



Dialogue 4

Integrated governance in
spatial planning for a more just,
green and healthy urban future

Transformative action beyond
boundaries

Eleventh session of the World
Urban Forum (WUF11)
Transforming Our Cities for a
Better Urban Future

ICC, Katowice, Poland
Auditorium,
Wednesday 29 June 2022
from 10:00 to 12:00 CET

This session aims to highlight the interplay between urban planning and multi-level governance in addressing social and spatial inequality, climate change, and urban health including in the post-pandemic context. The session will also explore existing initiatives that have been rolled out to respond, recover and facilitate integrated urban development. Focusing on social inclusion, the session will illustrate participatory planning and governance instruments that can be developed at various governmental and territorial scales and by various stakeholders.

The Dialogue will bring together different global initiatives that have fostered collaboration, multi-level governance and innovative ideas to promote the horizontal and vertical integration of communities, residents, priority groups, academia, and the private sector. These initiatives will demonstrate models of co-creation between different stakeholders that promote sustainable urban development and improved quality of life. The session will reveal the symbiotic link between planning and governance, which work hand-in-hand to ensure multi-stakeholder action towards more just, green and healthy cities.

Background

COVID-19 has amplified existing inequality patterns and exacerbated parallel processes of spatial and socioeconomic inequality, climate change and digital transformation. These challenges present obstacles and opportunities to successfully integrating multi-level governance into urban development through spatial planning.

The Decade of Action calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to global threats by mobilising all sectors of society through multi-level governance on three scales: global action, local action and people action.

Multi-level governance involves broad consultative processes incorporating vertical and horizontal collaboration across a range of actors and government levels, formal and informal institutions, and the public, private and social sectors. As laid out by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration in 2018, the principles of effective governance include accountability, inclusiveness, competence, collaboration, integrity, independent oversight, non-discrimination and participation.

Spatial planning, meanwhile, should be rooted in human rights, take a global perspective, integrate development with infrastructure, focus on implementation, be informed by budgets, secure political legitimacy, incorporate subsidiarity and diversity, and capitalise on the special characteristics of places. These guidelines have been harmonised in a “manifesto” by UN-Habitat and partners.

Taken together, governance and spatial planning enable territorial and urban development through symmetric, mutually reinforcing mechanisms. A governance initiative can kickstart spatial planning processes, while territorial planning can develop enhanced governance structures. Initiatives or instruments related to governance and spatial planning can facilitate processes that result in i) integrated local actions, ii) enhanced territorial balance, iii) improved participation of relevant stakeholders, iv) better horizontal and vertical coordination.

This complementary interconnection between governance and spatial planning has allowed cities to make important progress on several Sustainable Development Goals, simultaneously impacting areas of poverty and social exclusion, migration, multi-pronged crises, food systems, health, territorial cohesion, local climate action, migration, integrated digital transformation strategies, improved private sector involvement and enhanced local employment opportunities.

Agenda Dialogue 4

Auditorium, 29 June 2022, 10:00-12:00 CET

10:00 - 10:15

Keynote

Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile,
Seventy-seventh President of
the Economic and Social
Council

10.15-11.00

Panel discussion

Moderated by Greg Scruggs

Ms. Marylin M. Pintor, Under-Secretary the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Philippines

Ms. Ana Marina Ramos Jiménez, Vice-president National Institute of Territorial Planning and Urbanism (INOTU), Cuba

Ms. Marcela Villareal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, Food and Agriculture Organisation at the United Nations (FAO)

Ms. Sertac Erten, Associated Director and Planning Services Lead Turkey, Arup

Mr. Bachir Kanoute, Executive Director Enda ECOPOP, Coordinator for Africa of the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD Africa)

11.00-11.30

Interactive dialogue

Moderated by Gregory Scruggs

11.30-11.50

Panellists final key remarks

11:50 –12:00

Session concluding remarks



Guiding Questions for discussions

- Which institutional arrangements need to change to promote a new social contract, spatial justice, and how can communities lead the transformation?
- Which are the main spatial planning and governance initiatives that at different scales can contribute to spatial inclusion, climate action, inclusion of migrants, food systems, health equity and digital transformation?
- How can cities improve horizontal and vertical coordination for sustainable urban development?
- How can cities guarantee social inclusion, meaningful participation and balanced decision-making in spatial planning processes?
- How can governance and spatial planning go beyond their jurisdictional boundaries for effective climate action and the promotion of healthier cities?
- How can the private sector contribute to more just, green and healthy cities?
- How can governance structures harness the potential of marginalised and priority groups?
- How can we educate a new generation of urban leaders and planners to address the governance and planning challenges of the future?

Expected Outcomes

The development of cooperation mechanisms between public and private sectors, including 'soft mechanisms' on planning and governance that will increase local enforceability and facilitate transformative economic and social change. These new approaches will direct behavior towards collectively agreed-upon objectives, new social contract, ensuring a better quality of life for all.

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