



Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages
to Advance Integrated Territorial Development
Expert Group Meeting
in La Paz, Bolivia, 19-20 June 2018
Summary Report

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The Expert Group Meeting was hosted by the Bolivian Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing (MOPSV) financially supported by the Government of Sweden and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

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Group picture participants of the Expert Group Meeting on the Guiding Principles, 19-20 June 2018, La Paz, Bolivia © UN-Habitat

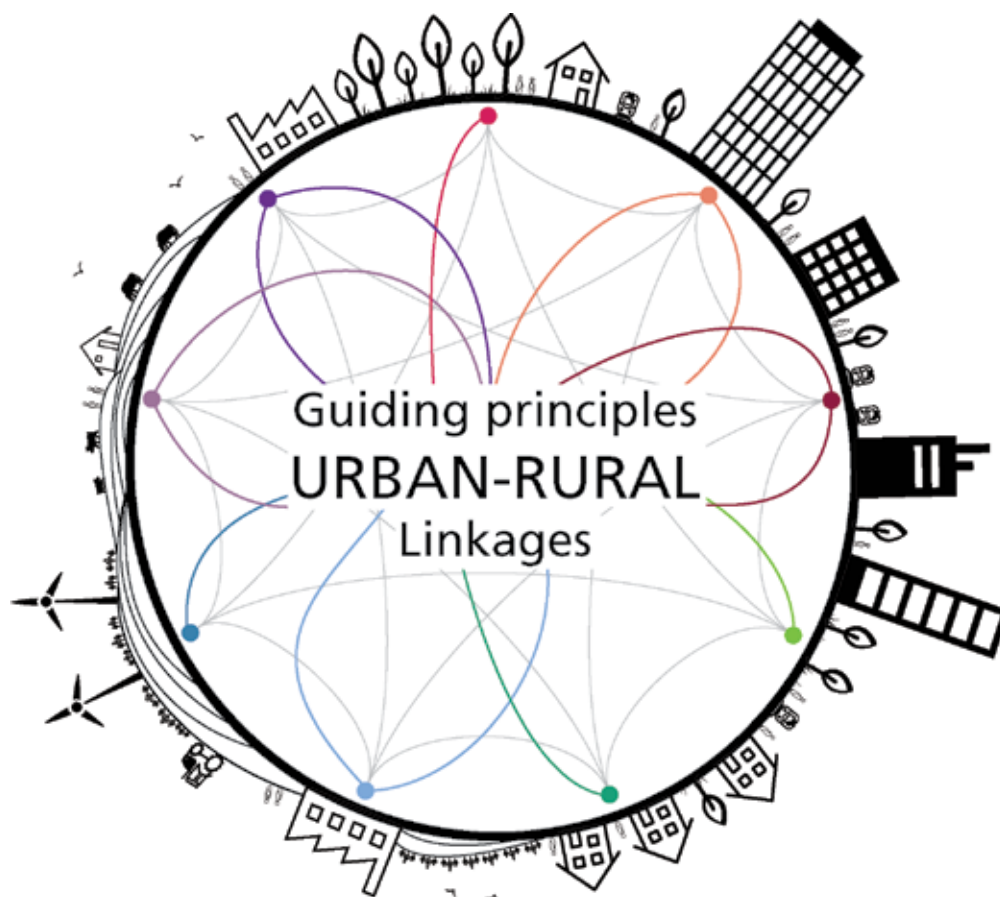
OVERVIEW AND ORGANIZATION:

UN-Habitat has partnered with Cities Alliance, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO) among others in a participatory process for developing “Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages” to advance integrated urban and territorial development.

The Guiding Principles will serve as guidance for governments at national and sub-national levels and

to other urban and rural stakeholders to collaborate towards a more integrated territorial development while reducing inequalities across the urban-rural continuum.

The process began in February 2018 with a working session and expert consultation parallel to the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Inputs to a zero draft of the Guiding Principles and Framework for Action led to a first draft shared in April and May with over 125 stakeholders in a global online consultation process. A second draft incorporating inputs from stakeholders was prepared in advance of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in La Paz, Bolivia (19-20 June 2018).



This report summarizes the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) hosted by the Bolivian Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing (MOPSV) and supported by the Government of Sweden and GIZ. It was organized by UN-Habitat's Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit (RMPU) with strong support of UN-Habitat offices in Bolivia and Colombia and took place on 19 and 20 June in La Paz, Bolivia.

The EGM brought together 60 participants from 13 countries, of whom one-third of which were female. Participants represented subnational and national governments, international and UN agencies, academia from different countries, civil society and the private sector (see the participant list annexed to this report).

The EGM was designed with three objectives:

1. Discuss and review the second draft of the Guiding Principles and Framework for Action from national and subnational perspectives to explore the process of their implementation in specific local contexts, providing inputs to the next draft of the Guiding Principles;
2. Provide recommendations to the Bolivian Government on the implementation and planning process for establishing a first National Urban Policy with special consideration on including elements such as a "system of cities" and integrated territorial approach in the policy;
3. Deliver key messages for policymakers for advocacy work at global level and prepare an action plan for advancing the Guiding Principles (La Paz Communique). Both documents are to be shared with and validated by all stakeholders in the project.

The Bolivian Vice-Ministry of Housing and Urbanism from the MOPSV, with the support of the Bolivian office of UN-Habitat organized both morning sessions with special focus on the Bolivian context.

The morning session on the first day included keynote presentations held in MOPSV's auditorium with an audience of over 100 invited guests in addition to the EGM participants. The keynotes presented initiatives of the Bolivian Government related to national urban and territorial planning and presentations of five country case studies related to implementation of the Guiding Principles as well as international experiences including Brazil, Ghana, Colombia and Italy among others.



Bolivia's Vice Minister of Housing and Urbanism, Mr. Javier Delgadillo, at the Opening Ceremony © UN-Habitat

In the afternoon of the first day, different working groups developed the action plan (La Paz Communique), key messages and recommendations for the Bolivian Government and stakeholders.

The morning session of the second day brought together Bolivian experts from different research and academic fields related to socio-cultural, economic, environmental and spatial dimensions of urban and territorial realities on the ground.

These presentations informed the afternoon groups

work on the outcomes of the EGM.

The three outcome documents presented as drafts in the final plenary reflect the objectives of the EGM (included as annexes) were:

1. Key messages to policymakers at all levels in all regions
2. La Paz Communique on "Developing the Guiding Principles and Framework for Action: Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial Development"
3. Experts' recommendations to the Bolivian Government and stakeholders for the elaboration of a national urban policy



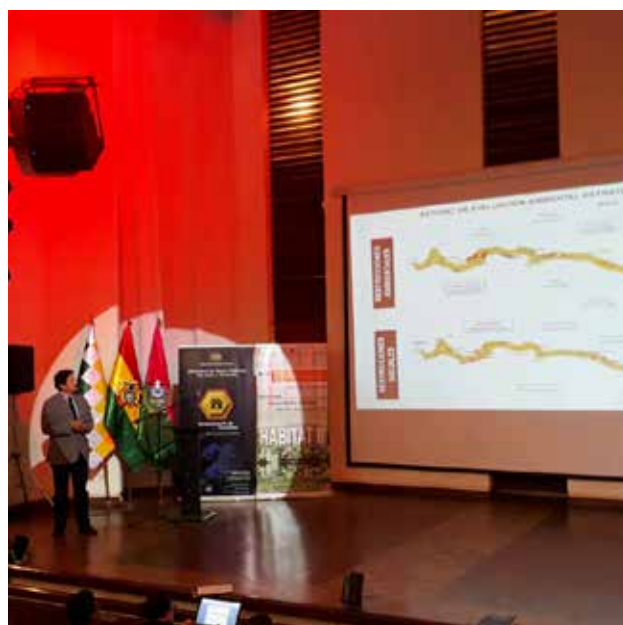
Participants at the EGM in La Paz, Bolivia © UN-Habitat

NATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND CASE STUDIES (19 JUNE 2018, MORNING SESSION)

The national presentations began with a focus on the EGM host country, Bolivia. The United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i. in Bolivia, Mrs. Maribel Gutierrez, stressed the importance of collaboration between the different agencies for achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and reducing poverty and inequality in Bolivia. Mr. Sergio Blanco, representing the UN-Habitat Bolivia country office underscored that the process of developing a national urban policy (NUP) should be inclusive and incorporate territorial considerations and strengthen urban-rural linkages, building up on the existing, traditionally strong linkages between urban and rural areas in the country.

Bolivia's Vice Minister of Housing and Urbanism, Mr. Javier Delgadillo agreed and underlined that spatial "multilocality" between rural and urban is a fundamental reality in Bolivia, and that different government levels must be included. He highlighted the importance of this EGM for Bolivia in order to learn from the experiences of other countries.

Mr. Remy Sietchiping, leader of UN-Habitat's Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit (UN-Habitat headquarter, Nairobi, Kenya) emphasized the importance of including urban-rural linkages when developing Bolivia's NUP, as the NUP will serve as a policy for spatial transformation in the country. He also underscored that urban-rural linkages are an important topic when considering interlinkages of the SDGs. He referred to country experiences including China, the Philippines, Cameroon, the Netherlands and Uganda with entry points such as the flows across the urban-rural continuum, the role of small and intermediate cities and urban-rural partnerships. He then introduced the work on Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages that UN-Habitat launched in early 2018, building on prior work and convening a participatory process that includes governments at all levels, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector and academia.



Mr. Ariel Torrico presenting the "Bi-oceanic Integration Railway Corridor" in the Opening Ceremony © UN-Habitat

Continuing with Bolivian presentations, Mr. Nicolayeb Brun, Director of Territorial Planning from the Ministry of Development Planning described the recently (2016) implemented multi-level national planning system SPIE (Sistema de la Planificación Integral del Estado) fostering collaboration across different levels of government and across sectors and institutions. Mr. Ariel Torrico, the Technical Unit Coordinator for the "Bi-oceanic Integration Railway Corridor" (CFBI) described the proposed new rail corridor connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. This corridor is conceived as a major economic development project connecting 113 Bolivian municipalities in 4 departments including the main urban areas of the country. The CFBI will help in the creation of a "system of cities" in Bolivia and support nodes of development and increased productivity across the country. It will remarkably reduce the transport time of goods and people from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific.



Stephen Blighton, representing Ghana © UN-Habitat

Turning to international case studies, Mr. Stephen Blighton, the Regional Economic Planning Officer for the Ghana Western Regional Coordinating Council described a project for improving the governance and planning capacity of 13 metropolitan and municipal associations. With support from the World Bank, Danida, the Swiss Development Corporation and other donors, this programme incentivizes inclusive governance performance with engagement of social actors and the private sector across the urban-rural continuum. Mr. Helio Vanderlei from the small city of Manaus, Amazonas in Brazil emphasized the importance

Mrs. Antonella Contin and Mr. Alessandro Mussetta from the Politecnico of Milan spoke to examples of urban planning from northern Italy, Chile, Cairo and South Africa. The spaces between rural agricultural production and natural areas, and the peri-urban and urban areas are important buffer zones in which cultural community spaces and rapid adaptations are to be found. Mapping and new tools can help organize the complexity of these spaces so context-specific urban-rural linkages can be better understood in order to protect these spaces in the future.

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