



## PANEL ON SOCIO-CULTURAL URBAN FRAMEWORKS<sup>1</sup> (Policy Unit 2)

HABITAT III OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS  
TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2016, CONFERENCE ROOM 3

11 A.M. - 12 P.M.

### **Introduction**

Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

### **Moderators**

Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

### **Panelists**

- Gulden Erkut, Professor, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
- Magdalena Garcia, Iberoamerican Network for Budget Equality Between Man and Women, Mexico
- Jyoti Hosagrahar, UNESCO Chair for Culture, Director, Sustainable Urbanism International GSAPP, Columbia University, New York
- Arun Jain, Urban Designer, Urban Strategist, DAAD Guest Professor, ISR (PU1, Institut für Stadt und Regionalplanung), Institute for Urban & Regional Planning Fakultät VI Planen - Bauen - Umwelt, Faculty of Planning & The Built Environment Technical University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- Philippe Madec, Architect, Town Planner, Professor, Department Director (Invention of the Sustainable Territory - ENSAB Rennes), full member of the EU chapter of the Club of Rome
- Marling Haydee Rodrigez, Huairou Commission

### **VISION**

Cities and towns should be safe for all their residents, where culture forms and activities thrive and cultural diversity fosters peace and social cohesion. In shaping such a future, the social and cultural aspects of urban life are key constituents to ensuring that cities are not only people-centred and inclusive, but are liveable and resilient.

If urban areas are to truly serve as 'engines of growth', reducing poverty and including all urban dwellers in the processes and benefits of development are essential to building more resilient and sustainable cities. This is particularly important for marginalized and vulnerable groups, including refugees and migrants, who are often excluded from urban life.

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<sup>1</sup>Information Habitat III Policy Unit 2 and its Policy Paper is available at  
[www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/policy](http://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/policy)



## PRIORITY POLICY OPTION/KEY MESSAGES

### **1. Promote people-centered cities**

- Empower and enable different social groups to overcome systemic and institutional inequalities and vulnerabilities to render all citizens active agents and participants of urban life.
- Catalyse culture-based activities and cultural diversity to boost social interaction and community engagement in place-making.
- Humanize cities through culture to enhance their liveability and empower people to connect with their communities and shape their urban environments
- Cultural liveliness makes cities and urban spaces meaningful to people enhancing social interaction and liveability. In turn, cities that are rich in social infrastructure and public spaces nourish cultural production and consumption

### **2. Target poverty alleviation**

- Safeguard and nurture culture-based livelihoods both traditional and contemporary
- Help alleviate poverty and managing economic transitions by enhancing the cultural assets and human potential of cities
- Support the diversity of formal and informal economic activities, social interactions, cultural forms and practices, governance mechanisms, spatial arrangements, housing solutions, and infrastructural services

### **3. Foster safe and inclusive cities**

- Ensure safe and secure environment in cities so that everyone including women, marginalized, vulnerable, and displaced people can live, work, and participate in urban life of cities without fear of violence and intimidation
- Build on the diversity of culture and heritage to foster peace and intercultural dialogue, and counter urban violence.

### **4. Develop sustainable built environments**

- Nurture and promote cultural diversity and creativity in identity, expressions, built environment, urban development, regeneration, and adaptive reuse
- Ensure access to basic infrastructure and affordable housing for all urban dwellers including the poor, women, youth, elderly, the disabled, marginalized and vulnerable communities, including migrants, in order to enable cultural diversity so people can be active cultural producers and consumers
- Help create mixed-used inclusive public spaces, both formally designated and designed as well as those that become informal public spaces that provide necessary opportunities for social integration and culture based activities. A variety of public places are necessary in cities to enhance liveability and to leverage culture and creativity to foster social cohesion and participation in urban decision making

### **5. Encourage inclusive policies and urban governance**

- Ensure that statutory and legal provisions are introduced and implemented on a human rights-based approach to enable socially inclusive and culturally vibrant cities.
- Strengthen commitment to relevant United Nations resolutions



- Improve urban governance by enabling and strengthening participation and engagement of all groups of residents in decision-making processes from identifying challenges and potentials to evaluating and monitoring interventions
- Promote investment in social and cultural infrastructure at various scales that promote social interactions and safeguards tangible and intangible cultural heritage and creative practices

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Community Participation:** National, regional and local authorities create policy guidelines and metrics to strengthen community participation in urban public policy development, design and implementation
2. **Culture and Cultural Heritage Policy Design:** Detailed, comprehensive inventories and mapping of tangible and intangible heritage should be pursued, involving local communities, to identify diverse, sites to be included in development plans. Moreover, citizen awareness (particularly youth and newcomers) and appreciation of cultural heritage must be increased. Legislation should be enforced and/or defined to stop the intentional destruction of cultural heritage. Master / strategic urban development plans must be developed, indicating all cultural assets and stipulating indigenous peoples' tenure rights and claims to traditionally common rights of access to enforce the protection, respect for and preservation of cultural assets. Accessible, decentralized and well-resourced public educational institutions, cultural infrastructures and socio-cultural activities must be ensured, while providing training programmes for public school teachers and community leaders.
3. **Media and Technology:** Freedom of expression and press, and access to information of public decisions must be legally enforced. The promotion of open and independent local media must be supported, and measures should be established to guarantee that they reflect and analyse urban processes. Local governments should encourage diversity through private and public broadcasters, while ensuring that the voice of small broadcasters reaches all citizens. Short to long-term planning should be undertaken, including long-term programmes for contemporary art, innovation and experimentation, with adequate spaces / antennas in all urban districts and neighbourhoods. In addition, open source resources and internet are also to be enhanced.
4. **Migrants, Refugees, Displaced persons and Disadvantaged groups:** Legal frameworks, institutional set-ups and guidelines should be established by countries and local governments to improve assistance to migrants, refugees, displaced persons and disadvantaged groups.
5. **Safety and Violence Prevention:** Resilience and preventive plans to cope with natural and man-made disasters should be prepared. Programmes and post-disaster reconstruction practices that capitalize on and reinforce local practices and safeguard cultural assets should be established. Safer city measures must be integrated into all future urban planning efforts, including resilience, disaster prevention and mitigation, safer public places, police and community vigilance, promoting reporting on violence, particularly regarding women, children and all underprivileged groups.



6. **Innovative financing and support mechanisms:** A minimum share of the local government budget should be devoted to the arts and cultural activities, ensuring information is publicly available and accountable monitoring is undertaken through civil society-led non-political and independent assessments. Measures to respect and protect cultural heritage in all public tendering and disbursement of public funds must be introduced. In addition, land speculation by public authorities and private developers should be discouraged. Corporate social responsibility must be encouraged and social innovation promoted, particularly focusing on initiatives by starters, not-exclusively-for-profit enterprises, newcomers, and more sustainable resource-conserving modes of production / distribution / re-use.
7. **Financial support** should be provided to towns and cities that welcome refugees and internally displaced persons with additional basic services, while sponsorship and assistance from the private business community should be solicited to support programmes in this respect.
8. **Urban and Social Indicators:** Urban and social indicators must be developed based on a City Liveability Index (inclusive of gender equality and safety in cities).

#### IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

National and local governments should draft policy guidelines that incorporate ways to introduce and strengthen citizen participation.

Participatory monitoring mechanisms should include diverse stakeholders (including women, local minorities, marginalized groups, etc.). Progress reports should be made available to all citizens on a regular basis.

Nation-wide implementation and systematic maintenance of 'Urban Indicators' (such as a City Livability Index) should be established, with a special focus on measures to respect cultural diversity and diverse social groups, to achieve gender equality, safer cities, and promote and safeguard culture, and the inclusion of migrants and refugees.



## GUIDING QUESTIONS

### FOR PANEL ON SOCIO-CULTURAL URBAN FRAMEWORKS

1. How can socio-cultural policies and frameworks contribute to poverty alleviation?
2. How can culture foster social cohesion in cities?
3. Which programmes should be further developed to counter urban violence in a sustainable manner?