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THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF INCLUSIVE  
AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES (ICCAR)

KENYA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

## **EXPERT GROUP MEETING**

**TOWARDS AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR URBAN  
INCLUSION: A GUIDE FOR GOOD PRACTICE**

**Nairobi, Kenya**  
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Being a KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
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"This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental".

***(Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. September 2016)***

Every effort to protect and improve our world entails profound changes in "lifestyles, models of production and consumption, and the established structures of power which today govern societies". Authentic human development has a moral character. It presumes full respect for the human person, but it must also be concerned for the world around us and "take into account the nature of each being and of its mutual connection in an ordered system". Accordingly, our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God's original gift of all that is.

***(Encyclical letter: Laudato Si of the Holy see Pope Francis on our Common Home. Rome, July 2015).***

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

(A short introduction of Alioune Badiane)

This is to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Dendev Badarch, UNESCO Director of the Division of Intercultural Dialogue and Social Transformations, Ms Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, UNESCO Regional Director for Eastern Africa, based in Nairobi, and to Dr. Evangeline Njoka, Secretary General of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO for inviting me as a Keynote speaker at this Expert Group Meeting of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR). The aim of this EGM is to discuss and validate the publication entitled “*Towards an Enabling Environment for Urban Inclusion: A Guide For Good Practice*”.

There is no doubt that this Guide will contribute to the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Quito Declaration just adopted last month 17 to 20 October. In preparation of this EGM and drafting this Keynote, I have read the inspiring papers and scientific contributions made so far by our colleagues amongst others:

- Professor Fons Coomans, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Peace at the University of Maastricht (The Netherlands) on the theme of Alignment to international human rights standards and global agendas.
- Ricardo A. Bucio Mujica, Executive Secretary of the National System of Integral Protection for Children and Adolescents (SIPINNA), Mexico Government, on the theme of Affirmative action for the inclusion and access to services for all.
- Eva Ringhof, Social Development Specialist and Country Manager for Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA).
- Ms. Dina Abdel-Fattah, Senior Associate at Development Gateway, Mr. Jack Cornforth, Coordinator at Civicus-Datashift and Ms. Katie Clancy Project Management Officer of the Open Data for Development Programme at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), on the theme of Comprehensive and Reliable Data for Decision-Making.

- Professor Josep Maria Llop Torné, UNESCO Chair in Intermediate Cities: Urbanization and Development at Universidad de Lleida, on the theme of Participatory Urban Planning.

My sincere appreciation for excellent coordination work done by:

- Ms Golda El-Khoury, UNESCO Paris - ICCAR Secretary;
- Dr Abdul Rahman Lamin, UNESCO Nairobi;
- Mr Euan Mackway-Jones, Coordinator

## INTRODUCTION

The city is immediately perceptible but hard to understand. Cities and towns are where the majority of the people in the planet live today! As the world works to respond to unprecedented challenges, cities have become the ultimate credible of change- both positive and negative. We are leaving with intensifying climate change, rising human mobility and complex migrations phenomenon, increasing demands on infrastructure and profound cultural and political uncertainty. And all these issues have both immediate and long term consequences for cities and urban centers!

Urbanization goes back to antiquity but driven by history, it evolves constantly and is powered by a vision of society and continuous social dynamism and change! After the adoption of the Quito Declaration and the event of the NUA at a time when the world is mainly “urban” and urbanization has become global, we are entering an urban age and an “urban” civilization, but what sort of civilization is that? How should we understand the city? What is the purpose of the NUA? What are the most effective implementation mechanisms or the Plan of Actions to guide this unique document in the history of the United Nations? Who are the key actors to better implement this NUA?

Many questions to ask and yet a few responses to be provided for now!!! Amongst the key actors we have all identified Local government and their networks as one of the most suitable partners to implement the NUA and my purpose of today is to give a focus to that actor as well as to the impacts of current urbanization trends. I will also review the momentum gained by the global movement of cities and their historic contribution to the NUA! Finally, i will argue the critical need to shape the urban knowledge

and research agenda for strong policy base supported by sound implementation review and monitoring process. I will conclude on African perspective with some key recommendations for action!

In support of UN Habitat pioneering work and in the profound words of UNESCO, cities are today key actors in the NUA as well as in the fight against discrimination and for safety and security. Their level of government is closest to the people and has the potential to significantly improve lives and their overall living conditions. They share the responsibility to protect citizens against discrimination by bringing together a broad range of stakeholders. When cities and town do not work for the benefit of all, barriers prevent progress and discrimination creates cycle of deprivation. Effective social change requires a commitment to action at all level.

Today cities are increasingly acting on a global scale and through UCLG and the regional chapters and these new connections open up opportunities to share issues and local responses. Despite beneficial local inclusion initiatives, municipalities remain fertile ground for unemployment, poverty and inequalities. The mounting pressure of changing populations and growing diversity have often resulted in racial tensions ,exclusion, gap in service delivery , and overall threats to social harmony ! We are hopeful that combining the strength of the NUA and the 12 thematic of the UNESCO guide for Good practices City leaders and their partners will provide a fertile ground for an effective implementation and monitoring of the progress of management and governance of cities in the world

## 1. THE URBANIZATION TRENDS

For the first time in history, more than half the world's people are urban. Between now and 2030, the world's rural population is expected to remain largely static, while the urban population is projected to grow by 1.5 billion people. By 2030, 60 percent of the global population will live in cities. Over 90 percent of that urban growth will occur in cities and towns of the developing world, mostly in Africa and Asia.

The urbanization of the global population has fundamental ramifications for the economy, society and the environment. Urban centers currently cover only a small part of the world's land surface - 0.51 percent of the total land area. However, urban areas will expand significantly during the next two to three decades. Based on current trends, urban land cover will increase by

1.2 million km<sup>2</sup> by 2030, nearly tripling global urban land area between 2000 and 2030. (ref work of Shlomo (Solly) Angel at the NYU Stern urban project about the concept of making room paradigm how much land , general grid, and prep urban expansion )

Cities cover a small part of the world, but their physical and ecological footprints are much larger. Cities accounted for 82 percent of global GDP in 2013 and by 2025 this will rise to an estimated 88 percent. There will be 230 new cities by then, all in middle-income countries. One hundred cities in China alone may account for 30 percent of global GDP at that time.

Cities produce more than 70 percent of the world's greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions and use 80 percent of the world's energy. The International energy Agency projects that urban energy-related GhG emissions will rise from around 67 percent today to 74 percent by 2030. Cities also host most of the world's critical infrastructure, key development assets, political institutions and major socio- economic activities. Global analyses of climate change and disaster impacts show that a high proportion of the people and economic activity affected by extreme weather events is concentrated in urban centers.

Cities' vulnerability goes beyond exposure to climate change impacts and extreme events. As strongly argued and practiced by UN Habitat and further by The GNCS, UNODC, UN Women and many more partners and city leaders....violence and crime are pressing issues in many urban areas. Despite the progress made over the last 20 years since Habitat II, the urbanization process in developing countries is often poorly managed, resulting in inequitable, exclusionary and fragmented cities and increased risk of violence and insecurity , especially among disenfranchised sections of the urban youth and urban population that cannot access the formal political system, including refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) .Today the huge waves of migrants people searching for better life beyond the Atlantic ocean and Mediterranean Sea as well as beyond deserts and mountains around the world are making the world headlines and news every day!

While there are challenges to be addressed, there are also vast and critical opportunities to be seized in making growth more sustainable, inclusive and equitable, cities more resilient and their inhabitants less vulnerable. Cities and towns are powerful engines of economic growth and

transformation and urban residents in well-planned cities enjoy better access to employment opportunities, health care, education and public services compared to their rural counterparts. Well-managed urban areas have lower per capita energy, climate and ecosystem footprints and lower costs per person for infrastructure and basic services. And the concentration of resources, universities, research centers, ideas and energy in urban areas is fertile ground for the creativity and technological innovation needed to solve the many development challenges the world faces today.

Young generation boys and girls and millennials in their 20s and 30s are moving into cities at an astounding rate, attracted by the concentration and density of people that they can connect with. At the same time, companies, including startups companies, are increasingly moving into dense, dynamic and energetic urban centers where talent, entrepreneurs, infrastructure, knowledge and capital are clustered in order to generate high return and value for economic development and social integration.

These two mutually reinforcing dynamics are shifting and shaping the way cities are developed, spurring innovation and revitalization, creating new relationships between local residents, companies and local governments, as well as exposing underlying challenges in cities.

## **2. CITIES ARE ALSO GARNERING GREATER ATTENTION IN THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM ( COMPARE TO IN 1996 IN HABITAT II )**

Agenda 2030 and the new sustainable development goals provide a powerful illustration of the challenges and opportunities to come for cities. Having been partially neglected by the MDG agenda, promoting sustainable cities is now clearly featured in the 2030 Agenda as one of the SDGs – Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In fact, sustainable development in cities is critical to achieving most of Agenda 2030. For instance, cities have a clear role in ‘ending poverty’ (goal 1); ‘reducing inequality’ (goal 10); promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, and full and productive employment (goal 8); and taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (goal 13).

One analysis identified 11 of 17 SDGs where action in cities will be essential. Urbanization has been the topic of the largest global development conference in 2016, ‘the United Nations Conference on

Housing and Sustainable Urban Development' (Habitat-III). The Habitat III Conference succeeded "to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges." These aims will be hopefully turned into an actionable new urban agenda, which will define a global approach to urbanization for the next 20 years.

Urbanization has been one of the most significant driving forces of recent global development. More than half the world's population now lives in cities, and this proportion will continue to increase rapidly to reach 70% by 2050. Urbanization, when well managed with clear vision and leadership, has the potential to create opportunities for a better life, provide a pathway out of poverty and act as an engine of social, cultural and economic growth while protecting the environment!

### **3. THE NUA AN HISTORIC MOMENT TO BE SEIZED BY URBAN RESEARCH AND PRACTITIONERS!**

I want to support and comment with David Simon of Mistra Urban Futures from Chalmers University and University of London the paper about the 2030 Policy Endorsement of a Sustainable Future prepared by Susan Parnell, Owen Crankshaw and Michele Acuto. The purpose is not to contest elements of their argument but to emphasize four salient points about the current state of play and to propose a way forward that is both straightforward and practicable, and which could thus greatly assist all stakeholders by promoting a unity of purpose.

First, it is vital that all those engaged or with interests in promoting urban sustainability keep focused on the essentials and not lose the unprecedented and historic opportunity that the build-up to Habitat III the New urban agenda and Quito declaration have represented. We applauded the role played by all forces engaged in the process! Citi Scope as well as the Global Assembly of Partners- GaP and the Local authorities Global Taskforce have been at the forefront. The process to get 'there' has, quite literally, been a fierce struggle or, more accurately, a series of intersecting struggles. If, for any of a number of reasons, the moment is lost – as many opposing vested interests would dearly love – there will be no going back!

Second, a key element of this historic moment is that the NUA and urban SDG (like the SDGs as a whole) in effect provide the urban components of

Agenda 2030 and are framed in terms of the imperative of achieving global sustainable urban development. Previous UN 'development' agendas have focused principally on low and lower-middle income countries. In this sense, the shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to SDGs symbolizes far more than simple succession. Agenda 2030, the NUA and SDGs make unambiguously clear that sustainable urban development is everyone's challenge. In this respect we welcome UNESCO continuous endeavours since 2005 when the first MOU was signed with UN Habitat. Indeed, what needs to be done in OECD countries in terms of de-carbonization, retrofitting infrastructure and redesign of the urban fabric in term of productive population and pension fund, new economic systems, migration and social integration.... is no less formidable than building sustainability out of urban poverty, lower economic productivity, weak infrastructure base... in new and existing urban areas elsewhere in the Global South. (indeed the NUA is a global and a Universal Agenda which needs to be played with same vigor and rigor as the environment agenda, finally reaching the overarching goal of the 1972 Stockholm Conference!)

Third, the importance of the current urban focus reflects not only the need for transitions and structural transformations to urban sustainability per se but also the centrality of this process to the attainment of overall societal sustainable development. Some cities might appear superficially as islands of concrete, brick, steel, glass, tarmac, mud blocks, corrugated iron sheets, wood and plastic which we call slums; but this would be misleading. Cities and urban centers are central nodes in economic, socio-cultural, demographic, political and social-ecological systems and flows that integrate them inextricably into their surrounding regions, urban corridors, mega-urban regions and national and transnational spaces. What happens in urban areas in all forms of existence has profound implications beyond their boundaries as well as inside them. Fundamentally, rural sustainable development is no more feasible without urban sustainability than vice versa. And the slum environment are places of life and economic vibrancy for many cities in Latin America, in Africa and South East Asia.

Finally, if this is the urban century, we need to be attentive to urban areas of all sizes in all locations. We tend to use 'cities' as a short-hand for urban areas generally. However, since most policy debates, even in the Agenda 2030, NUA and SDG processes, take place in large cities (usually national capitals or commercial hubs) and are dominated by agencies, city leaders,

professional elites and other ‘stakeholders’ based there, implicit meanings and understandings tend to drift quickly towards actually inferring large cities. These, after all, also tend to dominate the headlines about explosive urban growth, the increasing number of megacities outside of Euro-America, prestige symbols of urban modernity (including gleaming transport hubs, elite mega-projects and, most curious of all, the great race to erect the tallest, most exotic freestanding tower in the world such as Dubai, Shanghai, Jakarta ...), and, at present, unwanted flows of desperate migrants and refugees from other regions. Nevertheless, the dynamics of urban growth have already been shifting and much current and future growth will occur in secondary, intermediate and smaller urban centers. Their sustainable planning, development and management are therefore fundamental to sustainable urban and for the future of our society.

So how, given this diversity, complexity and sometimes strong opposition from interests vested in the status quo, can the prospects for the urban century to become the urban sustainability century be maximized? The challenge is formidable but the key almost certainly lies with integrated thinking and action of the following elements:

First, using incentives for a limited period and effective and enforced regulations appropriate to local conditions to encourage movement towards urban economic greening on a clear timetable. This would have the purpose of demonstrating quickly – as the evidence is showing increasingly clearly in many parts of the world – that such transitions provide and present substantial net economic opportunities rather than survival threats to the construction, urban transport and other sectors often associated with opposition to sustainability transitions. If they can be enrolled as supporters exploiting new opportunities, a key obstacle will have been overcome.

Second, mobilizing civil society, community groups, indigenous knowledge and other forms of ‘bottom-up’ pressure on local, regional and national authorities to promote sustainability in line with the new undertakings made in adopting Agenda 2030, the NUA and SDGs. Even authoritarian governments in Africa, in Latin America in the Arab region and Asia including in China, are beginning to show movement in this area, also haunted by numerous domestic environmental disasters.

Third, involving UN and other international agencies and international NGOs like ICLEI and UCLG, the GNSC, ICCAR ...to promote proactive

local urban leadership and mutual international learning and to engage with local and national leaderships. Research around the world is showing increasingly that such multilevel governance, while often difficult to achieve, provides a crucial mechanism for sustainability transitions, precisely because no level of government or mode of governance can do it alone.

Fourth, in support of this, deploying substantive participatory methods, including new forms of co-design and co-production to engage diverse stakeholder groups actively in locally appropriate and relevant research and governance, can play important roles in overcoming entrenched conflicts and institutional antagonisms.

Finally, following from the previous point and simultaneously coming back to my starting point, there is a straightforward way to bring the currently rather separate Agenda 2030, NUA and SDGs together that offers a path forwards that will enhance their prospects of success. This is simply to set up the SDG implementation process as the monitoring and evaluation framework for Agenda 2030 and the NUA.

Despite its positive and progressive content, the NUA was long and complex and is still lacking any clear implementation mechanism or process beyond, in effect, relying on national governments to adopt it and proceed in their own ways. Conversely, the SDGs offer a holistic set of metrics for gauging progress towards sustainability based on 169 targets and variables. However, the challenge of implementing the SDGs around the world are formidable, with many voices objecting to the complexity and cost.

Such objections could readily be assuaged if they were linked to relevant aspects of Agenda 2030 and the NUA to monitor and evaluate progress rather than being implemented in isolation. In addition to Goal 11's overt urban focus, numerous indicators in other Goals are pertinent to urban areas and were refined during the finalisation process to ensure compatibility. In addition to giving the SDGs a substantive role within the global sustainable development agenda, this would also ensure that urban progress was 'everybody's business' within multilevel governance frameworks.

#### 4. SHAPING THE URBAN KNOWLEDGE AND POLICY BASE

Global urban knowledge in all its forms, from all its sources — academia, policy, civil society and grassroots organizations — is crucial to realizing sustainable development at urban and territorial scales. However, the growing body of research and knowledge around urbanization and urban issues is disparate, incomplete and ill-prepared to inform policy. As a community, we will need to self-organize to define relevant questions; to make sense of existing knowledge and identify knowledge gaps, and; to share and integrate the growing body of urban knowledge at multiple levels and scales (local, national, regional, global).

This Call to Action outlines how all stakeholders can play a role in building a global community that works towards the shared goal of creating the enabling conditions under which knowledge can effectively inform decision-making for more sustainable urban and territorial development.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) provides a holistic and progressive approach to sustainable urban development. It acknowledges several separate paradigm-shifting global agreements (the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement) and commits to aligning with these in working with national, regional, and local governments and stakeholders to promote sustainable urbanization.

Crucially, the NUA recognizes the need for, and encourages the production of, evidence-based and practical guidance for its implementation and the urban and territorial dimensions of the SDGs. However, it does not identify any specific avenues or mechanisms for the provision, assessment and utilization of independent scientific and other forms of knowledge that could support the implementation, periodic review and revision of these landmark global agreements.

A coalition of scientists, researchers and practitioners proposes a way forward to remedy this gap: establish a multi-stakeholder knowledge, policy and practice interface to support the implementation and monitoring of the relevant urban and territorial dimensions of the NUA, SDGs and other global frameworks. Thanks to the work and generosity of prof Eugenie Birsch such a recommendation, resulting from an informal, collaborative

effort lasting several months, has a single overarching goal: to help create the conditions under which knowledge can better guide sustainable urban development.

Why does the global community need a knowledge/policy/practice interface for sustainable urban and territorial development? Decisions about sustainable urban strategies are based on evidence that decision makers have access to, which is interpreted in light of a range of imperatives - economic, social, environmental, political and demographic, amongst others. Such evidence is rarely comprehensive, timely, or fit for purpose; meaning that the individuals and institutions shaping cities through their actions rely on knowledge and data that is anecdotal, fragmentary or out-of-date.

The use of such incomplete information is a source of inefficiency, ineffectiveness and unintended consequences – all of which are too often observed in decisions made in the name of sustainable urban development.

There is substantial potential and goodwill amongst a wide range of stakeholders for the generation and use of better evidence, which is evaluated more rigorously and communicated more effectively, to improve the quality of urban decision-making for the benefit of all. A robust knowledge/policy/practice interface would connect those who produce and assess evidence with decision-makers at all levels, and should be a critical component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation and follow-up of the NUA. This is crucial in an era of increasingly interlinked challenges to prosperity, equality, health and wellbeing, social cohesion and environmental limits.

However, such an interface is unlikely to arise spontaneously in the face of countervailing forces, such as the tendency to specialize and create silos in order to simplify complex systems. Further, where knowledge/policy/practice interfaces do arise, they seldom include all relevant actors with a multi-stakeholder approach, and rarely achieve the optimal scale. As a result, there is an urgent need to create the enabling conditions under which knowledge can effectively inform decision-making for more sustainable urban development.

What can a knowledge/policy/practice interface on sustainable urban and territorial development do? Whatever form taken, a knowledge/policy/practice interface for sustainable urban and territorial development would have three closely circumscribed, yet overlapping, functions:

1. **To synthesize and translate current knowledge on sustainable urbanization and its implications for policy.** Drawing on sources that range from basic research to local experience, and from broadly-generalizable large- scale studies to contextualized city-to-city learning and good practice, the interface would help refine, update and redefine pre-conceived notions about urban challenges. Importantly, it would illuminate the intersections between global challenges, and their urban and territorial equivalents, and explore their human- induced drivers and the means by which to address them. Though not envisioned as a source for original research, this interface would help identify gaps in knowledge for researchers to pursue.
2. To communicate and build awareness by providing a platform for practitioners, knowledge-producers and stakeholder groups to exchange insights on relevant topics; as well as undertaking regular, broad communication efforts to publicize both the costs and benefits of pursuing sustainable urban development to policy makers, and the risks of failing to do so.
3. To inform policy at global, national, and local scales, serving the many constituencies concerned with sustainable urban and territorial development. The beneficiaries of an improved interface encompass: UN member states involved in establishing and monitoring global agreements; UN-system entities aiming to connect this urban work with their mandates; subnational government leaders charged with implementation of the NUA and the other global agreements; civil society and grassroots organizations seeking to voice their concerns and integrate with other decision-makers in this context; philanthropies, and; the private sector in its daily interactions with all these other constituencies. It could further serve as a testing ground for evaluating current policies and as a platform to help build capacity for policy implementation.

## RE-INVENTING AFRICAN CITIES!

In conclusion let me illustrate this Paper by taking the case of Africa as example of what needs to be done for a successful implementation. Let me first highly appreciate the work done with key partners such as RESAUD Network and the University of Montreal to advance the linkages between Universities and Local Governments in four francophone african cities namely Abidjan ,Dakar Ouagadougou and Yaounde. The early collaboration with the Francophonie organization and the IFDD set up the agenda in motion . In this context , the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito last month is particularly relevant to African countries. There is clearly a need to reinvent urbanism, urbanity and urban resilience , to give a new meaning to urban life and to the concept of 'living together. '. This need not be an impossible mission if governments show enough willingness and if they understand that sustainable development, and primarily economic growth, is played out in cities and towns. The African continent, currently in a process of extensive demographic and urban mutation coupled with deep economic transformation should take the lead in this worldwide process of reinvention. It has everything to gain in the process if the governance is right supported by clear vision and ambition!

Setting priorities for the whole continent is a challenge but basic principles are well known and agreed upon. They can be summarized in some keywords: democratic governance, progressive decentralization, flexible planning, optimal densification, strengthened capacities, facilitative regulations, participation and partnerships, increased investments, disaster resilience, connectivity, mobility, inclusiveness, safety, accessibility, conviviality, diversity, identity...and above all a culture of peace and tolerance!!

What will africa look like in 2030 and further in 2060? From the UN HABITAT Africa Report 2012 your guide to a fast moving continent !

The critical decisions of today will shape the future of the Continent . urbanization will drive more sophisticated economies with exploding middle classes that will buy , eat and demand more. In 2060 most of Africa's population will be in coastal mega cities , but even these might be too small to compete with cities in India China and Latin America !

Based on regional discussions on the road to Habitat III, it appears that the African Urban Agenda could indeed be structured around 12 common lines of action which we will borrow from Daniel Biau in his recent paper in Thinker, a Pan African Quarterly for Thought Leaders !

- The institutional arrangements governing cities will be reviewed to ensure the convergence of public policies, decentralization and strengthening of responsibilities and resources to local authorities, inter-municipal management of cities and effective public-private-people - partnerships (PPPP);
- The legislative framework of urbanization will be reformed and simplified and focus on land regulations to boost land supply, contribute to the densification of the urban fabric, regularize informal settlements and allow an orderly urban growth;
- Financial instruments will be subject to a radical revitalization, giving public authorities a chance to significantly increase municipal revenues and to ensure transparency and fairness of inter-government transfers;
- Land strategies will become more directive, seeking to ensure a good knowledge of land cadaster and transactions, to keep land prices within reasonable limits and to better meet needs by opening new peripheral areas to urbanization;
- Transport infrastructure will be considered as a priority investment at national, regional and local levels, and will promote public transport and multi-modality;
- National housing strategies will focus on the reabsorption of inadequate housing and the upgrading of slums, without forgetting to support the development of the real estate and rental markets;
- Basic services will be programmed and managed through a multi-sectoral and coordinated approach and adequate contractual relationships between public authorities knowledge institutions and service providers, taking fully into consideration their impact on the environment and public health;

- The national urban system will be revitalized by a socio-economic and environmental strategy aiming at a prioritization of urban functions based on the respective potential of each agglomeration;
- Measures for adaptation to climate change and for enhancing resilience to natural disasters, including protection against eroding, will involve agreements and joint actions between central government and local authorities;
- The methods of urban planning and management will be completely revised, capabilities enhanced, and the participation of private and community stakeholders put into practice in a systematic way.
- The determined implementation of these commitments that each government should adapt to its national context, would contribute to enhance the economic efficiency and competitiveness of the continent, and transform African cities into healthy, safe and inclusive places, whose inhabitants, with recognized rights and duties, would be proud to share and enjoy.
- In their desire to transform our world, Heads of State and Government stated in September 2015: "we recognize that sustainable urban development and management are crucial to the quality of life of our people. We will work with local authorities and communities to renew and plan our cities and human settlements so as to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment."
- It is the responsibility of African leaders to make every effort to turn this commitment into reality, if possible within the next 15 years, and to mobilize all national and international partners to found the new city planning and management approaches of the twenty first century.

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