



Addressing Systemic Barriers for Achieving Sustainable Urbanization in Emerging Economies

Learnings from the 19 Cities of the Global Future Cities Programme

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This report has been prepared by UN-Habitat's Urban Lab. The Lab is UN-Habitat's multidisciplinary facility supporting cities and Member States with innovative methodologies and multi-stakeholder processes. The Lab aims to achieve sustainable urbanization through integrated and transformative urban interventions that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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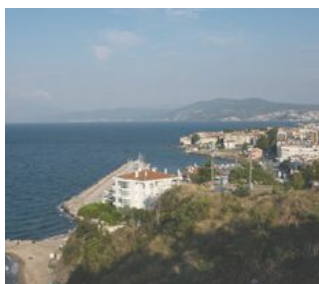
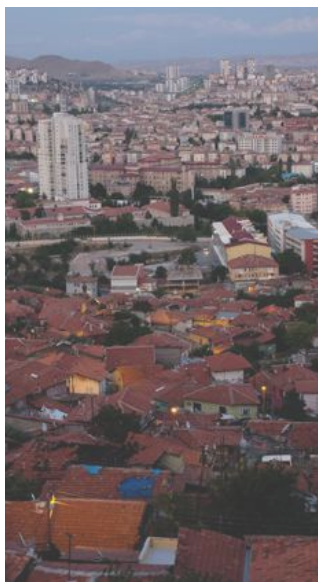
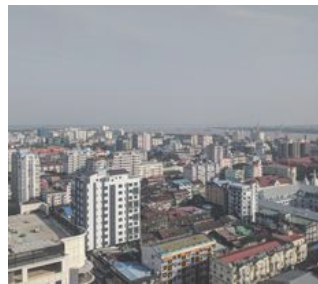
Melaka

New Clark City

Recife

Surabaya

Yangon



Foreword

“Addressing systemic barriers for achieving sustainable urbanization in emerging economies” is an effort to aggregate the many outcomes of the Strategic Development Phase of the UK Prosperity Fund’s Global Future Cities Programme.

UN-Habitat’s Urban Lab, as a strategic partner for the UK Future Cities Programme, has over a six-month period developed 19 City Context Reports and 30 Terms of References in 10 Countries defining urban intervention aiming to spur development, in particular driving prosperity and alleviating poverty. The processes and discussions have allowed us to identify of key issues relevant to harness the potential in middle income cities to achieve sustainable urbanization.

This publication cuts across the key thematic pillars of the Programme; urban planning, transport, resilience and data management and showcases common barriers and drivers for sustainability of these urban interventions in the long-run.

Though each of the 19 contexts are unique building upon their local setting, their specific cultural, socio-economic background and their specific urban structure and historic development pattern, systemic barriers for urban transformations showcase many similarities across the Global Future Cities. Addressing these systemic barriers is essential to safeguard the impact of transformative urban interventions on sustainable urbanization. This poses questions on how we best can govern and manage our cities and towns but also how we can make use of available resources in a more efficient and sustainable way.

Building upon the 19 cities, this publication offers a suite of insights that have a value exceeding the Future Cities Programme and that are relevant for actors involved in sustainable urbanization. The process, methodologies and tools applied during the Strategic Development Phase, which is captured in a complementary publication, facilitated the identification of these key trends and barriers across the Global Future cities. We hope that the two documents collectively will be of interest and use for the implementation of the Future Cities Programme, but also for others who have or will initiate similar interventions.

Rogier van den Berg

Head, Urban Lab, UN-Habitat

Acronyms and Abbreviations

GFCP	Global Future Cities Programme
NUA	New Urban Agenda
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UK FCO	United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

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