



The City Iranians Need

Towards a New Urban Agenda



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THE CITY IRANIANS NEED Towards a New Urban Agenda is a joint publication of the National Land & Housing Organization, Ministry of Roads & Urban Development, and UN-Habitat office in Tehran. This first edition has been prepared for presentation to the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. It is subject to further revision.

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The City Iranians Need supports #TheCityWeNeed.

The City We Need is a consensus document outlining a new urban paradigm in time for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which will be held in Quito/Ecuador in October 2016. It has been translated into all United Nations languages, in order to act as a reference document for all stakeholders and governments dealing with housing and sustainable urban development.

Learn more about this manifesto here: <http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/city-we-need>
#TheCityWeNeed was developed by the partners of the World Urban Campaign (WUC). The WUC is an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive urban change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well planned cities. Its goal is to place the Urban Agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is coordinated by UN-Habitat and driven by a large number of committed partners - currently more than 150 partners and networks - from around the world. Learn more: <http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/>





Foreword

It is evident that people's aspirations for their cities and urban life are fundamental to good urban management; something that urban planners respect.

Today we have the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in hand, and the New Urban Agenda is forthcoming. These two documents could guide the urban planners. Goal 11 of the SDGs makes "cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and is directly linked to cities; and about 60% of sustainable development targets will be realized in cities and pursued by citizens. Moreover, the New Urban Agenda, which is to be adopted in the Habitat III Conference, could facilitate the implementation of the SDGs, emphasizing people-based definition of cities and people-centered urban development.

During its one-year long grassroots activity, Iran's National Urban Campaign has reminded us that problems would only be resolved if solutions are coming from those who have themselves felt the problems.

Participatory engagement of citizens from all walks of life could lead us to sustainable cities.

I am pleased that with the benevolence of the Almighty this valuable activity has resulted in compilation of ***The City Iranians Need***. With this effort, we have made a small contribution in evolving our cities towards our ideal city. This booklet could bring about hope, incentive, and motivation to the Iranians and define a model that makes them believe participation in urban affairs and tackling the problems could improve their quality of life. I hope that all Iranian citizens take a step forward for a better urban future by studying this booklet.



Hamidreza Azimian

Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Roads &
Urban Development

Acknowledgement

The idea of the National Urban Campaign (NUC) was formed when the small booklet 'the City We Need' was published in 2014 and preparation of Iran's National Report for the Habitat III Conference had already been initiated. UN-Habitat Office in Tehran thought that while the National Report would be prepared through the National Habitat Committee and the Government departments formally, it would also be a good idea to form a NUC and, through it, find out what the Iranians think of the city they want. From the start, the fundamental principle we tried to follow was to be positive and seek positive and constructive opinion. Our intention was to depict what ordinary citizens in Iran aspired or desired of their living environment, their cities, in a highly urbanized circumstances.

This idea was shared with the national government

The City Iranians Need is the outcome of an intensive period of activity by this office with minimal resources, and great voluntary and outstanding contribution of particularly young Iranian professionals. During the preparatory period right through the completion of the booklet, two young and bright professionals of this office, namely Ahmadreza Shams and Jeiran Kordestani tirelessly and on a full-time basis pursued the route we had planned from the beginning with the NLHO to make the NUC happen. It may be noted that a number of activities, particularly those at the national level, did not materialize due to lack of adequate resources, or we had to modify our approach to some initiatives with innovative solutions; yet, we have had such great response from all corners of Iran through our interactive website and our partners that makes us believe our sample is indeed a representative

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