment for WUF7 would be for the Urban Governance Hub to host a meeting of academics, governments and professionals on the work of the Hub to date, and 2/3 specific areas of research that are particularly relevant in current global trends. The urban governance Hub will also support the call for a joint meeting of Local Mayors and National government, and participate in this meeting.

**PART C: Governance**

**1. Proposed Hub Coordinator:**

- › Lara Kinneir - London Metropolitan University/ Greater London Authority, UK

**2. Proposed Hub Committee/Core Think Tank, and other involved individual members**

Initial suggestion for 15 regional university-government representatives:

- London / London Metropolitan University
- Hannover / University of Hannover
- New York/ CUNY, New School
- Santiago / Universidad de Santiago de Chile
- Rio di Janeiro/ Universidade Federal Fluminense
- Nairobi / Nairobi University
- Shanghai / Tongji University
- Jerusalem / Hebrew University (ISR) +Birzeit (PAL)
- Cairo / Cairo University

- Jamaica / University of Technology, Jamaica
- Johannesburg / University of Johannesburg
- New Delhi / Indian Institute of Public Administration
- Madras / University of Madras
- Moscow / Graduate School of Urban Studies and Planning
- Boston / Harvard Graduate School of Design

REGION	COUNTRY/ STATE	INSTITUTION/ ORGANIZATION	NAME
<b>Africa</b>	Kenya	UN-Habitat	Asa Isacson
<b>Arab States</b>	Egypt	Manager of Local Development, Ministry of Local Development	Khaled Abdelhalim
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>	India	Individual Member Faculty at Indian Institute of Public Administration	Professor KK Pandey
<b>Latin America</b>	Chile	International Affairs and Studies, Ministry of Environment and Urbanism	Paola Siclari
<b>Caribbean</b>	Jamaica	University of Technology	Carol Archer
<b>United States</b>	America	Harvard	tbc
<b>Canada</b>	tbc	tbc	tbc
<b>Europe</b>	UK	London Metropolitan University/Greater London Authority	Lara Gibson
	Netherlands	Department of Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management, University of Twente	Jeroen Verplanke

NOTE: The above is a list of proposed Hub Committee members, participation is only determined once UN-Habitat has received a Letter of Commitment from the Hub Coordinator, with signatures of all committed Hub Committee members.

**For more information and to engage in the Hub, kindly contact the Hub Coordinator:**

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