GLOBAL URBANIZATION TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: FOCUS ON AFRICA

UN-Habitat

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Why is Sustainable Urbanization Important?

- Urbanization is one of the most significant global trends in the 21st Century
- Cities are the locus of significant global challenges
- Urbanization is a vehicle for national economic and social transformation
- Cities and local authorities are important in achieving sustainable development
Urbanization: recent trends

Beginning of the 19th Century
Urban world population 2%

Beginning of the 20th Century
Urban world population 10%

Beginning of the 21st Century
Urban world population 50%
93% of total world population growth will take place in developing countries

Source: UN
Urbanization Trends by Region

Urban Population, Regions

Source: UN
Current Urbanization Trends

Where Are Cities Growing?
Demographic Challenges

- An urbanized world: more than 50% of world population is now in urban areas (about 41% in Africa)
- 5 billion people or 60% of world population will live in urban areas by 2030 (50% in Africa)
- 90% of world urban population growth between now and 2030 will take place in developing countries
- Youth bulge in developing countries
- Ageing in parts of the developing world
• Cities are major contributors to global warming, emitting as much as 70% of human induced greenhouse gases
• Vulnerability to climate change related disasters: 40% of the world’s urban population lives less than 100km from the coast
• High dependence on fossil fuels: 95% of urban transport uses petroleum, resulting in low density and sprawling urban forms
• Low levels of access to water, sanitation and waste management, especially in slums
• Opportunities: Many climate change mitigation and adaptation actions must take place in urban areas
Economic Challenges

- Urbanization taking place in the context of a relatively weakened global economy
- Growth rates are low in many developed countries, but high in some developing countries
- Rising informal employment – Urbanization ‘without industrialization’ in many African countries
- High rates of unemployment in both developed and developing countries, especially among youth
- Opportunities: Cities are agents of national economic growth, locus of innovation and provision of services at lower cost
Urbanization and Development

There is a positive correlation between urbanization and development. Urbanization is a source of development, not just an outcome of it.

Urbanization is not static and its characteristics change as society changes:

- Economically
- Culturally
- Politically
Development and Rate of Urbanization

Urbanization and GDP

Urban Social Challenges

- Increasing levels of poverty in both developed and developing countries (3 times higher among youth)
- Proliferation of slums: 33% of urban population in developing countries (62% in Sub-Saharan Africa)
- Increasing levels of inequality in both developed and developing countries
- Growing refugee and internally displaced population
- Opportunities: Cities are the locus of most future employment, poverty reduction and empowerment of women and marginalized groups
The Challenge of Urban Slums

Nearly **800 million** people are living in slums

**Sub-Saharan Africa**: 62% of urban population

**South Asia**: 43% of urban population

**East Asia**: 37% of urban population

**Latin America and the Caribbean**: 27% of urban population
62% of world’s urban population live in small and medium sized cities with less than one million inhabitants

9% of global urban population resides in megacities

Challenges of rapid spatial expansion of cities (metropolitanization, suburbanization or uncontrolled peri-urbanization)

Informality a dominant characteristic of urban spatial expansion in developing countries
Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA): Background

- NUA promotes a strategic and transformative approach to planning and development of cities and other human settlements
- NUA links urbanization to sustainable national development
- NUA elaborates how urban-related SDGs, including Goal 11, and other international agreements (Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction) are to be implemented
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development gives a prominent role to urbanization and cities with the inclusion of a stand-alone goal for cities and human settlements.

- Recognition that cities are a string that connects all other goals together
- Alignment is important in formulating integrated policies that enhance the transformative role of urbanization
## SDG11 – Ten targets

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AFINUA proposes 5 substantive focus areas necessary for the success of planned urbanization:

- National urban policies
- Urban legislation, rules and regulations
- Urban planning and design
- Urban economy and municipal finance
- Local implementation
Role of urbanization in national development
National framework for planning, developing and managing cities and other human settlements
National urbanization priorities
Long-term demographic projections
Roles and responsibilities of different levels of government and of other stakeholders
Aims at reducing territorial disparities
AFINUA Substantive Focus Area 2: Urban Legislation, Rules and Regulations

- Definition of space under urban control
- Legal basis for urban planning
- Building rights
- Acquisition and protection of public space
- Building codes
• Scope and content of urban plan
• Sustainable density and mixed land use (home-work-services triangle)
• Spaces for a variety of economic activities
• Protection of natural resources and cultural heritage
• Role of housing and basic urban services
AFINUA Substantive Focus Area 4: Urban Economy and Municipal Finance

• Map of fiscal/financial management cycle (municipal finance system)
• Prioritize and plan capital investment
• Provide adequately for recurrent costs
• Increase local revenue generation
• Take measures towards affordable housing and basic urban services
AFINUA Substantive Focus Area 5: Local Implementation

- Planned city extensions
- Urban infills and retrofitting (to address density and counter social segregation and dereliction)
- Instruments for capturing public benefit of public investment
- Support community-led groups
Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda: Short-term Timeline

- October 2016 – May 2017: Finalization of AFINUA
- May 2017: Reflection of AFINUA in 26th session of UN-Habitat Governing Council
- May 2017 – December 2017: Formulation of regional and national action frameworks for NUA implementation
- January – April 2018: First quadrennial report on implementation of NUA and SDG 11