

# International Guidelines On Urban And Territorial Planning (IG-UTP)



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## What are the IG-UTP?

The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial planning (IG-UTP or Guidelines), approved by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in Resolution 25/6 of April 2015, are intended to be a framework for improving global **policies, plans, designs** and **implementation processes**, which will lead to more **compact**, socially **inclusive**, better **integrated** and **connected** cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are **resilient** to climate change.

The Guidelines consist of 12 principles with 114 action-oriented recommendations aimed at four stakeholder groups: national governments, local authorities, planning professionals and civil society.

Link to download the IG-UTP (available in 11 languages):

[UN-Habitat website](#)

## 1. The First Global Symposium on Urban and Territorial Planning

UN-Habitat invites you to attend and participate in the first Global Symposium on Urban and Territorial Planning: “Improving Planning for More Sustainable Cities and Territories” that will take place from July 30 to August 02, 2018 in Fukuoka, Japan. This inaugural event for the Guidelines of UN-Habitat is being organized in partnership with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of the Government of Japan, the City of Fukuoka and Seinan Gakuin University.

The Symposium will focus on the improvement of planning practice from the perspective of the IG-UTP, serving as a next step in their implementation since their release in 2015 and as a platform to foster evidence-based discussion and peer-to-peer learning on urban and territorial planning principles and practices. Planning actors and decision-makers are thus invited to showcase initiatives, headline a thematic track, host a session and/or actively engage in the discussions. Moreover, we would like to bring to your attention the launch of the Spatial Planning Platform for Asia and the Pacific during the symposium, an initiative kick-started by MLIT and Seinan Gakuin University in 2017 as their contribution to the regional implementation of the IG-UTP.

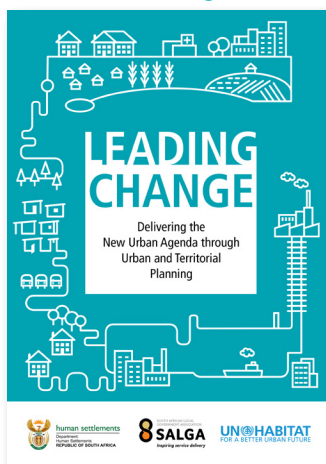
Registration for the Symposium and further information on the event is now available at:

<https://gsutp.urbanpolicyplatform.org>

\*Please note that we are unable to cover the costs of your participation in the event. Costs related to travel, accommodation and transport will be up to each professional's responsibility.

## 2. New IG-UTP Publications

### Leading Change: Delivering the New Urban Agenda through Urban and Territorial Planning

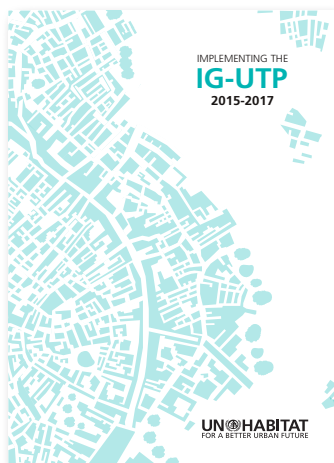


The South African Local Government Association (SALGA), in collaboration with the Department of Human Settlements of the Republic of South Africa and UN-Habitat, launched during the 9th session of the World Urban Forum “Leading Change: Delivering the New Urban Agenda through Urban and Territorial Planning”. The book contains the strategic considerations and supporting line of reasoning that need to be considered when applying the IG-UTP, providing the key foundational elements of Urban and Territorial Planning. Moreover, the book is intended for both readers who, not only want an overview, but also those who would like a summary prior to appraising the full content of the IG-UTP.

The book is available [here](#) in full on the UN-Habitat website.

### Implementing the IG-UTP, 2015-2017

In 2016, UN-Habitat carried out the Global Survey on Urban and Territorial Planning with the 58 Member States of UN-Habitat’s Governing Council, receiving responses from 21 country representatives, and selected partners of the IG-UTP. This collection of experiences and findings in using the Guidelines at the global, national and local levels on behalf of the survey respondents and UN-Habitat is the core of the “Implementing the IG-UTP, 2015-2017” report, the culmination of the first biennium of implementation of the Guidelines (the period 2015 – 2017) since their release in April 2015.



One of the main findings of the report is that the Guidelines represent a collective voice for planning as they enable different roads and entries to the improvement of planning systems worldwide through their multi-level, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector model leading all to one common goal: sustainable urban development. Other findings included that already half of the respondents were making use of the IG-UTP framework, describing the Guidelines as “the ideal state of play” when it comes to guidance for urban and territorial planning or the formulation of urban policies. Still, efforts must be enhanced to fully grasp the benefits of the IG-UTP and their outcomes for sustainable urbanization if we intend to attain the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, the report finalizes with a Call to Action for the Member States of UN-Habitat to advance their commitments and support to the use of the Guidelines within their cities and territories.

The report is available [here](#) in full on the UN-Habitat website.

### The IG-UTP Handbook



UN-Habitat is working on the forthcoming IG-UTP Handbook to support the implementation of the Guidelines within cities and territories. The Handbook will be part of a series of IG-UTP tools designed to improve planning practice.

Moreover, it will provide with an overview of the scope of topics covered by the IG-UTP, placing special emphasis on planning processes, products and outcomes. In addition, the Handbook will make reference to additional tools, literature and other resources for planners, civil society and policy-makers working all the way from the transnational level to the local level.

UN-Habitat welcomes interested planning actors and decision-makers to test the contents of the Handbook and provide us with feedback. The pre-release of the Handbook is available upon request by contacting our focal point at [IG.UTP@unhabitat.org](mailto:IG.UTP@unhabitat.org).

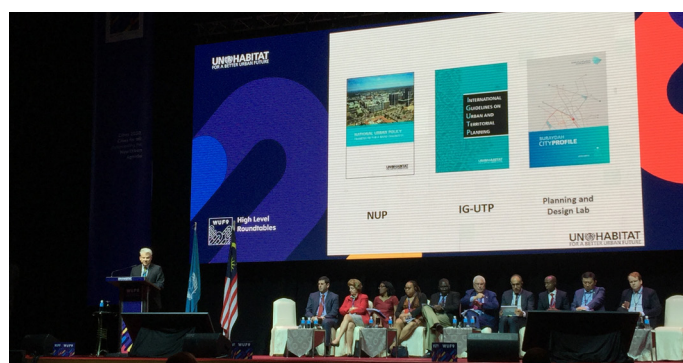
## 3. OUR PARTNERS IN ACTION!

Thanks to our partners at Tsinghua University in China, a special feature on the IG-UTP has recently been published in the Journal of Urban and Regional Planning Studies this past March. The article (in Chinese) can be found in Vol.10, No. 1, Series No. 26, of the Journal and is available [here](#).

## 4. Urban and Territorial Planning at the 9th World Urban Forum

The IG-UTP were present at many events of the 9th session of the World Urban Forum this past February 2018, including during the High-level Roundtable “An integrated territorial approach to sustainable urban development” and the Dialogue “Urban Planning and Design for Local Implementation”.

In addition, a number of UN-Habitat partner events made sure to place the IG-UTP at the centre of the discussion such as the Side Event “Implementing the New Urban Agenda through the establishment of the Spatial Planning Platform”, where, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) of the Government of Japan announced the launch of the Spatial Planning Platform initiative for the Asia and the Pacific region. This project is taken in collaboration with the Seinan Gakuin University of Fukuoka, and has been kick-started as MLIT’s and Seinan Gakuin University’s contribution to the regional implementation of the Guidelines.



Raf Tuts, Director of Programme Division at UN-Habitat, during the High-Level Roundtable at WUF9 ©UN-Habitat

Finally, it is worth highlighting the Book Launch and Networking Event, "Leading Change: Using the IG-UTP to implement the NUA", hosted by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the South African Department of Human Settlements in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The discussion, which counted with the participation of Leading Change lead writer Cliff Hague and fellow IG-UTP experts, explored the potential of the IG-UTP as a key tool for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and linked these topics to the main issues covered by the book. In the end, the event concluded with a Call to Action for the stakeholder groups of the IG-UTP that promotes the improvement of urban and territorial planning in order to bring cities and human settlements closer to the realization of the New Urban Agenda.



Opening plenary of the IG-UTP Training in Riyadh, January 2018 ©UN-Habitat

## 5. Past IG-UTP Trainings

### Training for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In January 2018, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia invited UN-Habitat to carry out, for the first time ever, a five days training program on the IG-UTP. The event was organized by UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs of the Kingdom as part of the Future Saudi Cities Programme of UN-Habitat. The training took place in the city of Riyadh. The comprehensive agenda and relative long duration of the training enabled exchange and exercises on how to implement the principles of the Guidelines, supported by presentations and group discussions.

The training kicked off with a plenary session where all 29 participants representing national government institutions, local authorities and academia were introduced to the Guidelines. Afterwards, the participants demonstrated a high interest in discussion and exchange. The exercises included stakeholder discussions and IG-UTP-based presentations of project ideas to national authorities. Other highlights included the visit to the Riyadh metro rail system which is currently under construction. Finally, the training closed with a panel discussion with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Dr. Abdulrahman Alshiek. One of his main conclusions was that the training programme was not only a success, but that in the future, such trainings should be more in-depth and with a longer duration to allow for further exchange and technical exercises.

### Training at ICCASU II Conference in Cameroon

Cameroon hosted in December 2017 the 2nd "International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization" (ICCCASU-II). Here, UN-Habitat led an IG-UTP training to build capacity within planning actors, providing planners and government stakeholders attending the conference with tools to respond to local urbanization challenges in an integrated manner. A total of 72 people from different professional backgrounds attended and actively took part in the discussions.



Stakeholder mapping exercise during the IG-UTP training at the ICCASU II Conference ©UN-Habitat

The training was divided into three segments, including 1) introduction to global urban agendas (focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda) and the need for urban and territorial planning, 2) a stakeholder mapping exercise to facilitate the understanding of the planning system in Cameroon and how partnerships could be strengthened, and 3) introducing the IG-UTP as an operational tool to foster the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by various urban actors. Throughout the training, the participants benefited extensively from peer-to-peer learning and have gained a better understanding of the institutional arrangements and how the IG-UTP could be used as an effective tool to address the most pressing urban challenges faced by Cameroon.

## CONTACT US

If you would like to join our mailing list, or have any questions or remarks on our work with the Guidelines, please contact Andrea Oyuela, IG-UTP Lead, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit at [IG.UTP@unhabitat.org](mailto:IG.UTP@unhabitat.org)