



# Back to Basics

# UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT = United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote sustainable towns and cities;  
Predecessor - UN Centre for Human Settlements was established in 1978, after *Habitat I - UN conference on cities*, in Vancouver;  
In 1996, *Habitat II*, in Istanbul, set goals for the new millennium: *Habitat Agenda* contains over 600 recommendations;  
In 2002, the agency's status elevated to that of a fully fledged programme of the UN system;  
In 2016, *Habitat III* will be held, providing roadmap for 20 years:

**WE HAVE STARTED PREPARING FOR IT!**

# The Urbanizing World

- Cities generate more than 80 percent of GDP in the world;
- 34 among 100 largest economies in the world are cities;
- Number of cities of over 100,000 to triple by 2050;
- 70 percent of the world's population in cities by the year 2050;

> 70% of the developing countries limit migration to large cities - to avoid chaos: slums, poverty, despair and disease, lack of infrastructure, traffic jams and air pollution;

823 million people live in informal, deficient settlements.

60% of citizens in these cities believe that urban planning is managed through bribery and corruption by powerful interest groups;

Cities are seen as hubs of society's ills, the breeding grounds of poverty and environmental degradation.

# Glasgow, Scotland

Problems are not limited to developing world

\$20 billion Gross Value added per year  
\$100 million new business buildings every year  
\$50 million new hotel and leisure buildings every year  
30% people with uni. degree  
80,000 new jobs in 15 years  
One of the world's top 10 tourist cities  
One of world's 50 safest cities

1/2 population loss in 50 years  
7.5% derelict land  
20% people without qualifications  
30% working-age residents "economically inactive".  
40% of children in households without work  
20,000 registered drug users  
"Murder Capital of Western Europe"

- Harness the economic gains of urbanization;
- Make the cities more efficient and equitable;

## > **critical approaches and issues:**

Increasing physical and economic density of cities,  
Appropriately mixed land-use and better connectivity >  
Urban networks with sustainable transportation;  
Taking advantage of agglomeration economies;  
Sustainable energy and the green economy in urban areas;  
Prevention of clustered poverty through social integration.

# Renewed focal themes of UN-HABITAT

Refocusing on proper urban planning

Including, inter alia:

Accessible, efficient and clean energy

Minimized demand for urban mobility and improved urban connectivity

Efficient urban governance and effective legislation - on the cities and in the cities;

Thriving urban economy

and equitable municipal finance;

Improving informal deficient settlements.

# Refocusing on Urban Planning

- Increase accessibility and transportation options to more people;
- Optimize the use of land - bring people closer to job and other opportunities;
- Maximize the use of existing infrastructure and introduce new infrastructure in a phased and cost-effective manner;
- Create public open spaces and protect green areas from encroachment;
- Develop a legal framework for orderly growth and control of land;
- Assure an adequate & affordable supply of land for years to come;
- Reduce the risk of unplanned or informal expansions;
- Mitigate the adverse effects of urban growth and the unfavorable price effects of land speculation.

# Better governance, efficient economy

## **Efficient urban governance and effective legislation:**

Build functioning decentralised institutions and develop good governance at the local level;

Legal frameworks and governance mechanisms supporting economic growth and reducing poverty;

Devise and implement tolerable and enforceable legal tools for the cities.

## **Thriving urban economy and equitable municipal finance:**

Capture land value increase;

Employ agglomeration economies and economies of scale;

Harness informal economy for sustainable development of the cities;

Ensure reasonable income to local government for efficient and equitable financial interventions.



**Thank you!  
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