



**Global Platform for the Right to the City**  
Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad  
Plataforma Global pelo Direito à Cidade

# **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

## **IN HABITAT III OFFICIAL STATEMENTS**

**August, 2016**

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## PRESENTATION

# THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

The Global Platform for the Right to the City is an initiative of a group of organizations that met in São Paulo in November 2014 with the purpose of building an international movement for the Right to the City.

The Global Platform aims to contribute to the adoption of commitments, policies, projects and actions aimed at developing fair cities, democratic, sustainable and inclusive by United Nations bodies and the national and local governments. The construction of a Global Platform Right to the City at this time is extremely important for the strengthening of local and national urban social struggles and to the joint and international mobilization to especially address the definition processes of the Development Agenda / Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 and the World Social Forums and Social World Urban Forums, 2017. The Global Platform has the structural axes Human Rights in Cities; Democratic Governance and Participatory of Cities; Urbanization and Sustainable Use Planning and Social Inclusion; the Economic and Social Inclusion Development in the Cities.

Among the organizations that are part of the Global Platform Right to the City we can highlight the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), ActionAid, Cities Alliance , International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI), Commission on Human Rights and Equal Social UCLG, National Urban Reform Forum (FNUR - Brazil), Shack / Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), Habitat for Humanity, Global Fund for the Development of Cities (FMDV) and Streetnet. The project is funded by Ford Foundation.

[right2city.org](http://right2city.org)

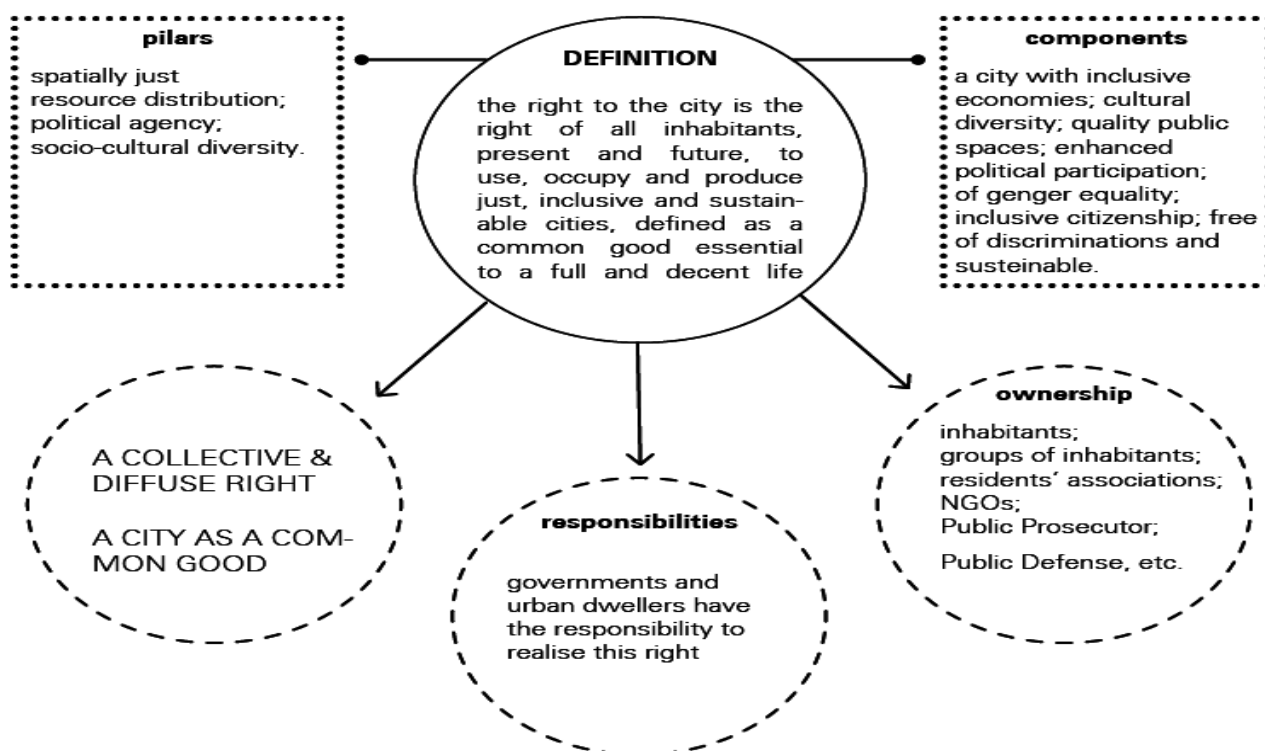
## INTRODUCTION

This document was prepared to support the process of informal hearings with stakeholders on the New Urban Agenda, focusing on how the Right to the City appears in official documents.

The analysis considered the documents that supported the Zero Draft Zero of the NUA, in particular the statements of regional meetings, statements of thematic meetings and the policy units.

It is noted that the Right to the City has been widely mentioned as a paradigm that offers a new framework for rethinking cities and the urbanization process. Its definition was established in the Policy Unit 1 as *“the right of all inhabitants, present and future, to occupy, use and produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to the quality of life”*.

### matrix of the right to the city



Its implications are reported in all statements of thematic meetings, revealing that the Right to the City is important not only for large urban and metropolitan centers, but also for small and intermediate cities, towns and villages. However, as will be seen, the Zero Draft of the NUA does not reflect the paradigmatic complexity of this right in relation to all its pillars, components and responsibilities.

It is therefore necessary that the United Nations and countries deepen their understanding of the right to the city, taking clearer commitments for its implementation.

## ZERO DRAFT (MAY 2016) AND REVISED DRAFTS (JUNE & JULY 2016) OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT				
Version	May 6 <sup>th</sup> ( <a href="http://goo.gl/LfB6Qf">http://goo.gl/LfB6Qf</a> )	June 18 <sup>th</sup> ( <a href="http://goo.gl/mhbapB">http://goo.gl/mhbapB</a> )	July 18 <sup>th</sup> ( <a href="http://goo.gl/MhnQW5">http://goo.gl/MhnQW5</a> )	July 28 <sup>th</sup> ( <a href="http://goo.gl/yQ1JTx">http://goo.gl/yQ1JTx</a> )
Section	QUITO DECLARATION	QUITO DECLARATION	QUITO DECLARATION	QUITO DECLARATION
Subsection	Introduction	Our Vision	Our Vision	Our Vision
Paragraph	4	7	8	9
Text	We commit to the realization of the concept of cities for all, which in some countries is defined as Right to the City and compiles the shared systemization of existing rights, seeking to ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, are able to inhabit, use, and produce just, inclusive, and sustainable cities, which exist as a common good essential to a high quality of life.	We anchor our vision on the concept of cities for all, which in some countries is understood as the Right to the City, and compiles the shared systemization of existing rights, seeking to ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, are able to inhabit, use, and produce just, inclusive, accessible and sustainable cities, which exist as a common good essential to quality of life.	We anchor our vision in the concept of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities, towns, and villages, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, as a common good that essentially contributes to prosperity and quality of life. Cities for all is also recognized as the Right to the City in some countries, based on a people-centered vision of cities as places that strive to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants.	We anchor our vision in the concept of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities, towns, and villages, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, as a common good that essentially contributes to prosperity and quality of life. Cities for all is also recognized as the Right to the City in some countries, based on a people-centered vision of cities as places that strive to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants.

CHANGES AND ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE DRAFT ZERO (MAY 2016) AND THE REVISED DRAFT ZERO (JUNE 2016)

Version	May 6th	June 18th
Section	QUITO DECLARATION	QUITO DECLARATION
Subsection	Introduction	Our Vision
Paragraph	4	7
Text	We commit to the realization of the concept of cities for all, which in some countries is defined as Right to the City and compiles the shared systemization of existing rights, seeking to ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, are able to inhabit, use, and produce just, inclusive, and sustainable cities, which exist as a common good essential to a high quality of life.	We anchor our vision on the concept of cities for all, which in some countries is understood as the Right to the City, and compiles the shared systemization of existing rights, seeking to ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, are able to inhabit, use, and produce just, inclusive, accessible and sustainable cities, which exist as a common good essential to quality of life.
Track-changes	We <del>commit to the realization of</del> <u>anchor our vision on</u> the concept of cities for all, which in some countries is <del>defined</del> <u>understood</u> as <u>the</u> Right to the City, and compiles the shared systemization of existing rights, seeking to ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, are able to inhabit, use, and produce just, inclusive, <u>accessible</u> and sustainable cities, which exist as a common good essential to <del>a high</del> quality of life.	
Comments	<p>The first change moved the Right to the City concept from the introduction of the Quito Declaration to the part of the Vision.</p> <p>It also excluded the commitment with its realization and simply stated that the States anchor their vision in it, weakening the formulation.</p> <p>If on one hand it was positively included "accessible" as a goal for cities; on the other, it was excluded the need for a "high" quality of life.</p>	

CHANGES AND ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE REVISED DRAFT ZERO (JUNE 2016) AND THE REVISED DRAFT ZERO (JULY 2016)

Version	June 18th	July 18th	July 28th
Section	QUITO DECLARATION	QUITO DECLARATION	QUITO DECLARATION
Subsection	Our Vision	Our Vision	Our Vision
Paragraph	7	8	9
Text	We anchor our vision on the concept of cities for all, which in some countries is understood as the Right to the City, and compiles the shared systemization of existing rights, seeking to ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, are able to inhabit, use, and produce just, inclusive, accessible and sustainable cities, which exist as a common good essential to quality of life.	We anchor our vision in the concept of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities, towns, and villages, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, as a common good that essentially contributes to prosperity and quality of life. Cities for all is also recognized as the Right to the City in some countries, based on a people-centered vision of cities as places that strive to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants.	
Track-changes	<p><u>We anchor our vision on</u> <del>in</del> the concept of cities for all, <del>which in some countries is understood as the Right to the City,</del> <u>referring to the equal use and compiles the shared systemization</u> <del>enjoyment of existing rights</del> <u>cities, towns, and villages,</u> seeking to <u>promote inclusivity and</u> ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, <u>without discrimination of any kind,</u> are able to inhabit, <del>use,</del> and produce just, <del>inclusivesafe, healthy,</del> accessible, <u>resilient,</u> and sustainable cities, <del>which exist and human settlements,</del> as a common good <del>essential</del> <u>that essentially contributes</u> to <u>prosperity and</u> quality of life. <u>Cities for all is also recognized as the Right to the City in some countries, based on a people-centered vision of cities as places that strive to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants.</u></p>		
Comments	<p>The second change separated the Right to the City concept and put it in the end of the paragraph, lowering its visibility.</p> <p>It still incorrectly saying that it is just one meaning of the idea of cities for all and now stating that cities strive to guarantee a full and decent life for inhabitants, when it should be stating that cities must guarantee a full and decent life for inhabitants.</p> <p>It also excluded the phrase "compiles the shared systemization of existing rights", therefore excluding the notion that the Right to the City concept comprehend a very wide range of rights and once again weakening the formulation.</p> <p>On the other hand, this new paragraph positively advances to include a diversity of settlements beyond cities (towns, villages, human settlements).</p> <p>Although this new text correctly includes "the equal use and enjoyment of cities" in the beginning, unfortunately it excluded the use in the sentence "are able to inhabit, use and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements". It is important that the term "use" is connected to "inhabit and produce" because it is an interconnected process (produce-use-inhabit the city), even if this inclusion happens to repeat the idea stated in the beginning of the paragraph.</p>		

# HABITAT III POLICY PAPER

## 1 RIGHT TO THE CITY AND CITIES FOR ALL (2016)

<https://www.habitat3.org/bitcache/c6ab256c94e1212a2f9f629a655ba5cf5e6a4312?vid=572970&disposition=inline&op=view>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 2	<p><b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b></p> <p>This Policy Paper provides the framework for the New Urban Agenda (NUA) which will be discussed in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III. The <b>Right to the City</b> should be considered as a new paradigm for urban development that seeks to address the major challenges in cities and human settlements of rapid urbanization, poverty reduction, social exclusion, and environmental risk that call for decisive actions and new policy priorities by national, regional, and local governments.</p> <p>The Policy Paper unpacks the <b>Right to the City</b> through examining three pillars: Spatially Just Resource Distribution, Political Agency, and Socio, Economic and Cultural Diversity. It further identifies several core thematic cross-cutting challenges that the Right to the City confronts when being implemented: urban spatial strategies, urban governance, urban economy, social aspects, and urban environment. Each pillar is then addressed in detail by identifying its main issues:</p> <p>Pillar 1: Land for housing and livelihoods, and the de-commodification of urban space; urban commons, public space, and biodiversity; access to basic services and infrastructure, and controlling pollution; unplanned and informal settlements habitation; resilience, climate change, disaster and risk management;</p> <p>Pillar 2: inclusive governance; inclusive urban planning; citizenship; enabling participation, transparency, and democratization;</p> <p>Pillar 3: recognition of social actors – including gender- for migration and refugees; embracing identity, cultural practice, diversity, and heritage; safer cities, livelihoods, wellbeing, and welfare; poverty risk and employment vulnerabilities; inclusive economy and solidarity economy.</p>
Pg. 3	<p><b>The Right to the City at the Heart of the New Urban Agenda</b></p> <p>Despite the global policy commitments undertaken by states and other key actors since Habitat I and Habitat II (the Habitat Agenda), the current urban development model failed to address the problems of urban poverty and social exclusion that are endemic in many cities today. As more than half of the world’s population now lives in cities, increasing to two thirds by 2050, Habitat III provides a unique opportunity for the NUA to enhance and extend human rights perspectives in their application to cities and human settlements, and embrace a shift in the predominant urban pattern in order to minimize socio-spatial injustices, enhance equity, socio-spatial inclusion, political participation and a decent life for all inhabitants.</p> <p>The <b>Right to the City</b> is a new paradigm that provides an alternative framework to re-think cities and urbanization. It envisions the effective fulfillment of all internationally agreed human rights, sustainable development objectives as expressed through the Sustainable</p>

	<p>Development Goals, and the commitments of the Habitat Agenda. Against this framework, it nevertheless brings a new dimension to serve as foundation for the NUA based on an understanding of the city as a place that strives to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants.</p>
Pg. 4	<p>According to these definitions, the <b>Right to the City</b> is a collective and diffuse right that belongs to all inhabitants, both present and future generations, analogous to the right to environment enshrined in international agreements on sustainable development, which states interpret through their own national laws and jurisdiction.</p> <p>This approach is consistent with other rights that have been enshrined in international legal instruments and national laws, such as those related to gender equality , and the diversity of cultural expressions or World Heritage. The latter, which is particularly relevant from the <b>Right to the City</b> perspective, seeks collective protection of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value considered as World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and is augmented by instruments safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage. Maintaining the Habitat II commitments as a core baseline means accepting ‘the right to the city within a human rights habitat’. That calls for regional or country-specific targets and experience-based indicators in implementation.</p> <p>Implicit in the <b>Right to the City</b> is the recognition that urban space and its functions are both contributors to and expressions of social and gender exclusion, and thus the need to address spatial exclusion. Against this framework, the <b>Right to the City</b> envisions: ensuring that all inhabitants have the capacity to access the urban resources, services, goods, and opportunities of city life; enabling effective citizen participation in local policies with responsibility; enabling governments to ensure just distribution of resources, and acknowledging socio-cultural diversity as a source of social enhancement.</p> <p>In terms of implementation, the Right to the City calls for the strategic alliance of key urban actors, including all inhabitants that needs to be trans-scalar and take place at the global, national, and local level. The Right to the City further calls for an enhanced role for all citizens, particularly women, marginalized groups, and the urban poor.</p>
Pg. 4-6	<p>1.3 Defining the <b>Right to the City</b></p> <p>The Right to the City is thus defined as the right of all inhabitants present and future, to occupy, use and produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to the quality of life. The Right to the City further implies responsibilities on governments and people to claim, defend, and promote this right. The City as a common good contains the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A city free of discrimination based on gender, age, health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, migratory condition, or political, religious or sexual orientation.</li> <li>• A city of inclusive citizenship in which all inhabitants, whether permanent or transitional, are considered as citizens and granted equal rights; e.g. women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, LGBT persons, the differently abled, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence and indigenous peoples.</li> <li>• A city with enhanced political participation in the definition, implementation, monitoring, and budgeting of urban policies and spatial planning in order to strengthen the transparency, effectiveness and inclusion of the diversity of inhabitants and their organizations.</li> <li>• A city fulfilling its social functions, that is, ensuring equitable access for all to shelter,</li> </ul>



	<p>goods, services and urban opportunities, particularly for women and other marginalized groups; a city that prioritizes the collectively defined public interest, ensuring a socially just and environmentally balanced use of urban and rural spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A city with quality public spaces that enhances social interactions and political participation, promotes socio-cultural expressions, embraces diversity, and fosters social cohesion; a city where public spaces contribute to building safer cities and to meeting the needs of inhabitants.</li> <li>• A city of gender equality which adopts all necessary measures to combat discrimination in all its forms against women, men, and LGBT people in political, social, economic and cultural terms; a city which takes all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women, to guarantee them equality in the exercise and fulfillment of fundamental human rights, and a life free of violence.</li> <li>• A city with cultural diversity, which respects, protects, and promotes the diverse livelihoods, customs, memory, identities, expressions, and socio-cultural forms of its inhabitants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A city with inclusive economies that ensures access to secure livelihoods and decent work for all inhabitants, that gives room to other economies, such as solidarity economy, sharing economy, circular economy, and that acknowledges the role of women in the care economy.</li> <li>• A city as a system within the settlement and common ecosystem that respects rural-urban linkages, and protects biodiversity, natural habitats, and surrounding ecosystems, and supports city-regions, city-town cooperation, and connectivity.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In many jurisdictions, these components are already protected by national, regional or local laws. However, in combination they are at the origin of the conceptualization of the Right to the City as both a collective and diffuse right. The co-responsibility of governments and citizens is to claim, defend, and promote this right.</p> <p>It is recognized that the term 'right to the city' translates well into some languages but is more difficult in others, and that it applies to all human settlements, not just cities. From a legal perspective, many aspects of the Right to the City already have legal protection, e.g. the natural environment (i.e. urban parks, forests or rivers), tangible and intangible cultural heritage (i.e. historic buildings, monuments or neighborhoods, cultural expressions) or public spaces, among others.</p> <p>As a collective right, it pertains to the diversity of all inhabitants on the basis of their common interest. As a diffuse right, the Right to the City belongs to present and future generations; it is indivisible and not subject to exclusive use or appropriation.</p> <p>The Right to the City as a diffuse right can be exercised in every metropolis, city, village, or town that is institutionally organized as local administrative unit with district, municipal or metropolitan character. It includes the urban space as well as the rural or semi-rural surroundings that form part of its territory.</p>
Pg. 6	<p>1.4 Pillars of the <b>Right to the City</b></p> <p>The Right to the City has an interdependent and cross-cutting structure based on three pillars that support what this new paradigm represents for the NUA. Each pillar encompasses several issues and priorities for cities, and they act as an umbrella for the discussion of five cross-cutting thematic areas: Urban Spatial Strategies, Urban Governance, Urban Economy, Social Aspects, and Environmental Aspects.</p>

	<p>The Right to the City = Spatially Just Resource Distribution + Political Agency + Socio, Economic and Cultural Diversity</p> <p>Pillar 1: Spatially Just Resource Distribution</p> <p>The Right to the City envisions a socially and spatially just distribution and planning of material resources, ensuring good living conditions across the human settlement continuum. These resources, accessible in both formal and informal sectors and areas, are defined by acceptable quality standards, and include: public space and the urban commons; investments in basic infrastructures and services (e.g. water, electricity, waste, and sanitation); appropriate, accessible and affordable transportation options; appropriate and dignified housing and settlements; equitable livelihoods, opportunities, and decent jobs, including solidarity and circular economy initiatives; education; healthcare; and investments in the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, and in climate change protection. This pillar envisions all inhabitants, particularly women, as caretakers and as protagonists in the delivery and enjoyment of these resources for a full life. In this respect, it also requires recognition and specific measures targeting marginalized groups (e.g. young people, migrants and refugees, informal workers, and the differently abled).</p> <p>Pillar 2: Political Agency</p> <p>The Right to the City is realized only when structures, processes, and policies enable all inhabitants as social and political actors to exercise the full content and meaning of citizenship. In this regard, specific policies are required to ensure that women, as well as marginalized groups, have effective access to political agency. Together with all levels of government, the inhabitants of all settlements - including temporary and transitional dwellers- are protagonists in (re)making and shaping their living environment. This process takes places to a standard that fully meets the everyday needs and aspirations of inhabitants, and which is able to confront the challenges faced by settlements. In this way, this pillar lessens the relatively high control by capital and state elites over decisions regarding the organization and management of the city and its spaces, and reconfigures urban space, land, and property in a manner that maximizes use-value for all inhabitants. It requires transparency, accountability, and the democratization of data for decision making and the allocation of opportunities and resources.</p> <p>Pillar 3: Socio, Economic and Cultural Diversity</p> <p>The Right to the City fully embraces diversity and difference in gender, identity, ethnicity, religion, heritage, collective memory, cultural and economic practice, and socio-cultural expression. This pillar calls for the recognition of culture, neighboring, and stake-holding as a lever for social cohesion, social capital, innovation, safer cities, self-expression, and identity. It requires that the city creates possibilities of encounter, interactions, and active connections, in which reciprocal relations and mutual understanding advances a renewed form of urban life. It requires respecting and valorizing all religions, ethnicities, cultures, economies and customs. It also envisions the promotion of artistic expressions as a means to unlock social potential and creativity, and to build community and solidarity. Central to city life is also the use of urban space, particularly for women in their reproductive and productive work. This pillar calls finally for the need to acknowledge recreation and leisure as part of a full life.</p>
Pg. 33	<p>6. CONCLUSION</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The Right to the City provides an alternative framework to re-think cities and thus should be the lynchpin of the NUA and is defined as the right of all inhabitants, present and</p>

	<p>future, to occupy, use and produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to the quality of life. The Right to the City further implies responsibilities on governments and people to claim, defend, and promote this right.</p> <p>It is recognized that the term 'right to the city' translates well into some languages but is more difficult in others, and that it applies to all metropolis, city, village, or town, including their rural or semi-rural surroundings. The topic allows for a diversity of concepts and disciplinary perspectives, which the expert group itself reflected. However, there is wider consensus of the need to address the challenges contained in this document as a new paradigm that should guide policies and actions implemented by governments in view of building Cities for All against the principles of equality, social justice, participation and sustainability.</p>
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## HABITAT III POLICY PAPER

### 2 SOCIO-CULTURAL URBAN FRAMEWORKS (2016)

<https://www.habitat3.org/bitcache/dc9eef37249d96ab5f410181ca199dd0652a374?vid=572971&disposition=inline&op=view>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 13	<p>3.8 Ensure security and counter urban violence through urban policies</p> <p>Contribute to safer cities and the right to the city by improving police and security services with a view to protecting vulnerable populations, including migrants and refugees, from violence and persecution.</p>

## HABITAT III POLICY PAPER

### 4 URBAN GOVERNANCE, CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (2016)

<https://www.habitat3.org/bitcache/47e6e95ad6014496e586485140d648deb29405e3?vid=572973&disposition=inline&op=view>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 2-4	<p><b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b></p> <p>Since the Habitat II Conference in 1996, the wider context of urban development has changed considerably and many urban challenges have become more pronounced and evident. The globalisation of economies and value systems, population growth and rapid urbanisation, the threat of climate change and environmental degradation, increasing inequalities, global migration, global health risks and the impact of new technologies have all been reshaping the challenges facing the governance of cities and their societies. This Habitat III policy paper focuses on urban governance, capacity and institutional development and identifies the following ten key messages based on aspirations for the right to the city, sustainable and equitable development and territorial equity:</p>

1. By and large, urban governance frameworks and institutions in most countries need to evolve to face critical challenges: urban governance systems in most countries are currently not fit for purpose and need critical reforms to enable sustainable urban development. These reforms will have to go beyond sectoral policies and consider cooperation between different spheres of government and non-state actors, fostering a balanced distribution of powers, capacities and resources including the revision of legislative, regulatory and fiscal frameworks.
2. In many countries, existing institutional frameworks prevent urban governments fully delivering on their responsibilities: inadequate decentralisation, lack of resources, insufficient capacity and poor frameworks for engagement with civil society and key stakeholders weaken urban governance. Many countries suffer from ill-defined distributions of responsibilities between different levels of governments, leading to the duplication of roles and blind spots. Such ineffective multi-level governance systems compromise planning processes, risk backlogs in budget spending, incur higher transaction costs and create wider economic inefficiencies, as well as compromising transparency and accountability.
3. Cities and urban societies continue to suffer from an imbalance of political power and insufficient inclusiveness and participation: collective decision making has so far failed to address the gap between broader, typically national developmental agendas and inhabitants' needs on the ground. While representative democracy is an important vehicle to allow citizens to exercise their rights, more participatory processes suffer from structural constraints. Women, youth, ethnic minorities, the urban poor and other disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities are still side-lined in decision-making processes. Inequalities, insufficient access to basic services, lack of decent housing, job insecurity and informality are shaping spatially fragmented and socially segmented cities. The demands of inhabitants need more participatory spaces to avoid increasing social tensions and discontent with political systems.
4. The expansion of metropolitan areas and the growing gap between these and intermediary cities pose additional challenges to urban and national governance: the growth of large metropolitan areas – e.g. metropolises, megacities, urban regions and corridors – is reshaping the urban landscape, raising new challenges for the management of metropolitan areas. Weak metropolitan governance undermines development potentialities and the attractiveness of metropolitan areas as cornerstones of national development. At the same time, the lack or the inadequacy of policies for intermediary cities, particularly in developing countries (who will host most of the urban growth in the coming years), prevents the creation of a strong system of cities and a balanced regional socio-economic development.
5. Above all, new urban governance should be democratic, inclusive, multi-scale and multi-level: effective multi-level governance needs to be the result of a broad consultative process, built around mechanisms for vertical and horizontal integration. Vertical integration involves collaboration between national, regional and local government (and ultimately supranational institutions). Horizontal integration involves collaboration between sectoral ministries and departments, municipalities and public institutions at the same governance level. In addition, and recognising urban complexity, diversity and local context, multi-level governance should include collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors, above all civil society actors and the private sector. Integration at all levels will increasingly benefit from digitalisation and be facilitated by a shift towards digital era governance.
6. New urban governance requires robust national urban and territorial policies: national

	<p>urban governance frameworks need to enable effective multi-level governance through clear legal and institutional structures, based on the principles of subsidiarity and decentralisation (respect for local self-government, clear sharing of powers and responsibilities etc.), an adequate intergovernmental allocation of financial resources, and empowerment of citizens. Ensuring a better allocation of national resources to sub-national governments needs to be coupled with equalisation mechanisms to reduce inequalities between regions, metropolitan areas and intermediary cities, with the aim of building synergies and complementarities between cities and territories.</p> <p>7. Local and sub-national governments anchor new urban governance on the ground and play a pivotal role in implementing the New Urban Agenda: strong and capable local governments are the key levers to ensure inclusive and sustainable urban development, with accountable urban governance systems and balanced multi-stakeholder involvement. The models of urban governance for the 21st century need empowered local governments employing professional staff. Inter-municipal cooperation, including between urban and rural municipalities, should be facilitated through adequate incentives to create economies of scale and integration. Decentralisation on the one hand empowers and on the other hand obliges. Increased responsibilities and duties to local governments demand openness and transparency but also accountability and responsibility.</p> <p>8. Strong metropolitan governance is a key component of new urban governance: national governments should enable metropolitan governance, ensuring the involvement of both local and regional governments in the reform process. As there is no one-size-fits-all solution, different models could be established within the same country in order to respond to the specific needs of different metropolitan regions. Most importantly, providing metropolitan regions with authority over critical metropolitan concerns (which may be context specific while tending to have a strong focus on spatial governance) requires democratic legitimacy, legal frameworks and reliable financing mechanisms for metropolitan governance.</p> <p>9. A buoyant and participative civil society involves clear recognition of citizens' rights: formal participation procedures should be complemented by collaborative partnerships which go beyond consultation of policies/interventions, recognising civil society groups as active 'partners' in new urban governance. Innovative and effective participation tools should be adopted to foster meaningful engagement and emancipation of all inhabitants, bringing social justice, liveability and democratic governance to the process of urban transformation. Alongside an active participatory democracy, transparency and accountability are the key pillars for new urban governance.</p> <p>10. Capacity building for urban governance needs to be accelerated: improving differentiated capacities linked to urban governance needs to take into account institutional capacities, the technical and professional skills of individuals as well as local leadership skills. Building capacities related to urban planning, budgeting, public asset management, digital era governance, data gathering and engaging with other stakeholders are of particular urgency. Capacity building actions need to go beyond conventional training and stimulate learning in the short, medium and long-term.</p>
Pg. 6	<p>1.2 Goals of a new urban governance</p> <p>A new urban governance will need to respond to the call for the exercise of the right to the city as a strategic approach to combat exclusion. This involves the redistribution of material, social, political and cultural resources, based on the principles of democracy, equality, inclusiveness and recognition of diversity. The right to the city nurtures tolerance and peaceful coexistence whilst guaranteeing equal access and protection of common</p>

	<p>goods, including land use. It also seeks the far-reaching participation of all relevant actors in decision-making.</p> <p>A new urban governance should also promote sustainable and equitable development that prevents the depletion of natural resources and addresses environmental challenges. It should foster a new economy that values social emancipation and achievements above profit, where work is a means to enhance human dignity and inclusion.</p> <p>Finally, a new urban governance should facilitate territorial equity by linking up cities and rural areas and ensuring access to services for all based on the principle of spatial equality.</p>
Pg. 10	<p>2.5 Inequality and exclusion</p> <p>Current urbanisation processes are reinforcing inequality and exclusion – particularly for women, youth, the elderly, minorities and the urban poor. Social imbalances cause friction and in some cases violence and political instability. It is generally acknowledged that the existing challenges cannot be overcome without proper participation and a far-reaching, active involvement of inhabitants. Participatory processes still suffer from structural constraints, with an absence of legislation that recognises civil society organisations, guarantees and promotes participation, and allows access to public information and data to promote informed citizenship organisation. There is also a lack of transparency and accountability in public institutions.</p> <p>The challenge of advancing a right to the city approach – based on the recognition of human rights as a cross-cutting dimension of urban policy, – is central to strengthening citizen participation and ensuring more equity in urban societies.</p>
Pg. 30	<p>6. CONCLUSION</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>New urban governance needs to respond clearly to the new demands of citizens to address the right to the city by creating enabling legal and institutional frameworks at different governmental levels.</p> <p>New urban governance will increasingly be the result of complex and intricate multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance systems, based on interactions between different levels of government and between citizens and a wide range of non-governmental actors, including the private sector.</p> <p>At the national level, a robust multi-level governance system will have 1) strong national policies for urban and territorial development, 2) effective decentralisation processes, as well as 3) transparent and accountable institutions supported by good, coherent and enforceable legal frameworks.</p> <p>At city level, strong and capable local governments are the key levers to ensure inclusive and sustainable urban governance and accountable and transparent city management, with a vibrant multi-stakeholder involvement to achieve equal rights and opportunities for all. It is at city level that the right to the city should be recognised as a cross-cutting policy approach.</p>

# HABITAT III POLICY PAPER

## 10 HOUSING POLICIES (2016)

<https://www.habitat3.org/bitcache/3fa49d554e10b9ea6391b6e3980d2a32ce979ce9?vid=572979&disposition=inline&op=view>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 15	Member states are invited to align policies with the “Right to the City” vision, which outlines inhabitants’ rights and responsibilities to collectively shape their city’s growth and transformation processes. While this Policy Paper does not endorse the full platform of The World Charter for the Right to the City as a definition of the “Right to the City”, we support the Charter’s vision of “the equitable usufruct of cities within the principles of sustainability, democracy, equity, and social justice”.
Pg. 40 - 41	<p>APPENDIX II: PU10 HOUSING POLICY PAPER GLOSSARY</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Right to the city: The World Charter for the Right to the City defines the right to the city as the equitable usufruct of cities within the principles of sustainability, democracy, equity, and social justice. It is the collective right of the inhabitants of cities, in particular of the vulnerable and marginalized groups, that confers upon them legitimacy of action and organization, based on their uses and customs, with the objective to achieve full exercise of the right to free self-determination and an adequate standard of living. The Right to the City is interdependent of all internationally recognized and integrally conceived human rights, and therefore includes all the civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights which are already regulated in the international human rights treaties. A document on Urban Policies and the Right to the City further emphasizes on right to the city as a vehicle for social inclusion in cities implying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Liberty, freedom, and the benefit of the city life for all.</li> <li>ii) Transparency, equity, and efficiency in city administrations.</li> <li>iii) Participation and respect in local democratic decision making.</li> <li>iv) Recognition of diversity in economic, social, and cultural life.</li> <li>v) Reducing poverty, social exclusion, and urban violence.</li> </ul>

# MONTRÉAL DECLARATION FOR HABITAT III (2015)

## THEMATIC MEETING ON “METROPOLITAN AREAS”

<https://www.habitat3.org/bitcache/71fd8c92a882fdf2b8e1b364fa875ae62548d4c8?vid=557811&disposition=inline&op=view>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 6	TRANSFORMING OUR METROPOLITAN WORLD

	<p>[...]</p> <p>26. We recognize the importance of placing the right to the city for all in the center of metropolitan policies, to combine citizen participation with the right to education, health, housing and work, and the recognition and respect of differences in order to promote cohabitation, conviviality, a strong metropolitan identity and a strong sense of belonging.</p>
Pg. 8	<p>A NEW MULTILEVEL METROPOLITAN COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>38. The Montréal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas recognizes that, to meet challenges and opportunities of global urbanization, all levels of government will have to share a common vision in order to establish coherent strategies aimed at implementing the right to the city and improving the quality of life in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.</p>

## CUENCA DECLARATION FOR HABITAT III (2015)

### THEMATIC MEETING ON “INTERMEDIATE CITIES: URBAN GROWTH AND RENEWAL”

<http://habitat3.cuenca.gob.ec/archivos/declarat/HIII-DeclarationCuencaEN.pdf>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 3	<p>We advocate for the recognition of the importance of placing the right to the city for all, encompassing the notion of accessibility and affordability, at the center of urban development policies, combining citizen’s participation with the right to education, health, housing, services and employment opportunities, recognizing diversity and promoting conviviality, identity and sense of belonging;</p>

## MEXICO CITY DECLARATION FOR HABITAT III (2016)

### THEMATIC MEETING ON “FINANCING URBAN DEVELOPMENT: THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE”

<http://habitat3mexicocity.mx/documentos/DeclaracionFinal-borrador/Mexico%20City%20Declaration%20for%20Habitat%20III.pdf>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 2	<p>The Millennium Challenge</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Iv. The <b>right to the city</b>, partnerships and governance: Public regulations have often failed to create a framework that protects general interest from social and spatial exclusion, especially in metropolitan areas. Local governments cannot address, on their own, the multiple challenges and needs especially in times of diminished resources. A successful</p>



	<p>governance scheme entails the respect of fundamental human rights, age and gender responsiveness, inclusiveness, participation, convergence, co-elaboration and co-implementation of public policies through transparent and democratic institutions and processes as well as participation of all relevant actors in financial decision making. This, together with capacity building programmes and education for citizenship on responsibilities and rights, is essential to gain more appropriation and empowerment by local stakeholders and civil society, including women and the youth. The <b>right to the city</b> requires intentional redistribution of investments, services and infrastructures prioritizing under-served territories. A full set of instruments that can foster the right to land is needed in order to prevent land to be merely considered as a commodity.</p>
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## TOLUCA DECLARATION FOR HABITAT III (2016) REGIONAL MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

<http://habitat-toluca.mx/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ENGLISHDECLARATION..pdf>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 1	<p>The Right to the City is considered in some countries as a guiding concept advocating for a living environment that has the necessary conditions to facilitate the universal and effective exercise of all human rights, economic, social, and cultural. When these rights will be realized and all actors will assume the corresponding commitments and responsibilities, urbanization will effectively generate development opportunities that humanity has looked since it started concentrating in urban agglomerations.</p>

## BARCELONA DECLARATION FOR HABITAT III (2016) THEMATIC MEETING ON “PUBLIC SPACES”

<https://www.habitat3.org/bitcache/975978dd841424298425c84df671171ca467a70f?vid=576593&disposition=inline&op=view>

MAIN CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE DOCUMENT	
Pg. 1-2	<p>We stress that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Human rights are key to advancing and developing an urbanization that is sustainable and socially inclusive, that promotes equality, combats discrimination in all its forms and empowers individuals and communities. The New Urban Agenda is a unique opportunity for state authorities at all level to realize the human rights of all inhabitants.</li> <li>· The Right to the City is a new paradigm that provides an alternative framework to re-think cities and urbanization. It envisions the effective fulfillment of all internationally agreed human rights, sustainable development objectives as expressed through the Sustainable Development Goals, and the commitments of the Habitat Agenda.</li> </ul>

	<p>· There is a need to preserve the character and quality of existing historical public areas, in order to promote local identity and to transmit heritage to the future generations; improve existing public areas in central and peripheral parts of the city, in order to upgrade their quality and foster the sense of belonging of the communities; design new public spaces in built areas and in new urban expansions, to increase the quality of life of the inhabitants and strengthen social stability.</p> <p>Why public space</p> <p>In an ever more urbanized world, the right to the city must be guaranteed to the people who share the urban space today and to the coming generations who are going to inherit it tomorrow. This means it is necessary to have urban planning and public policies capable of producing more mixed and compact cities and human settlements marked by gender and social justice. Compactness and mixture make them fairer and more sustainable and, therefore, better prepared for facing the erosions to the right to the city such as gentrification, spatial segregation or sprawl. Urban public space is not only the setting in which these erosions become more evident; it is also the place from which they can be staunchly reverted with greater firmness. However, in order for the public space to respond to its true purpose and be at the service of the people and achieve the democratization of our cities, it should be tackled from an integrated logic which goes beyond its own physical boundaries and address fundamental dimensions such as 1)“Agora” (its social and political dimension), 2) Mobility, 3) Economy 4) Housing.</p>
Pg. 6	<p>We conclude that:</p> <p>In order to have more democratic cities, namely fairer and more sustainable ones, we need to develop public policies and urban planning that best foster more compact and mixt urban fabrics in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•[Agoras] Freedom, gender equality, equity and diversity of expression, transparency, pedagogy, culture of civic and critical engagement, as well as binding participation and accountability pave the way for the democratic co-production of urban space, for all inhabitants whether temporary or permanent, living in legal or illegal conditions.</li> <li>•[Mobility] Dependence of private car and its catastrophic consequences on health, equity, climate change, energetic waste, urban sprawl and spatial segregation is replaced by walkability, cycling and public transport.</li> <li>•[Economy] Opportunities to participate of the common wealth and democratisation of economic activities are ensured to include small–scale operators and local producers.</li> <li>•[Housing] The right to adequate, affordable and sustainable housing is guaranteed simultaneously with the right to a diverse and well located neighbourhood.</li> </ul> <p>These four fields are universal because they concern cities all around the world. That is why local governments have to be provided with sufficient resources in order to address them properly and be able to guarantee human rights and the right to the city.</p>