

**Comments on “The City We Need: Principles for a New Urban Paradigm”
From Isocarp UN Habitat III Task Force**

	The City We Need: Principles for a New Urban Paradigm (original text; bold new text)	Comments from Task Force <i>(Bold: new text)</i>
New	<p>“The city we need – the spaces we create” <i>Extension of the title</i></p>	<p>We suggest and extension of the title “The city we need “ to “the spaces we create” <i>Planning the city development towards the need of the people and different actors is a process of creating new spaces. To reach this aim we need to apply comprehensive and interdisciplinary methods of urban planning in order to coordinate the development of settlements, transportation systems and economic spaces.</i></p> <p>We think it is very important to mention urban and regional planning as the basis for creating the city we need. All kinds of planning – whether it is from the public administration or from the private sector – should bear in mind the impact it has on the entire urban system and the responsibilities that come with planning the city of the future.</p>
New 1	<p>The city we need is smart, culturally flourishing, well planned and designed. Integrative urban design of high quality plays a crucial role in a city’s liveability. The city should be designed with respect to the human scale incorporating the local history. Planning methods should be based on qualitative and quantitative methods applying new technologies for the collection of space-related data. .</p>	<p>We suggest to add the principle of liveability at the very beginning. A city’s culture should be diverse, inclusive, and prosperous.</p> <p>With rapid urbanization, it is important that cities do not lose their human scale. A human scale city would entail compact, well-planned neighbourhoods and districts with facilities within walking distance, narrower internal streets and islands of primarily pedestrian districts connected with high-speed transit. Such spaces could be helpful in bringing the community together and fostering a sense of well-being. Most historic districts were built on a human scale and that is probably the reason why people love being in such spaces. Of course, from an economical point of view, historic districts may not always make a lot of sense, but these places incorporate the local history and culture.</p> <p>At the same time, the public administration and local agents should foster new solutions for integrative urban design, e.g. buildings and open space. Urban Planning plays a very important role in steering the city development towards these principles. Planning methods should be based on qualitative and quantitative methods.</p> <p>In a smart city this entails: applying new technology such as internet and big data to upgrade the city management, public services, public mobilization and effective involvement and participation in public affairs.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>The city we need is socially inclusive. It provides spaces for all segments and age groups of the population to partake in social and cultural expressions. It eliminates all physical and spatial forms of segregation and exclusion.</p>	<p>The socially harmonious city should aim at harmonious integration, equality among different communities, ethnics and social classes. There should be places for diversity and for the presence of many unique social groups and local communities, which can hold their own identity. The city fosters integrative engagement in order to support the integration of different groups following the ideas of diversity. We suggest to add: <i>There should be places for diversity and for the presence of many unique social groups and local communities. The city fosters integrative engagement in order to support the integration of different agent groups</i></p>
<p>3</p>	<p>The city we need is well planned, walkable, and transit-friendly. Schools are within walking or biking distance from homes. Offices are located no farther than a few transit stops away from homes. Shopping for daily necessities is within walking distance of residential buildings and located near transit stops. Open space for recreation is near schools, work, and home.</p>	<p>Instead of planning on behalf of people they should be involved in the planning process and understand what makes a city walkable? How to invite people to walk more? It is not clear why “transit” is so important? We recommend to speak about the access to public transport systems and to support public transportation networks in the city for a sustainable mobility. We suggest: <i>The city we need is accessible, walkable and provides access to public transport systems. Access to resilient transportation systems in all parts of the city is mandatory.</i></p>
<p>4</p>	<p>The city we need is a regenerative city. It is designed to be resilient by being energy efficient, low-carbon, and increasingly reliant on renewable energy sources. It replenishes the resources it consumes and recycles and reuses waste. It uses water, land, and energy in a coordinated manner and in harmony with its surrounding hinterland in support of urban and peri-urban agriculture.</p>	<p>We suggest: <i>The city we need is a resilient, regenerative and green city.</i> The city we need should be an ecologically-harmonious city with a well-developed green infrastructure system which includes plenty of green space, wetland, waterways, and good linkage between the green hubs. It is very important that cities of the future are low-carbon and depend on renewable energy sources (SDG 13). Cities are major contributors to climate change and improved planning practices need to slow down this development. Local people should be well-informed about how much water or energy they spend for their everyday activities. Air pollution of all kinds should be reduced by appropriate measurements. However, we also need to acknowledge the impact of climate change on cities and be prepared to adapt to what we cannot mitigate now. With rising temperatures and erratic weather, the world is going to face natural disasters such as hurricanes,</p>

		<p>floods or droughts with increased frequency and intensity.</p> <p>The use of renewable energy sources is an effective measure in this regard as it will not only cut down carbon emissions but also reduce dependence on centralized systems that are vulnerable to disasters. However, building a resilient city would also mean having robust, decentralized and modular public systems (SDG 9: resilience).</p> <p>We'll suggest to extent the principle by adding the aspect of access to healthy food options as an important condition of urban life and agricultural production on a local or regional level in healthy environmental conditions.</p> <p>In order to cushion external food shocks, the city should become a place that not only consumes but also produces food (SDG 2: food security).</p> <p>We suggest to add in the comment: <i>The city should not only consume but also produce food on a local level and to be supplied with food on a regional level.</i></p>
<p>5</p>	<p>The city we need is economically vibrant and inclusive. It encourages and fosters local economic development from the smallest entrepreneur to the largest corporations. It provides a one-stop- shop for streamlined licensing and other administrative services. It recognizes and protects the specific needs of the informal sector of the economy in its economic development policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Here, we recommend to reinforce the idea of local markets and making cities less sensitive to external global market effects. The development of local entrepreneurship responsibilities is to be supported. The cities we want should be engines of economic development as well as stabilizing anchors: In many countries shrinking economy made development difficult so that cities are needed to stabilise regional infrastructure and economy.</p> <p>Economic resilience would entail promoting local business, which would also protect the community from future financial meltdowns (this also bolsters principle#4). The key is in being proactive rather than reactive. Policies and plans will need to be worked out at national, federal and city level to be consistent but yet account for regional differences.</p> <p>We suggest: The city we need is economically vibrant, productive and the engine of economic development.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>The city we need has a singular identity and sense of place. It recognizes culture as key to human dignity and to sustainability. It involves cultural actors to unlock the creative potential of all citizens. It strengthens the bonds</p>	<p>Due to the fact that the word 'identity' is always difficult to use in a common sense, we'll suggest to avoid any kind of exclusion. The city we need should be integrative also to small and temporary settlements, all kind of migrants, cultures, and participants of the society. This understanding avoids contradiction to any other principles like 1 or 4 and establishes a common ground between the principles. We'll suggest to speak of "strong and individual identities" in plural form rather than limiting a city to one "singular identity".</p>

	between city and its surrounding hinterland.	
7	The city we need is a safe city. The city is welcoming night and day, inviting all people to use the streets, parks, and transit without fear. Public officials - the police, the fire department, and health, welfare, transit, and environmental services - and neighborhood residents and community groups communicate frequently and speak with one voice.	The principle 6 is close to principle 1 in its objectives. We'll prefer a specification of the principles to a generic summary in order not to miss any important point. It is an opportunity to reinforce gender and culture sensitivity, and to introduce a modern understanding of authorities as partners. We'll suggest to add: all citizens, women and children and all kinds of minorities , use the streets, parks, and transit without fear. ...and neighborhood residents and community groups communicate frequently and respectfully .
8	The city we need is a healthy city. The city's parks and gardens are havens of peace and tranquility and harbor local flora and fauna and biodiversity. All public and private entities providing public services (water, waste, energy, transport) work together with the city's residents and have public and environmental health as a common performance indicator.	The principle 7 is very closely connected to principle 3. Either they are going to be merged or distinguished more clearly. In the latter, we could focus mainly on the need of natural processes in principle 3. On the other hand, principle 7 could center the need of the city's inhabitants with regards to clean environmental conditions and food supply.. Separating the two principles doesn't mean not to be aware of their interrelation. We'll suggest adding that public entities do not only supply the city with public services but also take care of the protection of natural basis of existence (air, water, soil) as an important condition of health. We'll suggest to replace the words "parks" and "garden" by " greenlands " in general to avoid consideration of artificial or constructed environment only, but to integrate natural areas i.e. rivers and wetlands in an urban surrounding, which better represents a modern approach in urban planning.
9	The city we need is affordable and equitable. Land, infrastructure, housing, and basic services are planned with low income groups in mind. Public services are planned together with the communities they serve and consciously include the needs of women, youth, and vulnerable populations.	Very often the experience in the developing world shows that low-income housing and facilities are often planned well but fail to reach the target groups. With strong market economies, they often end up being resold at market prices to young professionals or speculative buyers. We need instruments to ensure that implementation and monitoring of plans and policies for the poor take place. We'll suggest that instruments for proper implementation and monitoring of pro poor plans are in place to ensure delivery to the target groups.

<p>10</p>	<p>The city we need is managed at the metropolitan level. It coordinates sectoral policies and actions (economy, mobility, biodiversity, energy, water, and waste) within a comprehensive and coherent local framework. Communities and neighborhoods are active participants in metropolitan decision making.</p>	<p>We'll suggest to add: The city we need is managed at the local level as well as at the metropolitan level. We'll suggest the following text: <i>The city should be planned and managed as an entity with coordinated sectoral policies and actions (economy, housing, mobility, biodiversity, energy, water, and waste) within a comprehensive and coherent local framework. Cities and smaller towns should have devolved power to take local decisions, with communities and neighborhoods being active participants in the process.</i></p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Roles and responsibilities between all stakeholders, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, are clearly defined with resources allocated strategically, justly, and around a common agenda. In sum, the city we need is socially inclusive, well-planned, regenerative and resilient, and prosperous.</p>	<p>The additional text at the end of the principles outline could be summed up in the notion of 'Well-Being', which is at the center of planning discourse these days and is also part of SDG 3. Well-being is a construct of all the factors mentioned as part of these principles. Health is just one of the many factors contributing to the well-being of an individual. Other factors contributing to well-being could be economic condition, feeling of safety and security, social connections, cultural rooting, satisfaction with facilities etc. In other words, the key aim of planning would be to ensure and promote well-being among citizens. We suggest to add a new principle 11: <i>The city we need ensures well-being for its citizens. The city shall provide all services and facilities which enhance personal freedom and enable citizens to achieve a good quality of life.</i></p>
	<p>In general:</p>	<p>An additional theme could be to expand on the concept of sustainability including long term funding and financial sustainability and deliverability, particularly of infrastructure. Urbanization has generally happened in an ad hoc manner (particularly in developing nations) creating wealth but often also creating more problems (congestion, growing social inequalities, lack of infrastructure capacity) than it solves for its inhabitants. This can be attributed in part to a lack of resources, land ownership issues and lack of teeth to implement well intentioned plans. Financial and investment planning and implementation forms could be key elements of implementation in urban planning</p>

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