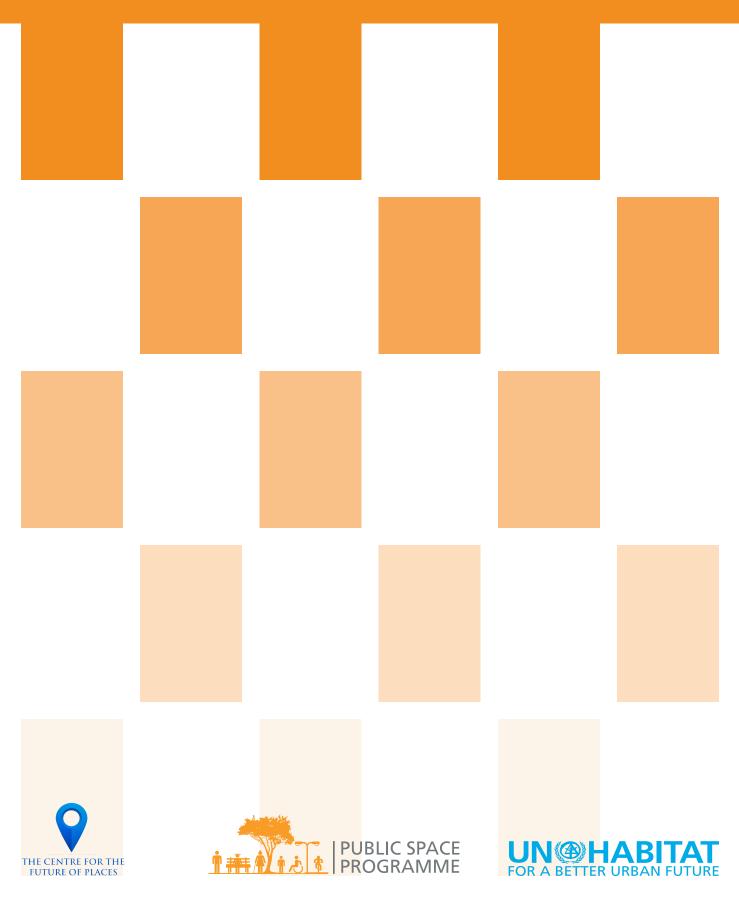
# CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES A GUIDEBOOK FOR CITY LEADERS ADVANCE REVIEW COPY



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City-Wide Public Space Strategies: a Guidebook for City Leaders

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## FOREWORD

### **Executive Director of UN-Habitat**

In our rapidly urbanizing world, the needforinclusive, safe and accessible public space becomes ever more critical. A healthy city is one that provides physical opportunities for free social engagement, has plenty of green space and fosters coexistence, promoting democratic participation, as well as good public health and well-being.

City leaders must pay careful attention to the development and maintenance of public space as a multi-functional and connected urban system, otherwise the increasing privatization of city centres could see public spaces and parks simply disappear.

UN-Habitat is increasingly focused on the advancement of the public space agenda, including consolidating local and international approaches and enhancing the knowledge and capacity of partners and local authorities to deliver inclusive and sustainable public spaces. Promoting the vital role of public space was mandated by Member States and UN-Habitat's Governing Council in 2011 through Resolution 23/4 and we have worked to strengthen the discussion surrounding public space and to provide actionable policy guidance supporting cities to drive change.

In 2012 UN-Habitat launched the Global Programme on Public Space and in 2015 the Toolkit on Public Space was published, with experts and partners, offering steps to improve the availability, quality and distribution of good public spaces. In this context UN-Habitat has partnered with the Centre for the Future of Places leading to this guidebook and its associated compendium.

For city residents to really feel the full benefits of streets, parks and public facilities these should be coordinated, connected and wellmanaged. This requires forethought, diagnostics and leadership and the engagement of local communities to develop relevant strategies. Both the *Guidebook for City Leaders* and *Compendium of Inspiring Practices* aim to empower city leaders to produce city-wide public space strategies that are inclusive and implementable.

### Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

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