

RULES OF THE GAME



UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Quick Facts

1

Legislative reforms are yet to come and in most countries the dispensation of public power remains very similar to what it was at the time of Habitat II, and even earlier periods. Decision-makers fundamentally remain unable to influence the size, shape and morphology of their cities.

2

Inefficient or impracticable legislative reforms reflect the dominance of 'universal' technical concerns and replication of foreign 'best practice' that disregard local circumstances.

3

Planning regulations in developing and transition countries are often too detailed, and inflexible, making compliance so challenging that people tend to bypass them altogether.


Introduction

Effective urban legislation is an indispensable pillar of sustainable urban development. The global urban population will grow by +3 billion in the coming 50 years and 98% of the urban growth will be in developing countries. This unprecedented growth can result in anarchy and increased inequality if not underpinned by effective and coherent policy and legal, institutional and governance frameworks that will ensure a solid context for planning, dialogue between actors and rights-based approaches to development.

Good quality urban law provides predictability and order in urban development, from a wide range of perspectives, including spatial, societal, economic and environmental viewpoints. Through this it contributes to investment, strong economic performance and wealth creation.

The quality of human settlements and urban governance affect the quality of life of billions of individuals. Choices made in relation to settlements have tangible positive or negative effects on social justice, good governance, demo-

cratic decision-making, economic development, upholding fundamental rights and transparency. Urban legislation has an important role to play by defining conditions for formal/informal access to land, infrastructure, housing and basic services; laying out rules for planning and decision-making; and pushing for improved livelihoods and living conditions because the law sets requirements for urban development initiatives. It also sets the guidelines for how urban authorities, local governments and communities are expected to fulfil respective mandates and respond to emerging challenges. The effect of legislation is important: it can either set effective frameworks for sustainable development, or accentuate inequalities and exclusion. Urban law is necessary to provide rules to mediate and balance competing public and private interests, especially in relation to land use and development. It creates a stable and predictable framework for both public and private sector action, guaranteeing inclusion of the interests of vulnerable groups and encouraging local and national discourse.



**What is
Urban
Law?**

Urban law is the broad ranging collection of diverse policies, laws, decisions and practices that govern the management and development of the urban environment.

Urban law has several defining characteristics:

- It governs the central functions of towns and cities and reflects the rights and responsibilities of the residents and users of these urban areas. The functions are diverse, including urban planning, municipal finance, land administration and management, infrastructure provision, mobility and local economic development, among others.
- It is present at various levels, from internationally recognized rights, such as the right to housing, national legislation and also municipal rules or by-laws that often govern local issues such as provision of services or the management of public space.
- It often has neutral technical wording, but is accompanied by a complex social aspect including the potential for differential effects on various groups within the urban environment - with those more vulnerable, such as the poor and the socially marginalized, being of particular concern.

Why Urban Legislation?

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_18435

