

**UN**  **HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

*A better quality of life for all  
in an urbanizing world*

# UNECE Aarhus Convention

## Tenth meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making

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Agenda item 5

### Public participation in decision-making on urban development/cities

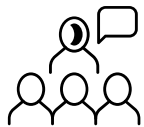
Presentation by: **Robert Lewis-Lettington**  
Chief, Land, Housing and Shelter Section

Date: **Tuesday, 11 October**

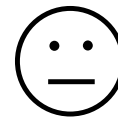
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# The complex nature of decision-making

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Territorial and urban development are the collective work of multiple stakeholders



However, quality varies

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## The Geneva Declaration

on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development



- Transparency
- Public participation
- Rule of law

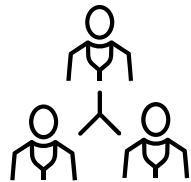


- Education
- Capacity building
- Policy dialogues
- Partnerships

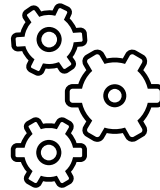
## Ingredients for success

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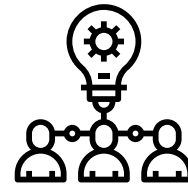
Governments that have successfully implemented sustainable projects...



... promoted  
**public participation**



...mobilized a wide range of  
**governance approaches...**



... created a mindset  
across actors and  
institutions for **shared  
culture to quality**

# Active, free and meaningful participation

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## United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development

### Transparent decision-making

*“Individuals affected by administrative decisions are allowed and encouraged to know not only **the basic facts and figures**, but also **the mechanisms and processes** behind such administrative transactions.”*

## New Urban Agenda



**Participation of all urban residents**  
(para. 87, 88, 90, 91 and 92)

Through collaboration among local governments, communities, civil societies and the private sector in infrastructure and basic services provision as well as urban and territorial policy and planning processes

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A global reference framework:

## International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning

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*A global reference framework that highlights linkages between urban and territorial planning and inclusive public participation in decision-making.*

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## “Urban Maestro” initiative:

### Innovative governance strategies for urban design

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**Urban  
Maestro**

*New governance strategies for urban design*

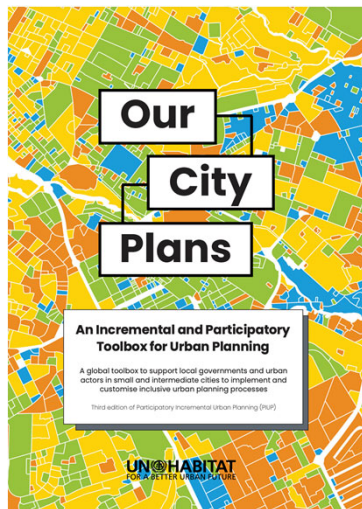
*An initiative, mainly in European context, exploring how the **soft, non-regulatory powers** of the state can shape decisions that help deliver **better-designed places**.*

<https://urbanmaestro.org/>

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# Our City Plans: a toolbox for integrated participatory urban planning

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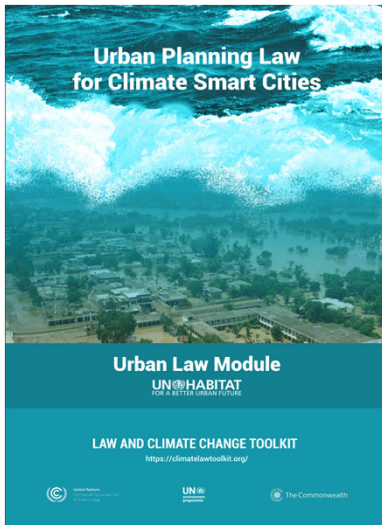
*An **action-oriented** toolbox to develop better and **more integrated participatory planning** processes, giving the possibility to governments to **customise** their own planning processes based on their vision, budget and time constraints.*

<https://ourcityplans.unhabitat.org/>

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# Urban Planning Law for Climate and Smart Cities Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit



*A global resource to help countries establish **legal frameworks** for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and development of NDCs - for **more ambitious and transformative national and local climate governance through robust public participation.***

<https://climatelawtoolkit.org/>

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# Environment and public participation

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## Enabling Meaningful Public Participation in Spatial Planning

*(toolkit under preparation)*

- Best practices of participatory planning from selected countries.
- Demonstrates that participatory planning strengthens democracy and helps to counteract polarisation and reduce inequality.

## UN-Habitat Environmental and Social Safeguards System 3.0

- Consider the **impact of spatial planning and large-scale infrastructure on ecosystems and well-being** from the outset of programmes
- Integrate the principles of **ecosystem services and nature-based solutions** in newly developed infrastructure and spatial plans

## For more information

### **New Urban Agenda**

<https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/nua>

### **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning**

<https://unhabitat.org/international-guidelines-on-urban-and-territorial-planning>

### **UN-Habitat, Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit**

<https://climatelawtoolkit.org/>

### **Our City Plans**

<https://ourcityplans.unhabitat.org/>

### **Guide on Leveraging Multi-Level Governance for Health Equity**

<https://unhabitat.org/a-guide-leveraging-multi-level-governance-approaches-to-promote-health-equity>

### **Urban Maestro - New Governance Strategies for Urban Design**

[www.urbanmaestro.org](http://www.urbanmaestro.org)

[https://urbanmaestro.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/urban-maestro\\_new-governance-strategies-for-urban-design.pdf](https://urbanmaestro.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/urban-maestro_new-governance-strategies-for-urban-design.pdf)

# Thank you

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[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

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