



IMPLEMENTING THE
**INTERNATIONAL
GUIDELINES ON
URBAN AND
TERRITORIAL
PLANNING**
2015-2017

Implementing the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning 2015-2017

First published in Nairobi in 2017 by UN-Habitat
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HS Number: HS/001/18E

Financial Contribution and Support: Governments of France, Japan, Norway, South Africa, Sweden

Acknowledgements

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Special acknowledgements go to the Governing Council Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya for reaching out to the member States and encouraging them to take part in the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning. Likewise, special acknowledgements go to UN-Habitat's member States for actively participating in the first Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning carried out in 2016–2017 for the development of this report.

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Foreword



In the past decade, the world has witnessed a global paradigm shift with a renewed focus on urban planning and design as the world's urban population crosses the threshold of fifty percent of the global population. As the world becomes more and more urbanized and new challenges emerge in cities and their rural hinterland, a variety of approaches to planning are being tested and implemented worldwide without basic, universally agreed principles to guide decision makers towards more sustainable urban development.

Approved by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in Resolution 25/6 of 23 April 2015, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning were developed to bridge this existing gap by providing a global reference framework for planning that enables actions across different levels and sectors, with the participation of a variety of stakeholders who have a role in shaping both the built and natural environment.

Similarly, the Guidelines present an integrated and territorial approach to urban planning, instrumental for achieving sustainable urbanization as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda agreed upon at the Habitat III conference in 2016.

In addition to supporting member States and partners to adopt and use the Guidelines, the resolution called upon UN-Habitat, "in close consultation with member States and other relevant stakeholders, to report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session." As such, the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning was developed to track the implementation of the Guidelines by member States and partner organizations, for which UN-Habitat acknowledges



the support of country representatives and the participating professionals throughout the monitoring process.

As the first two-year implementation period of the Guidelines comes to an end, Implementing the IG-UTP 2015-2017 examines the outcomes and reflects upon lessons learned from the preparatory and primary phases of the implementation program of the Guidelines.

I commend this effort and I hope the report will inspire more cities and countries to apply the Guidelines and become part of a global network of experiences towards more compact, socially inclusive, better connected and integrated, and climate-resilient cities and territories.

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN-Habitat

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List of Acronyms



CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
GC	Governing Council of UN-Habitat
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
IG-UTP	International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning
ISOCARP	International Society of City and Regional Planners
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUP	National Urban Policy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SUD	Sustainable Urban Development
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UTP	Urban and Territorial Planning
WHO	World Health Organization

Summary



Resolution 25/6 of the Governing Council requested UN-Habitat to report on the progress made on the implementation of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP or Guidelines) at its twenty-sixth (26) session. Thus, the **IG-UTP Implementation Report 2015–2017** was developed as a collection of experiences and findings, both by UN-Habitat and IG-UTP countries and partners, in using the Guidelines within local contexts. The report covers the **first biennium of implementation** (2015–2017) since the approval of the Guidelines and builds upon the results of the **Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning** formulated by UN-Habitat to track the adoption and use of the IG-UTP among Member States.

Noteworthy among the discoveries is the ‘booming’ interest in the Guidelines by both countries and partners. The IG-UTP have become an increasingly relevant framework to guide urban and territorial planning, instrumental to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda (as stated in paragraph 93 of the declaration) and, consequently, influential to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Guidelines have been showcased as a **foundational framework to trigger interventions** towards the improvement of planning systems, working in-hand with the development of national urban policies and local spatial strategies.

From the UN-Habitat perspective, this process has left two key lessons to be considered in the formulation of future activities within the IG-UTP program. First, is the diversity of entry points for implementation, meaning there are multiple angles, sectors and planning processes through which the IG-UTP can be approached, all derived from the different drivers and needs of the stakeholder groups of the Guidelines. Second, the different entry points

are only made possible by **entering in partnership**, as illustrated by the multi-stakeholder spirit of the Guidelines. Under this context then, the IG-UTP are a universal planning framework with a **multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, multi-level** approach for the improvement of planning systems.

Yet, these achievements have not come unchallenged. Concerns have been raised by both member States and partners in regards to the knowledge needed to localize the Guidelines and the financial capacity to gather international and local expertise to support their implementation. UN-Habitat is working to overcome these challenges through capacity building initiatives, advocacy platforms, and tool development, to assist countries in using the IG-UTP. Similarly, the international community has taken a step forward in support of the Guidelines, where, a number of partners have come together to form a **community of leadership** to promote their adoption, local application and monitoring at the global level. Still, efforts must be enhanced to fully grasp the benefits of the IG-UTP and their outcomes for sustainable urbanization, for which this report makes a Call to Action for member States to advance their commitments and support to the use of the Guidelines within their cities and territories.



Key Achievements 2015-2017



- Since their adoption in 2015, the IG-UTP have been translated and are now available in **11 LANGUAGES**.



- The Guidelines are UN-Habitat's most popular publication with over **105,000 DOWNLOADS¹** (English version) from the UN-Habitat website.



- The Guidelines have been **LAUNCHED IN 4 countries**: Belarus, Japan, Indonesia and Iran.



- A total of **28 PARTNERS**, collaborators and supporters of the Guidelines have been engaged over this past biennium, and many more to come.



- The Guidelines informed the drafting of and are referred to in the New Urban Agenda as a medium for its effective implementation: As a result, a total of **33 OUT OF 175 POINTS** in the New Urban Agenda highlight the importance of urban and territorial planning:

“

We will encourage the implementation of sustainable urban and territorial planning, including city-region and metropolitan plans, to encourage synergies and interactions among urban areas of all sizes and their peri-urban and rural surroundings... (New Urban Agenda, paragraph 96)

”



- A total of **540 “FRIENDS OF THE GUIDELINES”** are subscribed to

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