



# The challenges for housing and land management in the context of industrial safety and land-use planning

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## Mandate:

To improve housing, urban sustainability and land governance



**UNECE  
Committee on  
Housing and Land  
Management**

# Challenges

In the UNECE region are:

- sustainable land administration and land use,
- access to land and security of tenure,
- improved spatial planning policies,
- better urban environmental performance
- and strengthening social cohesion in cities.

The Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration are the UNECE intergovernmental bodies that have a mandate to compile, disseminate and exchange information and experiences on housing, urban development and land administration policies.

# HABITAT III Regional Report for the UNECE Region

There are:

- Increased waste generation, technological hazards and risks to human health caused by harmful chemicals.
- Air, soil and water pollution due to the use of outdated industrial technologies and the lack of consistent environmental policies.

The existence of contaminated sites continues to be a threat to the environment. Spatial planning provides a means of addressing environmental problems.

# The importance of linking communities

- Poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations may lack affordable and adequate housing, face unhealthy and unsafe housing and physical barriers, and/or related discrimination and exclusion due to poor planning .. close to hazardous sites.
- Natural ... as well as human-generated disasters, have resulted in large-scale damage to housing across the ECE region and present serious challenges governments and the region. National policies and planning are often inadequate to prevent and minimize damage from disasters and emergency situations
- Housing stock that is resilient to natural and human generated hazards, enhanced through adequate planning, design and safe construction
- A degraded urban environment, with air and noise pollution and a lack of green spaces and mobility options, poses health risks.

## Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations



## Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
11.a	Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
11.b	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
11.c	Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials



# European Habitat and the Prague Declaration

- Need to **plan and manage urban areas** through the cooperation of national governments with regional and local authorities within established coordination mechanisms, **preventing negative impact of urban growth and sprawl**.
- **Increase resilience** of cities against both natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological risks, as well as their cascade effects.



# New Urban Agenda

We commit ourselves to:

- strengthening the sustainable management of resources, including land, water (oceans, seas and freshwater), energy, materials, forests and food, **with particular attention to the environmentally sound management and minimization of all waste, hazardous chemicals, including air and short-lived climate pollutants, greenhouse gases and noise, and in a way that considers urban-rural linkages**, functional supply and value chains vis-à-vis environmental impact and sustainability and that strives to transition to a circular economy while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.
- strengthening the resilience of cities and human settlements, including **through the development of quality infrastructure and spatial planning, by adopting and implementing integrated, age- and gender-responsive policies and plans** and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and by mainstreaming holistic and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels to reduce vulnerabilities and risk, [..]
- supporting moving from reactive to **more proactive risk-based, all hazards and all-of-society approaches**, such as raising public awareness of risks and promoting investments to prevent risks and build resilience, while also ensuring timely and effective local responses to address the immediate needs of inhabitants affected by natural and human-made disasters and conflicts. This should include **the integration of the “build back better” principles into the post-disaster recovery process to integrate resilience-building, environmental and spatial measures and lessons from past disasters, as well as awareness of new risks, into future planning.**

# Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Improve sustainability of housing in the ECE region through effective policies and actions supported by international cooperation

The charter is based on **four** key principles:

1. Environmental Protection
2. Economic Effectiveness
3. Social inclusion and participation
4. Cultural adequacy



# Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

## Principles (Environment):

- Housing should be planned, constructed and used in a way that minimizes environmental impact and promotes environmental sustainability.
- Housing stock that is resilient to natural and human-generated hazards, enhanced through adequate planning, design and safe construction.
- Promote sustainable urban development and supports the **Sustainable Development Goal 11** on cities and human settlements



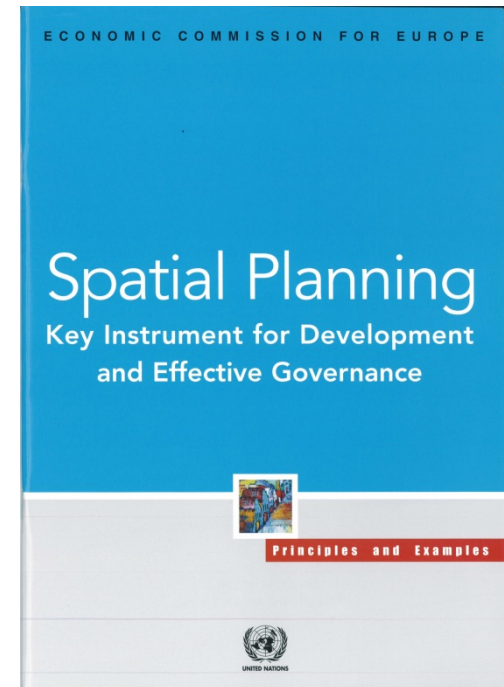
# Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development

- Creating synergies using existing platforms and involving relevant programmes, agencies, bodies and other stakeholders, to ensure consistency and complementarity, and allowing effective collaboration on housing, urban planning and land-related issues.

# Spatial Planning: Key Instrument for Development and Effective Governance (2008)

This study identifies:

- The role and benefits of spatial planning
- The particular challenges vis-à-vis spatial planning that face countries in transition
- The division of roles and responsibilities
- The main stages in the process of developing spatial plans
- The priority actions for countries in transition.



# Spatial Planning Key Instrument for Development and Effective Governance, 2008

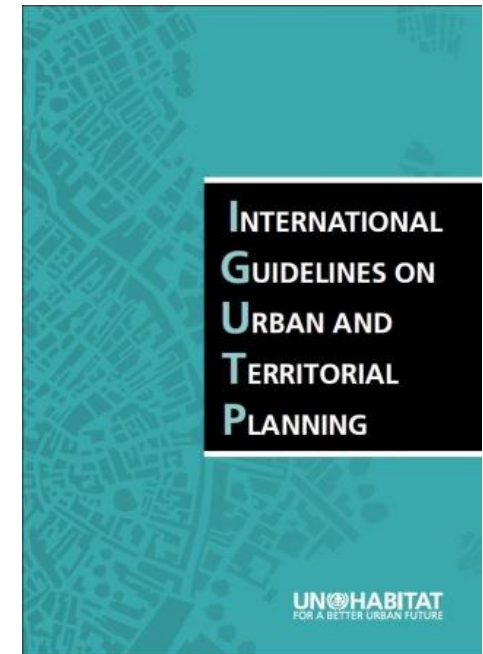
Providing guidance to improve spatial planning systems in the UNECE Region, especially in countries in transition considering:

- Principles of spatial planning (6 principles)
- Roles and responsibilities (allocation of competences)
- Components of spatial planning systems (tools, directives, enforcement, spatial strategies and environmental assessment)
- Recommendations for stronger and more effective systems (encouraging debate, legal frameworks, guidance and guidelines for spatial planning)



# Regionalisation of International Guidelines

The International Urban and Territorial Planning Guidelines provide national governments, local authorities, civil society organizations and planning professionals with a [global reference framework](#) that promotes more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories.



# Regionalisation of International Guidelines

- In the UNECE region, the challenges are different. There is a special need in assistance in countries in transition economies with the history of planned economies.
- The UNECE and UN-Habitat organised a **joint workshop** in Minsk in April 2016 where discussed **adapting the Guidelines to the context of countries with economies in transition in the UNECE region**. The workshop recommended elaborating a joint UNECE-UN-Habitat programme on capacity building for urban planners in countries with transition economies in the UNECE region based on the Guidelines.



# Joint UNECE workshop on safety and land-use planning

## 13 April 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

- The workshop focused on relevant experiences, good practices and challenges encountered by Parties and stakeholders in the field of safety and land-use planning, in particular with respect to the siting and modification of industrial hazardous activities.
- Jointly organized by the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), in cooperation with the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the EU/European Investment Bank.

# Regionalisation of International Guidelines

- A proposal for a joint capacity-building programme on urban planning with UN-Habitat and other relevant organizations was endorsed by the UNECE CHLM in September 2016.
- The joint capacity building will include trainings, pilot projects, advisory services to promote sustainable urban development, especially in countries with transition economies. Pilot projects are being prepared jointly with national governments and municipalities in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan.
- The programme will also support the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the UNECE Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE region for the period 2014-2020.

# Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Urban legal frameworks and urban and territorial planning and design have an entirely interdependent relationship; regulatory or statutory frameworks establish the characteristics and scope of planning processes and therefore are fundamental for providing the sufficient tools for adequate and sustainable land use planning.
- **Action area 3: Urban and territorial planning and design**
  - Integrate forward-thinking urban and territorial planning and design with participative instruments and mechanisms capable of addressing the challenges of current and future urban systems.

# Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus

- **Comprehensive Land Use Plans:** Comprehensive land use plans can integrate the nexus principles to effectively reduce waste, pollution and environmental degradation, while efficiently using water, energy, land and other resources in a participatory manner. Moreover, adopting integrated resource management can support collaborative governance across boundaries, strengthen urban-rural linkages and support the implementation of both urban and rural strategies.
- Urban-rural relationships need to be highlighted and strengthened through policy and planning frameworks, as these are critical for integrated resource management. Considerable synergies can be developed between nexus approaches and integrative solutions to promote resilience and measures such as peri-urban agriculture, rainwater harvesting and **sustainable land use planning**.

# Thank you for your attention!

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