



PANEL ON URBAN SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES¹
(Policy Unit 9)

HABITAT III OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2016, CONFERENCE ROOM 3

11 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Introduction and moderation

- Jerome Pourbaix , Head of Policy, International Association for Public Transport (UITP)

Panelists

- Bernard Abeiku Arthur, Senior Urban Specialist for Cities Alliance, Ghana
- Ton Dassen, Programme Manager Spatial Planning and Quality of the Local Environment, Netherlands
- Caroline Kihato , Senior Research Fellow at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Kenya
- Toshiyasu Noda, Professor, Department of Law, Seinan Gaguin University, Japan
- Maros Finka, Professor, Slovak University of Technology, Slovakia

Cities now account for more than half of the planet's people, with 30% of all city dwellers living in slums. By 2050, urban populations are projected to increase to 6.3 billion (WWAP 2012). Urbanisation and economic growth, together with increases in production and consumption, has generated increasing demands for urban infrastructure investment. (United Nations World Water Development Report 2015, WWDR 2015)

VISION

Water, energy and resources

- Everyone in urban areas has access to basic services, urban infrastructure and transport.
- Basic services need to be resilient, reliable and of appropriate quality.
- The focus is always first on reducing energy use and then using the energy most efficiently. Global, national, regional and local actions encourage non-fossil fuelled urban services, delivery and transportation.

Transport, mobility and access to urban opportunities

- The quality of life in urban areas has improved significantly and cities play their role as catalysts of innovation by efficiently and smoothly linking people to places and activities. All citizens have access to public spaces and services, economic, employment and educational opportunities and health services in urban areas, without discrimination.

¹Information Habitat III Policy Unit 9 and its Policy Paper is available at www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/policy



- Urban transport supports overall sustainability objectives through the delivery of resource-efficient, space-efficient, people-oriented, operational, clean and safe mobility, which adds to the quality of public spaces; negative externalities, such as congestion and GHG emissions, and fatalities or injuries due to urban traffic are minimised.
- Sustainable transport infrastructure and services are adequately funded through contributions from users and indirect beneficiaries.
- Urban areas are well connected with each other and with rural areas. Mobility is organised at the level of the metropolitan areas, beyond the administrative boundaries of cities, through adequate collaboration between relevant entities.

PRIORITY POLICY OPTIONS/KEY MESSAGES

The basis of prioritization should be: striking a balance between individual and collective goals; sustainable growth being at the core of urban service and mobility policy; equity and affordability, a balanced and integrated approach to targets delivery, and decentralisation.

The identified priorities are:

- **Access for all:** Cities have the responsibility to provide adequate, sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure and services to all.
- **Efficient use:** Efficient and effective use of urban services require local and national policies that support people to reduce the consumption of finite resources and shift demand toward sustainable options, including reducing water, waste, energy use.
- **Local leadership:** Local authorities should take responsibility and leadership for inclusive well-being and the sustainability of cities.
- **National policies and funding support:** National governments need to enable local authorities to provide adequate services to urban population.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Water and sanitation

- assess the water-related risks and resource limitations and maximise the advantages of the natural environment prior to planning the city development,
- launch an integrated water planning approach to manage urban-rural linkages, minimise conflicts and ecological disasters as well as to maximise positive synergies and mutual benefits, at local and regional scales;
- make the best use of waters through an integrated water cycle approach,
- plan adaptive urban water systems with the necessary resources to build greater adaptive capacity to respond to the inherent uncertainties associated with global change issues;
- assure public health through strong local leadership and adequate investments in sanitation infrastructure and services,



Energy supply and energy efficiency

- promote an immediate and strong shift towards a low carbon energy system in line with a 1.5°C stabilisation pathway;
- boost energy efficiency by optimising building-related energy consumption,
- consider increasingly different energy aspects jointly, as heat and electricity supply in conjunction with mobility and waste-to-energy technologies;
- create opportunities for developing countries to leapfrog to renewable solutions for energy storage and warming water

Waste and resources

- take a circular economy approach,
- facilitate urban mining and the reuse of wastes;
- ensure the appropriate, transparent and prudent management of hazardous waste in line with international treatment and health standards;
- establish extended producer responsibility schemes that include producers in the financing of urban waste management systems
- develop local waste prevention concepts that take into account the specific urban metabolism and focus on the most urgent waste streams with the highest cost-saving potentials.

Transport, mobility and access to urban opportunities

- to be achieved through urban design and planning.
- increase the quantity and quality of sustainable travel options.
- manage the demand for private motorised travel;
- secure adequate funding that is needed to successfully deliver high quality transport infrastructure and services (fiscal devolution).
- establish urban transport infrastructure funds at the national level, based on a diversity of funding sources.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

National level

- National governments need to provide the mandate and the means to local governments to deliver urban services.
- Key national policies that are required include fiscal policies (e.g. energy and fuel taxation), minimum standards for basic services, water safety and recycling, regulation for efficiency, and procurement frameworks.
- The provision of funding from national level goes along with conditionality and appraisal of projects and strategies that require major investments.



Regional and local governments and authorities

- Local governments are key to improving urban services and transport. They need to set political priorities and ensure that infrastructure, technology and policies deliver on those priorities. For this to be effective, strong local leadership is needed with a clear vision and support from local businesses and citizens.
- Local governments are best placed to establish integrated urban development plans, which bring infrastructure and mobility in line with other local policies and objectives, particularly housing and land use policies. It is essential that the relevant departments coordinate their actions and policy goals. In doing so they can better match demand with ability to deliver services to all.

International institutions

- International funding Institutions have a key role to play to support local action and to leverage further funding.
- International agencies play a key role in facilitating knowledge exchange and providing capacity building. This can include institutions building, policy and infrastructure development, needs assessment and measurement of impacts.

International efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda need to **focus on all levels of governance and decision-making** to ensure that multilateral and bilateral organisations, local authorities as well as national governments conform to and adopt the Urban Agenda.

Data in support of urban infrastructure and services

Data are crucial to support policy design, setting of targets, and appraisal and monitoring of implementation. Appropriate procedures should be put in place for collection, management and sharing of data. Capacity should be developed at the local and national levels for the identification and measurement of adequate indicators (input, output and outcome). Analytical frameworks should be established at national and international levels for comparisons of data between cities.



**GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR
PANEL ON URBAN SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES**

1. How could national governments best help local authorities in the planning and delivery of urban services that improve the quality of living conditions and are conducive to initiative, entrepreneurship, and economic growth?
2. What partnership could be developed at metropolitan level, between local authorities, civil society, and business community, to support inclusiveness, efficiency, and sustainability in the delivery and use of urban services?
3. What priority measures (frameworks, tools, competences) are needed to help local governments better quantify needs and measure performance against targets as far as urban services are concerned?