From planning to implementation in Africa

Urban planning can contribute to improving the living conditions of current slum dwellers and provide adequate alternative

- to new urban formation, planning needs to be able to deal with informality. First, it is necessary to move away from an adversarial and recognition model. As a result, new forms need to be recognized that informality can play and adopt policies, laws and regulations that are adapted to its dynamic, such as legal provision against evictions, regulations and upgrading of informal settlements, and land sharing arrangements. Informal communities should be involved in the planning process so that they understand and support the outcome of the plan. However, for participation to be successful, there is a need for the political system to provide a strategic planning process with a legal basis for participation and give the planning outcomes a legal status through urban pacts, provision and enhancement of participation by local government, local communities, the informal sector, civil society, as well as the private and public sectors working together to stimulate and improve the local economy. These strategies can contribute to poverty reduction if they are inclusive and pro-poor. For planning to create enabling conditions for employment, there is a need to adopt more flexible land-use management and sharing systems for mixed-use land, as opposed to the蜗牛-like process typical of inner city planning. This allows for faster generating or economic activities to take place within privatised areas or in other appropriately located sites.

- Emerging climate change has serious implications for the spatial structure and functioning of African cities. Slanted, shifting settlements away from flood- and landslide-prone areas, coastal land at risk, watershed protection areas, forest and nature reserves and will require intervention to adopt a climate-responsive pattern of urban growth through planning, including urban form, and through promoting compact cities instead of current urban sprawl.

- Urban planning also needs to include local economic development strategies through community-empowering participatory processes in which local government, local communities, the informal sector, civil society, as well as the private and public sectors work together to stimulate and improve the local economy. These strategies can contribute to poverty reduction if they are inclusive and pro-poor. For planning to create enabling conditions for employment, there is a need to adopt more flexible land-use management and sharing systems for mixed-use land, as opposed to the蜗牛-like process typical of inner city planning. This allows for faster generating or economic activities to take place within privatised areas or in other appropriately located sites.

- The urban reality on the ground changes rapidly. Strategic planning can swiftly respond to emerging issues and newly identified trends and patterns of urban development.

- Strategic planning focuses on few strategic actions that can contribute to steering urban development.

- Often, there is a fundamental belief that urbanisation is a problem. Over the past two centuries, however, cities, migration and trade have been the primary causes of progress. Far from being viewed as a problem, urbanisation should be considered as a positive force with the potential to transform societies and economies for the better. Most of the world’s successful economies are already urbanised or are rapidly urbanising, such as China, India and Vietnam. The current experience of Latin America, where massive slum-upgrading programmes are now trying to overcome decades of unnecessary public policy, demonstrates how much more difficult and expensive it is to retroactively upgrade slums and cities. The big challenge is to make slums the focus of the planning process, not for urban growth. Within the context of rapid urbanisation, planning is a necessity, not a luxury.

- The need for a climate-responsive pattern of urban growth through planning, including urban form, and through promoting compact cities instead of current urban sprawl.

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- Guiding Urbanisation in Africa for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction

- The need to rethink urbanisation in Africa

- Africa, while ongoing decentralisation has brought issues that need to be closer to local government. It has also resulted in the development of future urbanisation

- The key strategic urban projects identified that significantly improve the functioning of the city, such as public transport, markets, slums, evictions, etc. Are Public Private/Community Partnerships used for their implementation?

- Are capital investments prioritised to orient the development of the city through the creation of ‘green infrastructures’?

- Is strategic planning linked to regulatory planning instruments? In particular, are regulatory instruments used to protect land-use necessary for future infrastructure and services? Does the city plan the clear and unambiguous development rights encouraging investment by the private sector and developer?

- What policies can be played by communities in addressing priority issues? Is there effective engagement with community through community urban appraisal, community action plans and community coordinating councils?

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With the recognition of the fundamental values associ-ated with master planning, it became necessary to formulate new planning approaches. These new approach-es are being developed on the following basic premises: (a) African urban forms are driven by forces outside the control of local government, mainly for efficiency of the income-households to secure well-localised, affordable land; (b) planning authorities cannot command how development should take place, and planners can only orient to and maximise their opportunities, and (c) urban planning can ultimately, a political exercise that requires the intervention of the government, which should seek to promote the com-mon good while recording competing interests. As these basic premises transformed into new planning approaches over the past two decades, strategic planning emerged as a promising response to urban development. By shifting the object-oriented steering urban development rather than trying to control it, strategic planning focuses on the need for strategic decisions, decisions on projects to be implemented rather than on techniques, and introduced and promoted by development partners sup-porting urban development, including city consultants supported by the Urban Management Programme, Sus-tainable Cities projects supported by Urban Habitat, ECO-UOC exercises supported by the Municipal Development Programme (MDP) for urban decentralization and cooperation and city development strategies supported by the City Alliance through its members including the World Bank, Urban Habitat, GTZ, USAID, UCLG.

Strategic planning has been introduced and promoted by development partners supported by the Urban Management Programme, Sustainable Cities projects supported by Urban Habitat, ECO-UOC exercises supported by the Municipal Development Programme (MDP) for urban decentralization and cooperation and city development strategies supported by the City Alliance through its members including the World Bank, Urban Habitat, GTZ, USAID, UCLG.

Evaluation of these programmes have demonstrated four different metropolitan governance systems. These emerging initiatives would require that support be based on a proper evaluation of their effectiveness. To respond to this issue, some secondary cities have taken the initiative to establish a participatory planning process that addresses some of the key issues faced by the agglomeration, the three metropolitan governance systems. These programmes make it a prerequisite that municipal projects funded by the national government are identified through a participatory strategic planning exercise. In Kenya, for example, local governments are required to prepare Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plans (LASDAP) to access resources from the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF). However, the programme is not directed to the intended level because cities are unable to comply with the basic conditions in the case study, it shows that the issue is more of planning capacity than availability of resources. African metropolitan areas experience a mismatch between administrative boundaries and responsibilities and the constantly evolving physical reality of the city, especially in the case of rapidly growing informal peri-urban sub-urbs. Decentralisation often results in the creation of a large number of sub-national entities with a wide range of responsibilities over various parts of the territory. It is unclear who has authority, control over the budget, or the authorization to raise revenues, allocate lands, and regulate the environment. These secondary cities that provide coherence in addressing issues of common concern or issues that require coordinated responses, such as metropolitan mobility, solid waste disposal, water supply, to name a few.

In the best-case scenario, big cities have some technical and financial capacities to provide coherence in addressing issues of common concern or issues that require coordinated responses, such as metropolitan mobility, solid waste disposal, water supply, to name a few. Four Different Metropolitan Governance Systems

- Metropolitan governance systems in Africa are experiencing rapid urban expansion. In most cases, secondary cities do not have accurate and updated data on land tenure. Although land is not the focus of this document, it is important to understand that African cities are not only experiencing rapid urban expansion, but also have different forms of tenure, some of which involving multiple actors in the tenure system, such as land management, that are not under the responsibility of the local government.

- Are there strategic initiatives to develop a participatory planning process that addresses some of the key issues faced by the agglomeration? These programmes make it a prerequisite that municipal projects funded by the national government are identified through a participatory strategic planning exercise. In Kenya, for example, local governments are required to prepare Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plans (LASDAP) to access resources from the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF). However, the programme is not directed to the intended level because cities are unable to comply with the basic conditions.

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