

Financing Smart Sustainable  
Cities Forum Liechtenstein  
7-8 November 2016

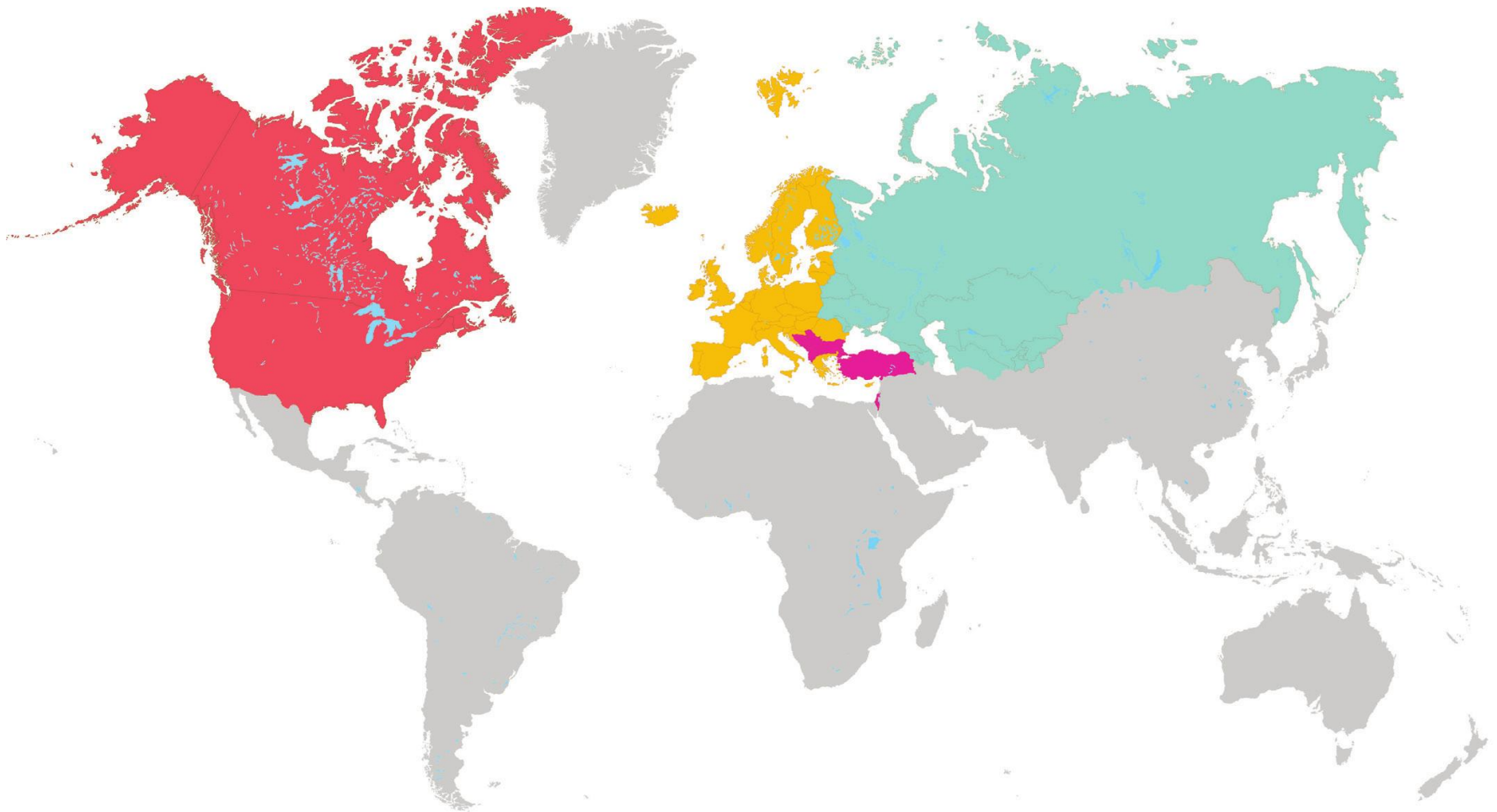


# Towards a city-focused, people-centred and integrated approach to the New Urban Agenda



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(UNECE)



# UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

## Mandate

To improve housing, urban sustainability and land governance

## Members

56 countries in Europe, Central Asia and North America

## Areas of work



# UNECE and the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



■ No involvement ■ Some involvement ■ Medium involvement ■ High involvement

**“UNECE’s achievements have made it a go-to source for improving global public goods and services, with more than 100 countries beyond the UNECE region benefiting from its work”.**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



## 2: Trends & Patterns of Urbanization & Demography

- Rural population static, very large **proportion of urban dwellers**
  - 70% and more
- Trend to **urban concentration and agglomeration in clusters**
  - **super-cities**
- Countervailing trend with **some cities shrinking**
- **Tendency to sprawl** in both types of city
- **Rapidly ageing population** (West, Central & Eastern Europe and Russia) but Central Asia growing young population
- **Migration is a key issue** – successive waves to large cities with increase in diversity, stagnation in cities elsewhere



# 3: Living in Cities

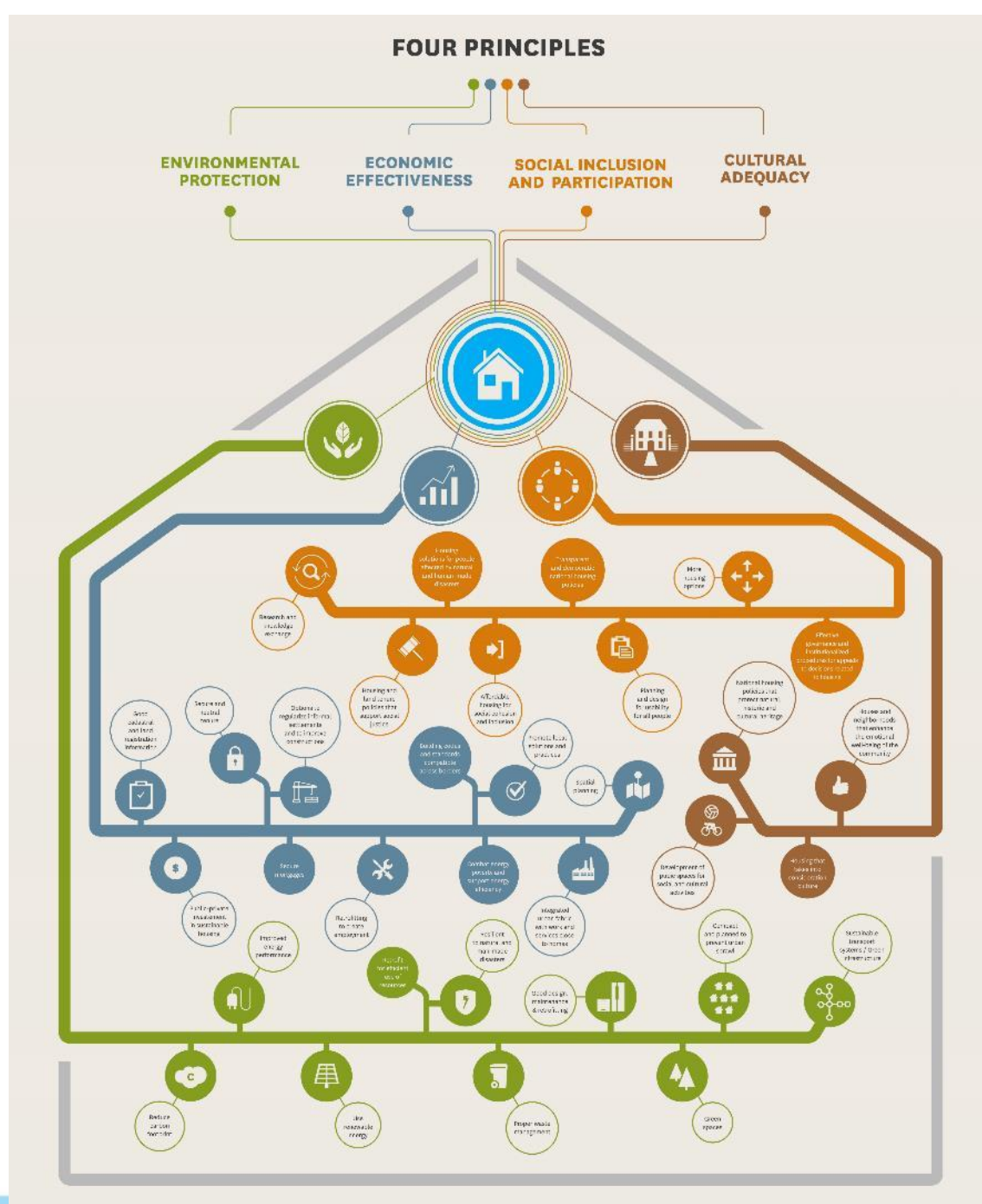
- The **global financial crisis** has led to **more inequality**
- Urban concentration has increased demand in growing cities
- **Trend to privatization** & greater involvement of private sector with **social housing decreasing**
- Limitation **national authorities** in housing markets – **process too fast**
- Contradictory trends of closed communities & shopping malls and reaffirmation of the **importance of public space**
- Many **factors that support equity** in the city **also support health and well-being** of citizens (housing, transport, energy, greenspace, reduction of emissions)



# THE GENEVA UN CHARTER ON SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

Ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all.

- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Inequality
- Speed



# 4: Governance

- Since Habitat II increased importance of local authorities – growth of city networks
- Urban governance is de-centralised but wide variation in models
- National governments formulate policy & regulation – urban management is generally local
- Can urban governance limit urban sprawl in de-regulated markets
- The private sector plays a key role in urban transformation
- The digital revolution has brought opportunities and challenges







## United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III)

Quito, Ecuador, 17 – 20 October 2016

1. Report for the UNECE region
2. Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

# UNECE Regional Report - Summary

1. 17% of population • 45% of GDP • 66% of fresh water
2. All of the Arctic • boreal forest is bigger than the rain forest
3. 80% in cities – 70% in agglomerative ‘super-cities’ – what to do with the remaining 10% (and 20% rural)
4. Knowledge economy & digital revolution is accelerating urban concentration – economic and housing inequality is growing, exacerbated by ageing and migration
5. Cities on coasts, major rivers and lakes – sea-level rise & flooding
6. Environmental threats are health & economic threats
7. Awareness of environmental concern & quality of life and inequity is growing, ambition outstrips ability to deliver
8. Compact & Resilient cities based on integrated governance of place for people is the key message



# New Urban Agenda

- 36,000 people participated in Habitat III: 10,000 international participants from 167 countries, 16,500 national participants.
- The meeting adopted the New Urban Agenda on 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador
- The Quito Implementation Plan (QIP) is made up of specific voluntary commitments by various partners intended to contribute to and reinforce the outcomes of the Habitat III Conference and the New Urban Agenda.



# New Urban Agenda

- The Agenda's 'shared vision' aims to create conditions for communities and policy makers that are engines of sustained and inclusive economic growth, social and cultural development, and environmental protection.
- Calls on national, sub-national and local governments to use the New Urban Agenda as a key instrument for planning and policy development for sustainable urbanization.



# Implementation of the NUA in the UNECE Region

- References to the importance of regional organizations and its regional implementation.
- Regional implementation and follow-up and review is critical for the success of the NUA.
- UNECE serves as an inclusive regional intergovernmental platform
- UNECE promotes policy coherence and dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders, including the private sector and academia





# Thank you for your attention

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