



PLANNING CITY EXTENSIONS :

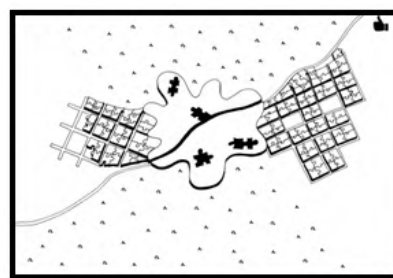
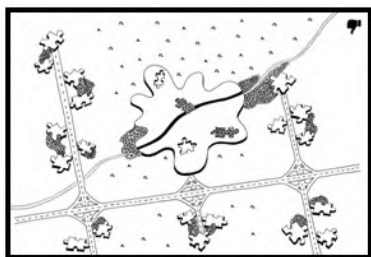
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE
FOR EXPANDING CITIES

Barcelona, 16-18 September 2013



With the collaboration of:

PLANNING CITY EXTENSIONS:
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE FOR EXPANDING CITIES



Global Experts Group Meeting

Barcelona, 16-18 September 2013

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GLOBAL EXPERTS GROUP MEETING

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1. BACKGROUND

Urban growth in the past 30 years has resulted in slums and sprawling settlements in urban fringe areas, especially in Asian and African Countries. The most affected cities are intermediate cities that suffer from having the least technical and financial capacities to respond to upcoming urban development challenges. The formation of urban slums and sprawling settlements, thus, leads to deterioration of living conditions and low densities, making it costly and inefficient to provide services and infrastructure.

Mechanisms for ensuring the orderly extension and densification of existing and planned neighbourhoods are needed for providing a city with a spatial structure that can support socioeconomic and environmental sustainability. In order to create this structure, city extension and densification plans are needed to enable cities to accommodate the expected urban growth sustainability in the next decades.

Urban planning shall provide sufficient public and street spaces, organised in an urban structure that minimises transport and service delivery costs, optimises the use of land, and supports the protection and organisation of urban open spaces. The densification initiatives include suburban densification,

area redevelopment and slum upgrading, layout of new areas with higher densities, brownfield development, building conversions, and transit-oriented developments.

UN-Habitat has been working on developing urban planning methods and systems that solve current urban planning challenges. To address the challenges regarding slum formation and urban sprawl, UN-Habitat has prioritised Planned City Extension as a potential solution for dealing with future urban growth in developing countries. City extension plans have been developed in a limited way in developing countries.

In Rwanda, the Philippines and Mozambique, UN-Habitat is working to prepare cities for urban growth through the development of extension plans that are linked to existing planning frameworks. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the City Council of Barcelona, Spain, organized an Experts Group meeting (EGM) with the participation of international-level experts from around the world to share country level experiences on “Planned City Extension” and to get relevant feedback for formulating principles, strategies and roadmaps.

2. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

From September 16–18, 2013, fifty-six (56) international experts gathered in Barcelona, Spain for the first face-to-face meeting and dialogue on Planned City Extension. The meeting was jointly organised by UN-Habitat with the Barcelona City Council. This event brought together high level experts from national, regional, city governments, international development agencies, research and academia, non-profit and professional forums coming from Europe, North America, Africa, Latin America and Asia (see Annex-1 for a full list of participants).

The main purpose of the EGM was to build a strong consensus and generate knowledge on a proactive, yet simplified urban planning approach, to guide future urban population growth in a context of limited economic development. The EGM discussions focused on these main agenda items:

- Identification of new case studies, methods and tools for urban extension.
- Scoping and outlining tools to support local governments on extension.
- Definition of an agreed position on planned urban extension.
- Engagement of international experts in follow-ups to the EGM discussion.

3. COMMUNIQUÉ

Background: On 16 and 17 September 2013 fifty-six (56) experts in urban development from national, regional, and city governments, international organisations, and academia gathered in Barcelona to discuss innovative approaches to the management of urban growth in rapidly urbanising cities of the developing world. They reached a strong consensus on the important role of urban planning in guiding and managing the next wave of urban population growth in a context of limited economic development.

Global urban trends for the next 30 years are characterised by the fast growth of urban population, particularly in Asian and African developing countries, and mainly in intermediate size cities. The most affected cities are also the ones that have the least technical and economic capacity to respond. If left unchecked, this will result in the increase of slums and urban poverty, higher risks of climate change and social tensions, and congestion and inefficiency of cities across the world. Enormous opportunities will be lost for local and national development and human suffering and depletion of natural resources will set in. The urban advantage will be compromised for generations to come.

Conventional planning and management have evidently not been adapted to the dynamics of urban growth. Their failure is demonstrated by non-implemented plans, ineffective urban patterns and the growth of slums and gated communities. The mismatch between the needs and capacities, and the lack of adequate and implementable planning instruments, supported by adequate legal and institutional framework and financing mechanisms, continue to hinder the achievement of sustainable urban patterns and make cities ineffective in supporting adequate living conditions, inclusion and economic progress.

the role of urbanism as a **transparent and democratic** tool that could help improve social integration, inclusion and cohesion.

- Recognise the role of urban planning in **creating value and wealth** and in redistributing them in order to ensure **local development**, the access to housing and services for all and environmental sustainability.
- Focus/prioritise on the **definition of street and public space** of adequate quantity and efficient layout to support effective urban systems and access to public services
- Support the fulfilment of **human rights** and social, economic and environmental **sustainability**, creating **space for the urban poor** and sharing the land values increments emerging from such interventions.

Strategy:

- Promote and develop realistic urban planning and design strategies that can be **easily managed** by staff in developing countries, particularly in economies below 5,000 USD GDP per capita.
- Prioritise clear and basic normative tools, street patterns and urban planning guidelines that can be adapted to different contexts.
- Encourage the promotion and development of PLANNED CITY EXTENSIONS connected with the existing urban fabric and infrastructure following the criteria for good urban planning to enable fast growing cities, particularly in developing countries, to achieve better urbanisation patterns and guide the organic processes of growth.

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