



UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



A New Role for Urban Planning in a Changing Environmental Climate

Naison D. Mutizwa-Mangiza
Chief, Policy Analysis Branch

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The Planning Convention: Planning in a Changing Climate
Royal Town Planning Institute, London, 17-19 June 2009

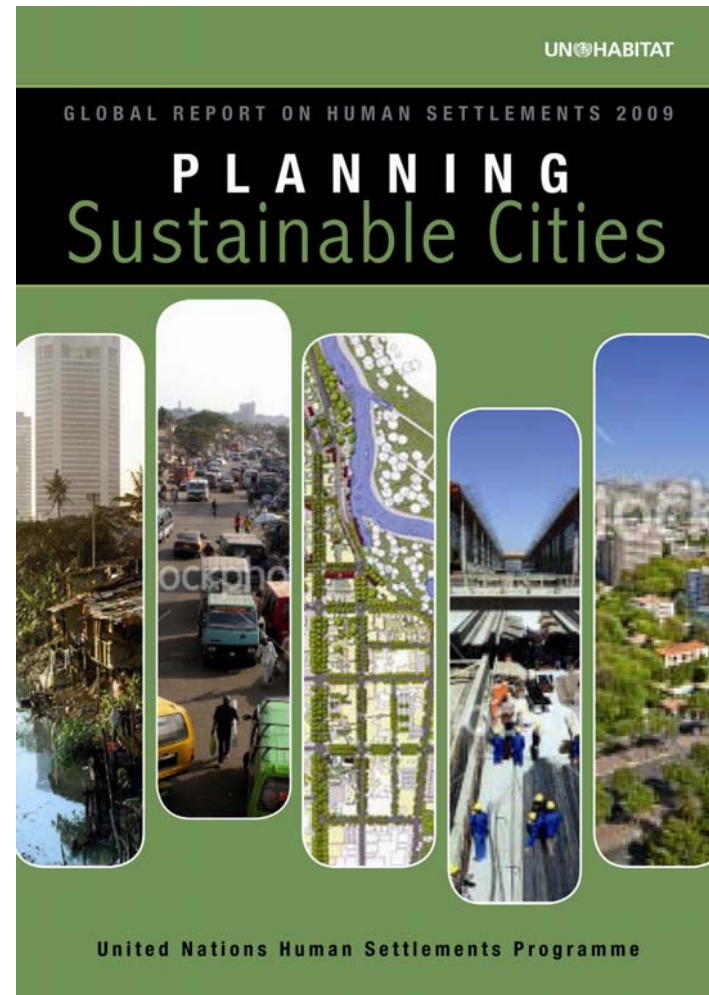
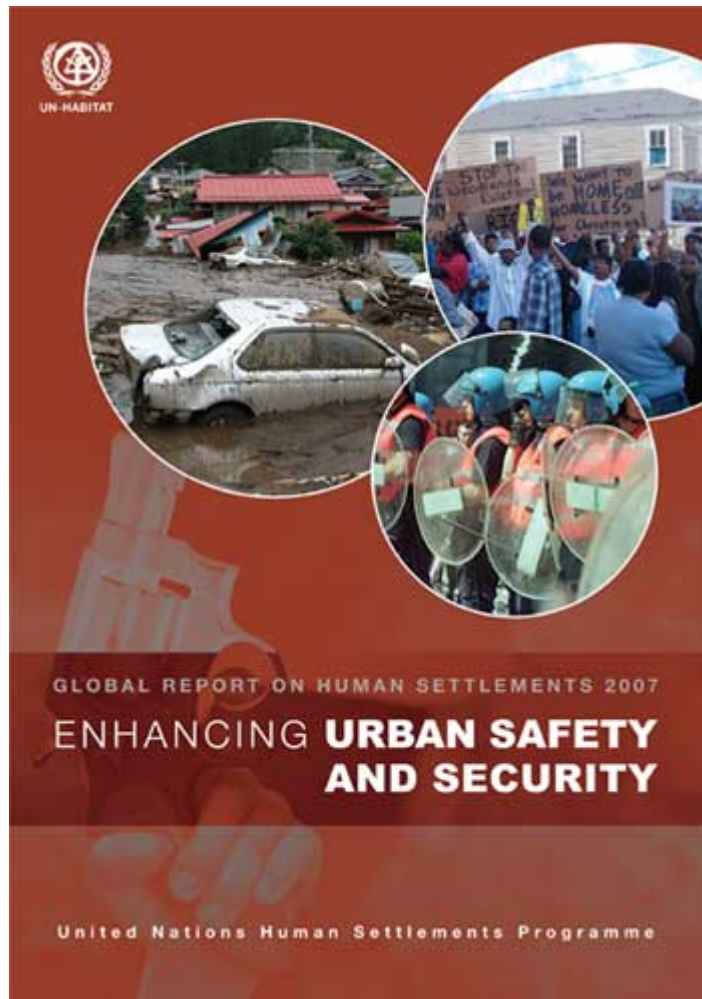
UN-Habitat's Global Mandate

- UN-Habitat is the UN focal point for:
 - (a) Habitat Agenda (1996, Istanbul)
 - (b) MDG targets on slums, drinking water and sanitation
- Sustainable urbanization is theme of:
 - (a) Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (2008-2013)
 - (b) New World Urban Campaign

Purpose of Presentation

- Assess effectiveness of urban planning as tool in light of:
 - (a) Twenty-first century urban challenges
 - (b) Sustainable urbanization goals (environmental, social and economic)
- Draws on *Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Planning Sustainable Cities*
- Rationale: realization of the need to reform urban planning

Latest Issues of Flagship Reports



Urban Environmental & Demographic Challenges

- Climate Change
- Cities' dependence on oil driven cars
- Rapid urbanization
- Shrinking cities
- Ageing
- Multicultural composition of cities

Cities and Climate Change

- 50% increase in extreme weather events from 1950s to 1990s
- 21 of the 33 cities with more than 8 million people by 2015 located in vulnerable coastal zones
- Around 40% of the world's population lives less than 100 kilometres from the coast
- 13 per cent of world's urban population lives less than 10 meters above sea level
- 100 million people live less than one metre above sea level

Cities and Climate Change

- Sea level rise of one metre will affect cities such as Buenos Aires, Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro, New York, Mumbai, Dhaka, Osaka, Tokyo, Lagos, Alexandria, Shanghai and Cairo
- Poorest countries and people most vulnerable
- 4 out of every 10 non-permanent houses in developing world located in areas threatened by floods, landslides and other natural disasters
- Disasters are also products of failed urban development and planning

Cities Dependence on Fossil Fuel Cars

- Fossil oil has both promoted and permitted urbanization
- Result: low density, sprawling urban forms dependent on private cars
- Vehicles contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions
- Significant implications: settlement density and transportation

Urban Economic & Socio-Spatial Challenges

- Uncertain future growth (linked to global financial crisis)
- Fundamental doubts about market-led approaches
- Increasing informality in urban activities
- Social and spatial inequalities
- Urban sprawl
- Unplanned peri-urbanization
- Increasing spatial scale of cities

Urban Governance & Institutional Challenges

- Change from 'government' to 'governance'
- Developed states:
 - (a) Complex globalizing and multi-level contexts
 - (b) Involvement of non-state actors
- Developing states: decentralization and democratization
- Growth of citizen participation, globally

Innovative Planning Approaches

- Strategic spatial planning
- Use of spatial planning to integrate public sector functions
- New land regularization and management approaches
- Participatory processes and partnerships at the neighbourhood level
- New forms of master planning (bottom-up participation and social justice oriented)
- Planning for new and more sustainable spatial forms such as compact cities

Persistence of Old Forms of Master Planning

- In many developing countries, older forms of master planning have persisted
- Most obvious problem: failure to accommodate the way of life of the majority of inhabitants in rapidly growing and largely poor and informal cities
- Planning has often contributed to social and spatial marginalization

Urban Environmental Sustainability: Promising Trends

- Designing compact cities
- Implementing sustainable transport strategies
- Developing renewable energy sources for cities
- Striving for carbon-neutral cities
- Developing small-scale, distributed power and water systems
- Improving eco-efficiency of cities (using waste to meet energy and material needs)
- Local green business innovations (increasing sense of place)
- Developing “cities without slums” (focusing on water and sanitation needs)

Urban Environmental Sustainable Development: Progress?

- Sustainable urban development vision embraced by cities all over the world
- None able to comprehensively address the different facets of the sustainable urban development
- None able to fully demonstrate how to integrate the green and brown agendas

A New Role for Urban Planning: Broad Policy Directions

- Governments, both central and local, should take on a more central role in cities to lead development initiatives and ensure that basic needs are met
- Reformed urban planning systems must unequivocally address a number of major current and emerging urban challenges, especially climate change, rapid urbanization, poverty, informality and safety
- Countries should develop a national perspective on the role of urban areas, articulated in some form of national urban policy
- Capacity to enforce urban planning regulations, which is seriously lacking in many developing countries, should be given very high priority and developed on the basis of realistic standards

Specific Policy Directions: Institutional and Regulatory Frameworks

- In re-configuration of planning systems, attention should be given to identifying opportunities which can be built on and pressures which could lead to the subversion and corruption of planning institutions
- Urban planning should play a significant role in overcoming governance fragmentation in public policy formulation and decision-making, as most development policies and investments have a spatial dimension
- To command legitimacy, regulatory systems must adhere to the principle of equality under the law, and must be broadly perceived as doing so
- The protective as well as developmental roles of planning regulation must be recognized in redesigning urban planning systems

Specific Policy Directions: Minimum Conditions for Participation in Planning

- Political systems that encourage active participation & genuine negotiation among all actors
- 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 and other resources to support implementation of decisions arising from participatory planning processes
- Capacity of professionals to facilitate participation and negotiation and incorporate outcomes into planning and implementation
- Effective participatory mechanisms for socially marginalised groups

Specific Policy Directions: Urban Planning and Informality

- Governments and local authorities must, unequivocally, recognize the important role of the informal sector and ensure that urban planning systems respond positively to this phenomenon, including through legislation
- Specific innovative and tried approaches to land development and use of space should be adopted and implemented, for example pursuing alternatives to forced eviction & strategic use of planning tools such as construction of trunk infrastructure, guided land development and land readjustment

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

- Strategic spatial plans linked to infrastructure development can promote more compact forms of urban expansion focused around accessibility and public transport
- To enhance the sustainable expansion of cities and facilitate the delivery of urban services, urban local authorities should formulate infrastructure plans as key elements of strategic spatial plans
- Regional governance structures are required to manage urban growth that spreads across administrative boundaries, which is increasingly the case in all regions of the world

Specific Policy Directions: Monitoring and Evaluation of Urban Plans

- Urban planning systems should integrate monitoring and evaluation as permanent features
- Traditional evaluation tools — such as cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and fiscal impact assessment — are still relevant, given the realities of local government resource constraints
- All evaluations should involve extensive consultation with, and contributions by, all plan stakeholders
- Most routine monitoring and evaluation should focus on the implementation of site, subdivision and neighbourhood plans

Specific Policy Directions: Urban Planning Education

- Updating and reform of curricula in many urban planning schools, particularly in many developing and transition countries, is necessary
- News areas: participatory planning, communication and negotiation; rapid urbanization, poverty and informality; cities and climate change; local economic development; natural and human made disasters; urban crime and violence; ethics & social values
- Urban planning schools should educate students to work in different world contexts by adopting the 'one-world' approach

Concluding Remarks

- There is renewed global interest in urban planning and sustainable urbanization
- Raising global awareness of sustainable urbanization important in UN-Habitat's future work
- This includes role of urban planning in sustainable urbanization
- Also includes reform of urban planning
- Mechanisms include working closely with relevant partners (RTPI, GPN etc)
- Another mechanism: World Urban Campaign, on Sustainable Urbanization

Thank you for your attention

