Public Space & Sustainable Urban Development

www.unhabitat.org
Key messages

• The world is urban

• Urbanization: a driver for development

• UN-Habitat approach - Why a focus on public space?

• Public space: An emerging global agenda
The world population has rapidly urbanized
We live in a world of towns (and cities)

Beginning 20th century: 10% of world population was urban
1970: 37%
2010: 50%
2030: 60%
2050: 70%
Fastest urbanization currently in Africa and Asia


- **Asia**: 51%
- **Africa**: 12%
- **Latin-America**: 13%
- **Europe**: 16%
- **North-America**: 8%

Source: UN
Fastest urbanization currently in Africa and Asia

World Urban Population (2050) – Regional distribution

- Asia: 55%
- Africa: 20%
- Latin America: 10%
- North America: 6%
- Europe: 9%

Source: UN
Urbanization is a powerful driver for economic, social, political, cultural transformation
Urbanization and Development: The 2 sides of the same coin

The prosperity of nations is intimately linked to the prosperity of cities. No country has ever achieved sustained economic growth and rapid social development without urbanizing.

*Commission on Growth and Development, 2009*
There are opportunities and challenges associated to specific urbanization patterns
Spatial Configurations
Need for a people-centric, place-based, holistic and integrated approach
Why a focus on public space?
Why a focus on public space? (1/2)

Public spaces are the essence of the “urban advantage”.

They favour urban prosperity. Urban public spaces are needed to sustain the productivity of cities, their social cohesion and inclusion, their civic identity, and their quality of life.

Uncontrolled rapid urbanization creates disorderly settlement patterns with dangerously low shares of public space. Many cities in developed countries are also experiencing a dramatic reduce of public space.
Public spaces are holistic entry points by nature. Through its multi-functional and multi-disciplinary nature, public space offers a holistic view of the city, including social inclusion, governance, legislation, health, safety, education, climate change, transport, energy and the urban economy.
Global Programme on Public Spaces

Knowledge management, Advocacy and Tools

Technical cooperation, pilot projects & capacity development

Partnerships & Networking

From motorway to Public Space, Cheonggyechon River, Seoul. © John Dolci
CITY WIDE STRATEGIES AND PILOT/DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

• Long history of assisting cities in developing city-wide strategies and sectorial development plans.

• These activities are strategic entry points for public space as well as for demonstrating participatory approaches to public space design, implementation and management.
Different contexts, different strategies:

- **Rapidly growing cities**
  plan for city extension…

- **Consolidated cities**
  improve & densify…

- **Unplanned or badly planned cities**
  infill & connect…

- **Shrinking cities**
  revitalize & renature…
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, ADVOCACY AND TOOLS

The efforts related to developing a policy approach, development of tools and indicators, and implementing capacity building programmes, are helping to institutionalize public space in the normative work of UN-Habitat and its partner cities.
Composite Street Connectivity Index

- Proportion of land allocated to streets
- Street density
- Intersection density
INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND TOOLS: BLOCK BY BLOCK

Minecraft – un “Lego digital” con más de 100 millones de usuarios
PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

GLOBAL ADVOCACY
Partnerships

Kounkuey Design Initiative

PPS Project for Public Spaces

GEHL Architects URBAN QUALITY CONSULTANTS

UCLG The Global Network of Cities, Local and Regional Governments

WIEGO Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing

INU Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica

white

Mojang

Y设计基金会

Ax:son Johnson Foundation

AVINA

Institut pour la ville mouvement PSA Peugeot CITROEN

Ciudad en Movimiento
Public spaces – an emerging global topic

• A global momentum for cities
• A renewed interest for public goods
“We recognize that, if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. …” (Rio+20 outcome document, The Future We Want: §134)
Proposed Sustainable Development Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Proposed Targets

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.1 by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums
11.2 by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3 by 2030 enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.4 strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
11.5 by 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
11.6 by 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management

11.7 by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

11.a support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
11.b by 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels
11.c support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, for sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials
Proposed Target 11.7

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Issues for further clarification/debate

- Whether to aim for access and/or minimum spatial proportion
- Convergence/divergence of green/public space
- Indicator?
Hierarchy of Public Space indicators
(proposed by SDSN retreat London, 23 August 2014)

• BASIC: amount of public space (as % of total urban space) as the first, most basic, planning-level indicator

• MEDIUM: distance to (or area per cap of) that space that is green, as a higher-level, quality-of-life, management-level indicator,

• HIGH: safety as a measure of what happens within that space, or a highest-level behavioural indicator.
On-going negotiation on target & indicators

For target 11.7:
by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Proposed Indicator:
Average share of the built-up area of the city that is open public space
### The New Urban Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>ISSUE PAPERS</th>
<th>POLICY UNITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>