The City We Need and the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda - How professionals will contribute?

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Date: 5th September 2016
Time: 9.00 - 11.00 am
Venue: ICC Durban Plenary Hall 3BC
PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW URBAN PARADIGM

• PRINCIPLE 1: The City We Need is *socially inclusive* and engaging.
• PRINCIPLE 2: The City We Need is *affordable, accessible* and *equitable*.
• PRINCIPLE 3: The City We Need is *economically vibrant* and inclusive.
• PRINCIPLE 4: The City We Need is *collectively managed* and *democratically governed*.
• PRINCIPLE 5: The City We Need fosters *cohesive territorial development*.
• PRINCIPLE 6: The City We Need is *regenerative* and *resilient*.
• PRINCIPLE 7: The City We Need has *shared identities* and *sense of place*.
• PRINCIPLE 8: The City We Need is well *planned, walkable, and transit-friendly*.
• PRINCIPLE 9: The City We Need is *safe, healthy* and promotes well-being.
• PRINCIPLE 10: The City We Need learns and *innovates*. 
## Challenges for African Countries

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Figure 5: Satisfaction with democracy
134 countries | 2011-2013

Participants were asked: “Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in [your country]?”
(% somewhat / very satisfied)
Colonial Legacy

• **Spatial, Institutions** (structures, legislations), **worldviews** (citiness – see Robinson).

• Neo-colonial tendencies (**Imitative models** without relevance) e.g. CIDs, Mega-projects, etc.

• The city is **insularly European**.

• The stereotypes – **stigmatisation** of urban development (Africa, African, Afro).
Modernist Urbanism

• Modernist urban change that **denies dependent relations**, interconnectedness (e.g. rural-urban; formal informal; node-centric, urban hierarchy, etc. (vs **ordinary cities** – connect, webs, flows, etc.

• **Grid Logic**: Urban plans, zones, building codes, schemes, etc.

• **Exclusionary legislations**, Policies and strategies are created to legitimise the order.

• Many poor/‘othered’ people are **pushed outside the grid**.(rely- ‘pirate urbanism,’ ‘guerrilla housing,’ informality [**indigenous people**]
Neoliberal Nation Building

• Ideology or policy model that emphasizes the value of free market competition.

• Neoliberalism sees competition, individualism, consumerism as the defining characteristic of human relations (communalism, reciprocity, ubuntu, etc excluded.

• The market rationality that pervades through its logic.

• Urban Development is a function of alienation: paranoid urbanism, mono-cultural enclaves, etc.

• It creates spatial fragmentation, inequalities among communities= sequence of equivalence
Market is the king

• A country's independent authority and the right to govern itself seems compromised.

• The Market is the king.

• People are valued more for being customers than citizens – a consumerist city.

• Development of car-dependent cities.

• ‘Cookie-cutting’ planning is done in the name of the market.
Market is the king

• Transport infrastructure **determines location** and **direction** of development.

• Low-density sprawl, **spatial mismatch** between jobs affordable housing and transportation.

• The **urban economy can not keep pace** with the growth of the population.

• 62 percent and 43 percent, respectively, of the urban population live in **slums** and are faced with unacceptable levels of risk to illnesses, worm infections, cholera and diarrhoea.
Informality

• Cities have **limited formal economic base** and the great majority of people lives in **slums** and survive in the **informal economy**.

• Without skills and transport poor people are condemned to remain **out of the mainstream** of the society.

• Their struggle for survival has a dire impact on the **urban environment**, e.g. cutting trees for firewood or drinking polluted water.
Natural Disasters

• **Rainstorms, earthquakes** and other weather phenomena can exact a devastating toll on property, human welfare, natural resources, and the economies of developing countries.
Post-democratic tendencies

- A governmental configuration in which the **monied elite rule**, and the interests of state citizens are ignored for corporate profit (Colin Crouch).
- Voters can choose between several political parties, but **there is little or no difference between the representatives** they elect.
- **Business elites** use lobbying, outsourcing, and offshore tax havens as effective tools to sway policies.
- Political parties appear unable to form alternatives to the **diktats of market forces**.
What professionals can do on the ground?

• Inclusive
• Equitable
• Safe
• healthy
• Resilient
• Competitive
• Sustainable
What professionals can do on the ground?

- Foster **Inclusive, Participatory and collaborative Governance**
- **Educational reform and transformation**
- “**Rethink Africa,**” or write the world from Africa (Mbembe 2002); **Global-Africanisation** (Sihlongonyane 2015)
- ‘Epistemic disobedience’ within global knowledge production - two approaches: **de-westernisation** and **de-colonial position**.
- **Redeem blackness/Otherness** (race, gender, sexuality, etc)
- See the “global” “regional” and “local” **not as scales**, but rather various **interrelated entangled dimensions and folds.**
What professionals can do on the ground?

• A fundamental change of attitude towards African languages.

• **Redefine Capitalism:** infusing ubuntu, reciprocity, collective accountability and profitability.

• **Let’s create new names**

• Change measures of success: **money** and **market mood**, but empowerment, social cohesion, representation, etc.

• Foster **positive behavioural change** e.g. appreciate public transport, non-motorised transport, environmental conservation, e.g. reduce the ecological footprint.
Thank you
Dankie
Asante sana
Ngiyibonga