Proposed Theme for GC25:

Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages to Harness the Transformative Power of Urbanization for Sustainable Development

Briefing to CPR Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work
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Overview

A. Rationale for the Proposed GC25 Theme
B. Mandates on Urban-Rural Linkages
C. Proposed Entry Points
Urban and Rural Dynamics

1970:
- Rural: 63%
- Urban: 37%

2000:
- Rural: 53%
- Urban: 47%

2030:
- Rural: 40%
- Urban: 60%
93% of total world population growth will take place in developing countries
Meaning of Urban-Rural Linkages

- **Complementary functions and flows** of people’s movements, capital, goods, employment, information and technology between rural and urban territories of various sizes.

- The **interdependencies and the synergies** between urban and rural spaces and functions are further asserted through the economic dynamics, social links and environmental synergies.

- **Partnership and collaboration:** horizontal + vertical; multi-sectors, multi-actors, multi-purpose.
Relevance of Urban-Rural Linkages

- **In developing countries:** challenges and opportunities related to the migration from rural to urban areas in search of better life opportunities and also as a result of disasters and insecurity; need to plan and provide for such migration at scale; partnership required across all spheres.

- **In the more developed countries:** improved integration of different sectors (housing, transport, energy, industry, market places); territorial cohesion; balanced development of regions; improved competitiveness; enhancing and protecting natural resources and natural heritage; multi-level governance.
Rural-Urban Partnerships
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OECD

SMALL TOWN AFRICA
Studies in Rural-Urban Interaction
Edited by

UN Habitat
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
Urbanization is one of the most significant global trends in the 21st Century: Harness that energy and power for the benefit of ALL

Urban and rural areas as vehicle for positive national economic, environmental and social transformation

Human settlements challenges: Metropolitan areas, Cities, Towns and Villages are the locus of global challenges

From divide/dichotomy to linkages, continuum and synergy

Addressing the three pillars of sustainable development in the context of global urbanization trends

Inclusiveness: not leaving any one and no space behind

Cross-cutting: youth, gender, human rights and equity, climate change
Mandates on Urban Rural Linkages


• 1978: UN Commission on Human Settlements in pursuance of UN GA res. 32/162 of 19 Dec 1977 stressed the following in the context of urban and rural settlements: Settlement policies and strategies; Settlement planning; Institutions and management; Shelter, infrastructure and services; Land; Public participation;

• 1996: Habitat II in Istanbul, the Habitat Agenda emphasizes the movements of goods, resources and people, social and cultural connections, geography and infrastructure: urban and rural areas as ‘common ecosystem’
Mandates on Urban Rural Linkages

- **1999: Resolution HS/GC/17/10** of 14 May 1999 requested that urban-rural interdependence be taken into consideration in the execution of the work programme of United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

- **2003: Resolution HS/GC/19/6** of 9 May 2003 stresses the impacts of urban development on rural areas and request to end the urban-rural dichotomy debate and address the rural dimension of sustainable urban development.

- **2003: Resolution HS/GC19/10** of 9 May 2003 re-stresses the importance of urban-rural complementarities for poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development and urbanization, and that positive urban-rural linkages can improve living conditions and employment opportunities for both rural and urban populations and thus help manage urban-rural migration.
Mandates on Urban Rural Linkages

• **2012: Resolution HSP/GC/24/3** on “Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning”, reinforces the importance of regional planning which addresses the need of urban and rural spaces.

• **2012: In the Rio+20 Outcome Document** “The Future We Want”, member states “commit to work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility.”

• **2014: The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** has further identified rural-urban linkages as SDG-11, Target 11a.
Past UN-Habitat work on Urban-Rural Linkages

1993

1999

2004

2005
Proposed Entry Points

- Food Security, Systems
- Mobility and Migration
- Small and Intermediate Towns, Market Towns
- Inclusive Investment and Finance
- Territory and Spatial Planning
- Governance and Legislative Capacity
- Spatial Flows of Products, Services, Information and Expertise

Global Partnership
Issues for Discussion

- Relevance of the proposed theme
- Validation of entry points
- Development of theme paper for GC-25
- Ideas for GC-25 Thematic Dialogue
- Next steps