

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Urban Development

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE POLICY NOTE NO. 4





Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy: A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Urban Development

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FOREWORD



I am delighted to present this Guide on Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy, which comes out at the same time that our Habitat III conference is taking place. This thematic guide puts the spotlight on the links between climate change, urbanization and national urban policies.

While urbanization has brought immense opportunities for development and growth, it has also brought numerous challenges. Our cities consume 78 per cent of the world's energy, produce 70 per cent of energy-related green-house gas emissions and consume much more land than is needed, which will have negative consequences on the environment.

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda, there is a renewed impetus for action. The New Urban Agenda recognizes national urban policies as an essential instrument in responding to the challenges of urbanization and to capitalize on the opportunities. The effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda means inclusive, implementable, and participatory urban policies.

Achieving sustainable urban development requires access by governments and stakeholders to tools that empower them to meet these challenges.

I invite you to make use of this Guide, which has been developed to assist all national urban policy stakeholders to better understand the intersection between national urban policy and climate change. Let us seize this opportunity to further improve the work supporting mitigation and adaptation through national urban policies.

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Dr. Joan Clos, Secretary-General of Habitat III and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

This Guide is No.4 in a series of Policy Notes developed by UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative. These Notes analyze specific topics and offer normative guidance to decision-makers on policies related to cities and climate change.

This Guide is No.2 in a series of Thematic Guides that demonstrate the important linkages between National Urban Policy and different thematic areas. As NUP acts as an "umbrella" policy for urban areas, thus inevitably impacting different sectorial topics, these Guides will give direction on how to incorporate the variety of themes in NUP.

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