Report on the implementation of the GC Resolution 25/6

Monday, 31 October 2016

International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning
Selected milestones:

- The Guidelines are explicitly made reference to in the New Urban Agenda as a medium for its effective implementation: “We acknowledge the principles and strategies for urban and territorial planning contained in the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its 25th session…” (New Urban Agenda, pp13)

- The Guidelines have been translated in 11 languages and have been downloaded more than 100,000 times in less than a year and are the most popular publication downloaded from the UN-Habitat website.

- A total of 24 partners, collaborators, and supporters have been engaged in the process implementing the Guidelines worldwide.

- Five tools and learning materials are in development to support member States in the process of adapting and using the Guidelines and several communication materials have been developed and events organized to promote their outreach.

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR THE IG-UTP

1. In resolution 25/6, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, in close consultation with member States and other relevant stakeholders, to report on the progress made for the implementation of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) at the Governing Council’s twenty-sixth session. UN-Habitat has undertaken the following activities in order to answer the Governing Council’s resolution call to support member States in the adoption and use of the Guidelines, including through capacity and tool development, and the establishment of partnerships.

I. Country Experiences

2. Since their adoption in 2015, the IG-UTP have been translated in 11 languages, downloaded over 100,000 times, launched in 4 countries (Belarus, Japan Indonesia and Iran) and awareness raised in various settings and countries with the view to localize, adapt and adopt the IG-UTP to local context and practices.

3. Furthermore, working with local planning constituencies and authorities, the Guidelines are being piloted and tested for the development, review, and implementation of urban and territorial planning and policies frameworks in the following four countries: Belarus, China, Palestine and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Following the launch of the Guidelines in these countries, UN-Habitat has engaged in a discussion with relevant stakeholders (BIRUP, WLSP, and MoMRA) to illustrate the principles and recommendations provided in the Guidelines, with the aim of strengthening local planning practices and capacities.

4. UN-Habitat has provided technical assistance to Sri Lanka and China in the form of a rapid assessment of their regional and local development plans with the aim of identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement of their planning systems.

5. In Minsk, Belarus a pilot project, one training event and two seminars have taken place during to improve processes and outcomes of master-planning.
6. UN-Habitat has also promoted the establishment of partnerships and by collaborating with other international bodies to advance the implementation of the Guidelines. For instance, the Cities Alliance organization collaborated with UN-Habitat for the formulation of city development strategies in two Vietnamese cities: Tam Ky and Quy Nhon.

7. Paragraph 18 of the Resolution 25/4 requested the Executive Director to consider health and well-being aspects, including promotion of and access to health services, in developing policies on urban and territorial planning and human settlements and in the operational work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. In response to the request and with funding from the Government of Norway, UN-Habitat is working with the World Health Organization for implementation of the Guidelines with particular focus on addressing health issues in urban planning and development in selected countries including Liberia, Ghana and Belarus.

II. Tool development and capacity building

8. Paragraph 4 of the resolution requested the Executive Director to assist interested member States in using and adapting the guidelines to their contexts, where appropriate, and further developing tools and monitoring indicators for their implementation. With funding from the Government of Sweden, UN-Habitat is developing a Handbook and a toolkit for the implementation of the Guidelines. The Handbook and other tools currently been developed will assist member States and other stakeholders to localize and operationalize the Guidelines at various planning scales.

9. The Handbook and associated toolkit for localization are currently at the advanced drafting stage along with a set of methodologies to assist member States and stakeholders in reviewing and reforming their planning systems, including a self-assessment questionnaire addressed to the four stakeholder groups of the guidelines, namely national governments, local authorities, planning professionals and their associations, and civil society representatives. Similarly, a monitoring framework is currently being developed to guide such planning reform while remaining in line with the United Nations agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the monitoring framework and its set of 39 planning-oriented indicators will support the efforts of UN-Habitat by tracking the influence of the guidelines at the global, national, and regional levels. Furthermore, a capacity and learning package on the Guidelines is in development.

10. In response to paragraph 5 of the resolution on the establishment of partnerships for implementation, UN-Habitat has developed strong partnerships in the process of developing tools to be used for the adoption and implementation of the Guidelines. In particular, partners’ contribution and involvement has been sought to provide technical expertise and validate the content of the Guidelines implementation resources such as the Handbook International organizations such as ISOCARP, UNECE and UCLG have supported the adoption of the guidelines at the global level by providing channels their diffusion while also opening platforms for the validation of tools and for capacity building.

11. Through these types of collaborations, a number of training and awareness events were made possible over the year 2016. First, a training event for planning professionals on the localization of the guidelines was held during the 52nd ISOCARP Congress in Durban, South Africa on September 11, 2016. Secondly, dissemination of the localization package to local governments was done at the event of the 5th UCLG Congress in Bogota, Colombia, held on October 13, 2016. And last, both partners were brought together
during the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador for a third training event on the use of the localization package, event held on October 18, 2016.

12. To facilitate the adaptation of the Guidelines and develop the capacities of planning constituencies, a learning package has been drafted to create an effective and efficient learning strategy that expands from a transfer of learning focus and theory of change, as envisioned by the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit of the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat. The learning package includes an instructor’s guide and a participant workbook through which, when used, stakeholders can take on the role of promoting the principles and recommendations of the guidelines in their urban environments by designing learning events that bring different stakeholders of the planning realm together.

### III. Building partnerships

13. In the area of building partnerships to support the adaptation and use of the guidelines, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) organizations have established a partnership with UN-Habitat to support the implementation of the guidelines through their professional networks. Asides from supporting the drafting of the localization tools as described beforehand, they have come forth to bring about new ideas for implementation and establish a commitment to take forward the Guidelines’ role in the Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda.

14. Other UN agencies and regional commissions, such as UNCRD and UNECE, are joining the partnership on implementation of the Guidelines as their contribution to the Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda. In addition, the Government of Japan has announced its commitment to establish a platform to implement international initiatives for urban and territorial planning, in which the Guidelines can have a protagonist role.
IV. Diffusion of the guidelines and raising awareness on urban and territorial planning

15. The international guidelines are **UN-Habitat’s most popular publication**, with record of 103,946 downloads (English version only) at the time of reporting. In order to accommodate the growing demand for a holistic and universal planning framework, and to ensure its diffusion from the global to the local level, the Guidelines are being translated and are currently available in **11 languages** (Bahasa, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Spanish).

16. Several **communication instruments** have also been developed in the process of **promoting the use of the Guidelines**, the first is the **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning: A Synopsis**, which provides readers with an overview of the background, main components, and current developments of the guidelines. The second communication instrument is in the form of an online video where the guidelines are summarized to the viewer and broken down according to their main achievements (see Supporting Materials). Among other communication resources produced to promote the guidelines, are the PrepCom3 and Habitat III flyers, bookmarks and factsheets, the latter being an illustration of country experiences with the Guidelines.

17. Furthermore, the Guidelines have been **diffused across a series of events** asides from the training events and launches mentioned beforehand. The Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador particularly served this purpose, considering a total of six events were held to **promote the guidelines and highlight partnerships and approaches to their implementation**. In addition, these events served to strengthen existing partnerships with **partner countries** (Japan, France, South Africa and Norway) **international professional organizations** (e.g. ISOCARP, UCLG, IAURIF and Cities Alliance), **United Nations bodies** (e.g. WHO), and **regional economic commissions** (e.g. UNECE).

18. Last, while UN-Habitat has promoted the implementation of the Guidelines, several partners and individuals have taken on the task of making reference to them as encouraged in paragraph 6 of the resolution. The Guidelines have been **cited and referenced** in a total of eight magazine and academic articles, multiple postings on social media, and they are explicitly made reference to, along with the Compendium of Inspiring Practices, in the Habitat III message from HRH Prince of Wales (see Supporting Materials) as “excellent and authoritative documents […] with clear examples to follow”.
## Calendar of IG-UTP Events

Table 1: IG-UTP launches, events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2015</td>
<td>Jakarta (APUF-6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016:</td>
<td>Feb 18: Sri Lanka (English version) – launch 1</td>
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<td>March 2016: Iran (Persian version) – launch 2</td>
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<td>March 18: Global (World Bank Conference)</td>
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<td>April 1: Japan (Japanese version) – launch 3</td>
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<td>April 18: Belarus (Russian version) – launch 4</td>
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<td>June 20: Russia: St Petersburg, Yakutsk</td>
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<td>July 25: Surabaya (PrepCom3) Urban Speakers Corner</td>
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<td>Sept 8-9: China: Wuhan</td>
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<td>Sept 11: South Africa (ISOCARP Congress, Durban)</td>
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<td>Ufa: 28-29 Sept</td>
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<td>Bogota: 13 Oct</td>
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<td>Kigali: 11-12 Nov</td>
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International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning: Towards a Compendium of Inspiring Practices:


2. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, including available languages
Web Link: http://unhabitat.org/books/international-guidelines-on-urban-and-territorial-planning/

3. Video presentation on the Guidelines:
Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X1b-T3XxyQ

4. Habitat III message from HRH Prince of Wales:
Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdKYGte_SNc

5. Interview for The City We Need:
Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-N1N21SegU8&feature=youtu.be

6. Television interview for Ufa event:
Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjwrphatxrk

7. Urban Speaker's corner in PrepCom3:
Web Link, part I: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0d3YmuW0PM
Web Link, part II: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8vhBdnKedg
Contact Us:

The Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit (RMPU) provides tools and services to particularly serve regional and metropolitan areas and the development of urban policy and spatial development at the national scale. The Unit would welcome the opportunity to work with you. We would be pleased to be involved in dialogue regarding the development of compact, integrated, connected, and socially inclusive cities and learn more about the work of partners in metropolitan, regional, and national authorities. In order to work with us or to get more information on our tools and services, the RMPU can be contacted at:

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