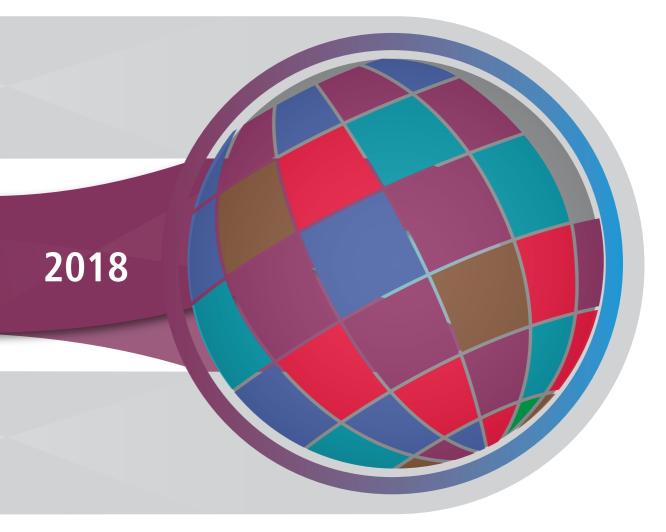
GLOBAL STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY







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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Urban Planning and Design Branch Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit (RMPU) P. O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office) rmpu@unhabitat.org www.unhabitat.org

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Regional groupings in this report follow the new regional groupings based on United Nations Standard Country and Area Codes (M49) Classifications. The following modifications have been made in order to more adequately align with UN-Habitat regional groupings which are reflected in the UN-Habitat World Cities Report: Western Asia states have been regionally grouped with the Arab States, with the exception of Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia and Mauritania, which are in the Africa region, and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel and Turkey, which are in the Asia and the Pacific region. The North American countries, Canada and the United States of America, have been added to the European region, forming a category for Europe and North America.

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Coordinators: Remy Sietchiping (UN-Habitat) and Tadashi Matsumoto (OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities) Drafters: Jasmine Ali, Jago Dodson, Lucie Charles, and Andres Sanabria

Contributors and Reviewers: Rudiger Ahrend, Aziza Akhmouch, Juliana Chia, Tony Dalton, Kwame Frimpong, Rene Hoffmann, Raph Horne, Themba Phakathi, Jane Reid, Alexis Robert, and Raf Tuts

Design and Layout: Jean Robert Gatsinzi, Herbert Kimani, and Runze Wang

Editor: Vicky Quinlan

Assistants: Elizabeth Kahwae and Shova Khatry

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Good urbanisation creates opportunities for countries, allowing them to improve their economic performance, foster social inclusiveness, and encourage environmentally sustainable growth patterns. On the other hand, poorly managed urbanisation generates significant economic, social and environmental challenges. Urbanisation is a complex process, requiring a coordinated policy approach. As such, a National Urban Policy can bring together national sectoral policies which affect urban development and help to clarify roles and responsibilities across ministries as well as between the central and local governments.

In doing so, a National Urban Policy facilitates the management of interdependencies across different actors and levels of government, while ensuring policy coherence, creating incentives for more sustainable practices, and providing a basis for the better allocation of resources. The role of National Urban Policy was widely recognised during the Habitat III process. The New Urban Agenda – the outcome document of Habitat III adopted in Quito in October 2016 – identifies National Urban Policy as one of the key tenets for achieving sustainable development and growth. To take this process forward, UN-Habitat's Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda has identified National Urban Policy as the first pillar for this implementation.

It is in this context that we are delighted to present *Global State of National Urban Policy*. This is the first ever report to monitor and evaluate National Urban Policies at the global scale, covering 150 countries across all continents, building on shared methodologies and processes across our two Organisations. It aims to serve as an important tool for policymakers, practitioners and academia by providing valuable insights on cross-cutting issues and country-level experiences.

This publication is another milestone of successful collaboration between UN-Habitat and the OECD. During the preparatory process of Habitat III, the two Organisations co-led Policy Unit 3, which consolidated our joint work on National Urban Policy. Consequently, at Habitat III, we announced our commitment to collaborate, along with Cities Alliance, on the implementation of the National Urban Policy Programme, a joint global initiative to support countries' National Urban Policy processes.

We are certain that *Global State of National Urban Policy* will have a significant impact on the development and implementation of inclusive and participatory National Urban Policies in the years to come. Both organisations look forward to continuing to join forces and support countries across the world in their effort to implement the New Urban Agenda.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Mr. Angel Gurría OECD Secretary-General

FOREWORD

Effective implementation of a national urban policy (NUP) will require a sound monitoring and evaluation mechanism to take stock of what works, what does not work, where good practices exist, and where improvement may be needed. During the Habitat III process, the role of NUPs in supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other urban-related global agendas was increasingly recognised, and a range of tools and frameworks to assess NUPs have been discussed across international organisations and within national governments in countries.

Global State of National Urban Policy provides a first attempt at assessing NUPs across the globe in 150 countries. It establishes the foundation for understanding how and in what forms NUPs have been developed, implemented and monitored globally. The report also paves the way for the definition of a common methodology to monitor the progress of NUPs at the global level.

The report is a joint effort between UN-Habitat and the OECD. It draws on data and analysis from UN-Habitat's regional assessments of NUPs over the last four years, led by the Urban Planning and Design Branch. The selected regional reports were complemented by country-level analysis for the 35 OECD member countries, based on the 2017 report *National Urban Policy for OECD Countries*. The work was led by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, and the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee through its Working Party on Urban Policy.

The report is also an important outcome of the National Urban Policy Programme, a global initiative that was launched by UN Habitat, the OECD and Cities Alliance at the Habitat III Conference in October 2016. The Programme aims to bridge gaps observed in many countries in developing and implementing NUPs by providing coordinated support among the three institutions and other partners. The Programme has identified monitoring NUP progress as one of its five objectives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recent global processes have reaffirmed the importance of urban policies for sustainable development and the crucial role that national governments can play in this process. The adoption of Agenda 2030 by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 introduced a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including a dedicated SDG (number 11) on "making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) also adopted the Paris Agreement, through which United Nations Member States committed to limiting global warming, which implies a critical role for national governments in climate-change adaptation and mitigation in urban settlements, which are most responsible for and most vulnerable to climate change. Lastly, in October 2016, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) adopted the New Urban Agenda (NUA), advocating for proactive policies to leverage the dynamics of urbanisation as instruments of sustainable development.

National urban policies (NUPs) have increasingly been identified as important tools for governments to implement and monitor the progress of these global agendas. Well-designed national policy frameworks can help countries and cities achieve economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion. A NUP does not replace subemphasis on NUPs as one of its five pillars of implementation, and calls for measures to enhance the ability of governments to develop and implement such over-arching policies. NUPs have also been proposed as a monitoring tool for the SDGs through Indicator 11.a.1. The above developments, therefore, provide a unique window of opportunity to scale up the uptake of NUPs as a powerful policy process to help governments shape and implement better urban policies for better lives, as a shared responsibility across local, regional and national levels.

Objectives of the study

Effective implementation of NUPs in support of the implementation of the NUA and other global agendas will require a sound monitoring and evaluation mechanism to take stock of what works, what does not work, where good practices exist, and where improvement may be needed. A range of tools and frameworks has been used in the past across international organisations and within national governments to assess NUP in countries while acknowledging the diversity of urban and institutional conditions across and within countries. This study, building on regional studies by UN-Habitat and the OECD on the state of NUP for the 35 OECD member countries, provides a first attempt at assessing NUP trends, strengths and ways forward across member and non-member countries, and

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