

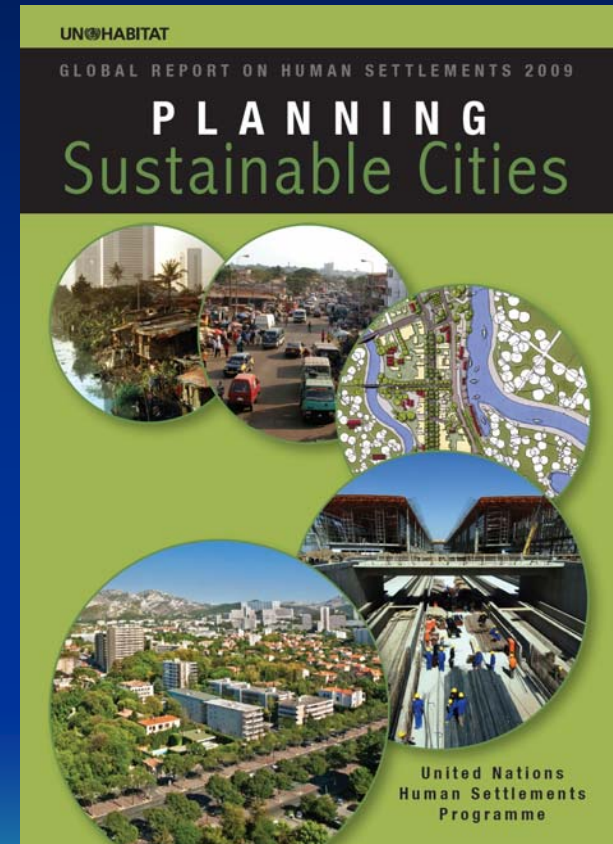


**UN**  **HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



# What is The 'Global Report on Human Settlements'?

- One of UN-HABITAT's two flagship reports
- Published every two years under UN General Assembly mandate
- Objective: To inform governments and partners of global human settlements conditions and trends



# Objectives of *Planning Sustainable Cities: Global Report on Human Settlements 2009*

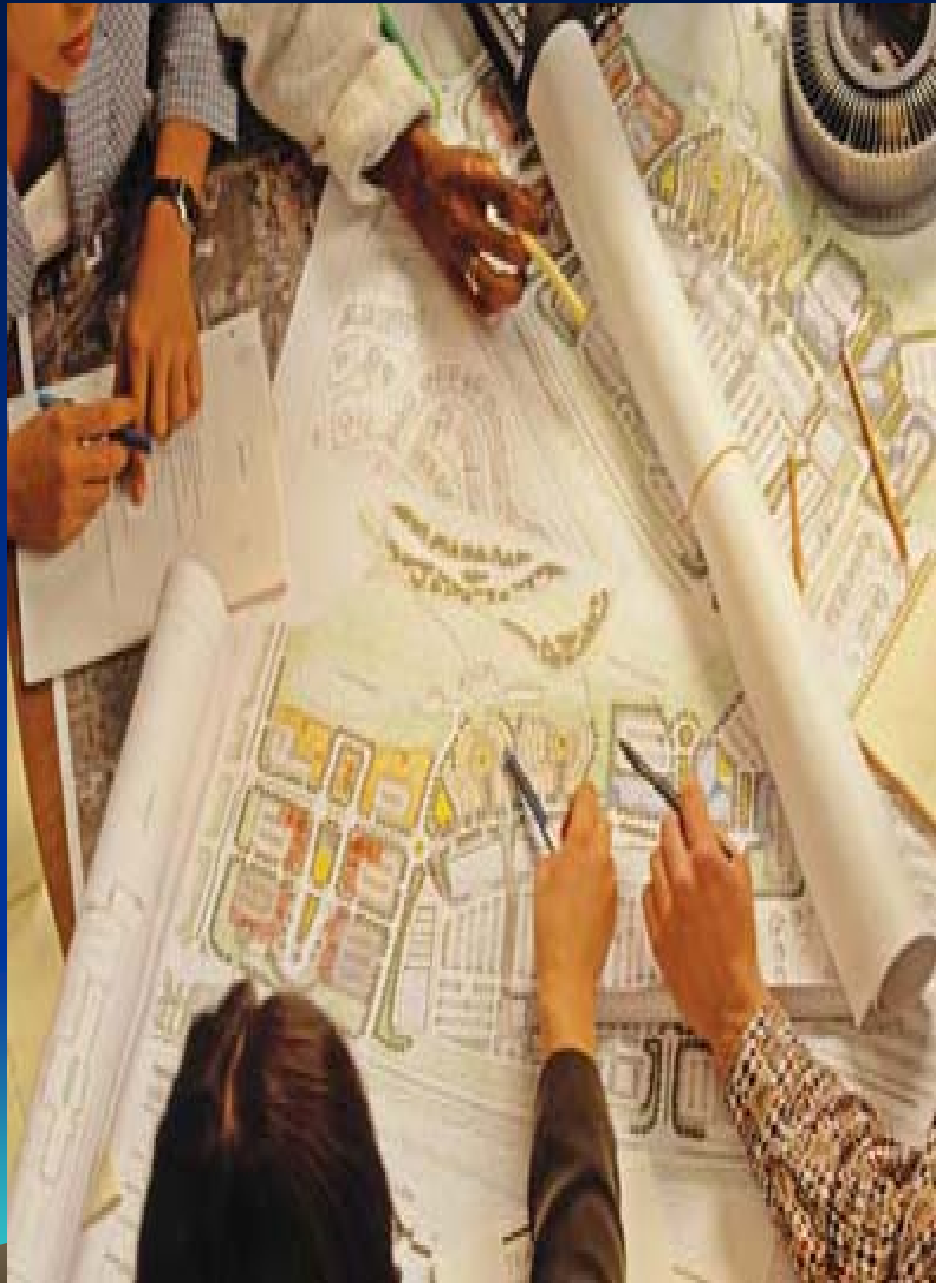
- Assess effectiveness of urban planning in light of 21<sup>st</sup> century urban challenges & sustainable urbanization goals
- Identify innovative approaches (process and content) as basis for reform of urban planning
- Rationale: realization that urban planning is ineffective in many countries and in need of reform

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Challenges

- **Demographic:** rapid urbanization and poverty; shrinking cities; ageing; multicultural composition of cities
- **Environmental:** climate change (contribution/vulnerability); dependence on fossil fuel vehicles (urban sprawl)
- **Economic:** doubts about future growth and market-led urban approaches (global economic crisis); urban informality

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Challenges

- **Socio-spatial:** socio-spatial inequalities; urban sprawl; unplanned peri-urbanization; increasing geographical size of cities
- **Governance & institutional:** change from 'government' to 'governance; decentralization and democratization; participation of different actors & citizens



# Recent Innovative Planning Approaches Identified in the Global Report 2009

- Strategic spatial planning & use of spatial planning to integrate public sector functions
- New land regularization and management approaches, especially in developing countries
- Participatory processes and partnerships, including community action planning & participatory budgeting
- New forms of master planning (social justice oriented) & planning for sustainable spatial forms (compact cities)

# Persistence of Old Forms of Master Planning

- In many developing countries, older forms of master planning have persisted
- Problem: failure to recognize ways of life of the majority of inhabitants in rapidly growing, poor and informal cities
- Planning often contributes to social and spatial marginalization

# A New Role for Urban Planning: Broad Policy Directions

- Governments should play a more central role in cities to lead development and ensure basic needs are met
- Address major urban challenges (climate change, rapid urbanization, poverty, informality and safety)
- Develop national perspectives on the role of urban areas in the form of national urban policy
- Place high priority on capacity to enforce urban planning regulations on the basis of realistic standards

# Specific Policy Directions: Redesigning Institutional and Regulatory Frameworks

- Maximise investment and livelihood opportunities and adopt robust measures to prevent corruption
- Ensure urban planning contributes to spatial coordination of development policies and investment
- Ensure regulatory systems adhere to the principle of equality under the law in order to improve legitimacy

# Specific Policy Directions: Minimum Conditions for Participation in Planning

- Political systems that encourage participation & negotiation among all actors, including marginalized groups
- A legal basis for use of results of participation in plan preparation and decision-making
- Local governments with sufficient resources and autonomy to support participatory processes
- Commitment of public resources for implementation of decisions from participatory planning processes

# Specific Policy Directions: Bridging the Green and Brown Agendas

- Design compact cities based on sustainable transport & integrate green standards into planning and building regulations
- Develop renewable energy sources & carbon-neutral cities
- Improve eco-efficiency of cities (using waste to meet energy and material needs)
- Develop “cities without slums” (focusing on water and sanitation)

# Specific Policy Directions: Urban Planning and Informality

- Recognize important role of informal sector and respond positively, including through legislation
- Pursue alternatives to forced eviction, e.g. upgrading of informal settlements and trunk infrastructure development
- Pursue guided land development and land readjustment and adopt policies for shared use of space

# Specific Policy Directions: Planning, Spatial Structure of Cities and Infrastructure

- Develop strategic spatial plans focused around accessibility and public transport to promote compact urban expansion
- Formulate infrastructure plans as key elements of strategic spatial plans
- Put in place regional governance structures to manage urban growth outside city administrative boundaries

# Specific Policy Directions: Monitoring and Evaluation of Urban Plans

- Integrate monitoring and evaluation into urban planning systems as permanent features
- Extensively involve all plan stakeholders and include their contributions
- Focus monitoring and evaluation on site, subdivision and neighbourhood plans

# Specific Policy Directions: Urban Planning Education

- Add participation, communication and negotiation, rapid urbanization and informality to curricula
- Also add climate change, disasters, urban crime and violence and ethics and social values
- Educate urban planning students to work in different world contexts (adopt 'one-world' approach)

Thank you for your attention

