



# Reinventing frameworks for Urban Governance and Planning

At a Glance

Spatial patterns such as mega city-regions, peri-urban growth, conurbations, etc., have come up as a result of rapid urbanisation, giving rise to questions such as what is the appropriate scale for planning or how to manage coordination among multiple spatial/political jurisdictions for efficient metropolitan/ regional governance. A majority of the global urban population is affected by this given that cities in developing countries will witness the most unprecedented urbanisation in the coming decades. It is critical to explore innovative frameworks for planning and hybrid governance to develop shared infrastructures (airports, landfills, water supply, regional transit, etc.) and facilitate regional economic clusters. Alongside the issue of urban expansions, liveability within cities is also threatened by multiple issues including degraded built environments, disaster risks and lack of proper housing and services. These have to be tackled by developing feasible models for implementing and financing renewal of different areas in the city, creating opportunities of plugging in principles of place-making, sustainable mobility, circular economy, green buildings, disaster preparedness etc. U20 is the best platform for collaborative transboundary learning on different approaches to adapt governance and planning frameworks to emerging challenges.

# Key Facts and Figures

56%

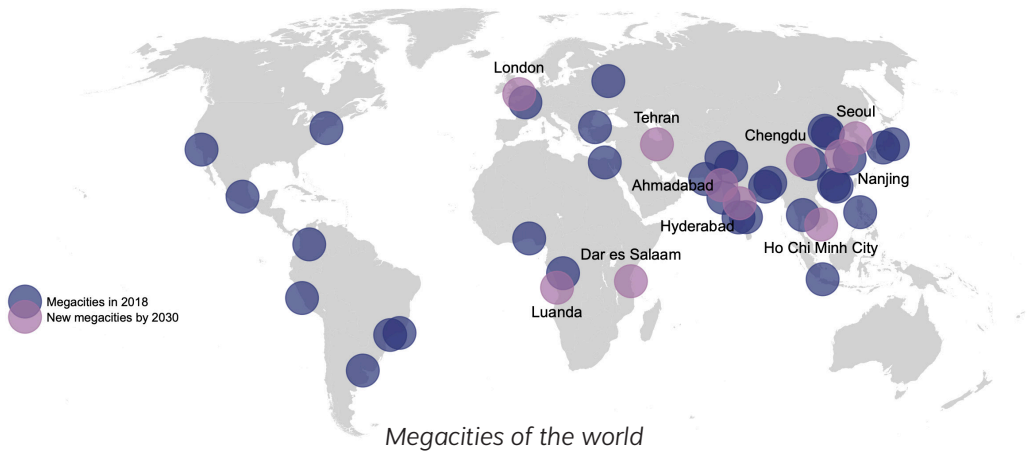
of the world's population, which is equivalent to 4.4 billion people, is urban

60%

people globally and one in every three persons will live in cities by 2030 ( approx. half a million inhabitants)

1.2 Million

sq.km. of new urban built-up area is expected to be added to the world by 2030, as the consumption of urban land will outpace population growth by up to 50%



## Reinventing frameworks for Urban Governance and Planning : points to ponder

### ■ Rigid versus dynamic planning frameworks:

Cities are dynamic and tend to grow organically due to various factors such as business growth, emergence of cultural and knowledge hubs, tourism, etc. However, long term planning frameworks for 10-20 years are not able to capture these changes and the plan gradually becomes obsolete.

### ■ Lack of regional frameworks for planning and governance:

Rapid unplanned expansion is taking place beyond municipal boundaries into the hinterland and corridors are emerging connecting close-by towns owing to lower land prices. The concepts of megacities, city regions, and multiple cities functioning as a single economic/ cultural unit. The governance of such large urban systems is complex and very few cities in the world have institutionalised regional planning and governance.

Aiming for slum free city National Policy, was implemented in Singapore through an investment link program that shaped Singapore's districts in the form of townships and estates that house over 78% resident households in Housing Development Board apartments. A significant portion of **Singapore** is covered by the Housing Development Board's 24 towns and 3 estates and successive master plans of Singapore have created space and infrastructure for coordinated development of such townships.

### ■ Lack of strategic outcome-based thinking:

Land use assignment becomes the priority of city plans in many cities. Strategic planning is the need of the day that can take into account the economic, social and environmental imperatives of the city. However, as the focus is mostly on outputs rather than outcomes, cities are unable to envision what they want to be.

**The strategic London Plan 2021** aims for 50% of new homes to be within the affordable category, 80% of trips to be taken by walking/ cycling/ public transport by 2041, recycling of 95% of the construction/ demolition waste, and that all major new development should be net zero.

### ■ Planning and governance is not data driven:

Cities, especially those in the developing world, often lack the required data, indicators and tools to measure various outcomes of plan implementation. In addition to quantitative data, qualitative data is also important for assessing the city matrix.

**Paris, France**, launched a dashboard displaying data about city initiatives to improve living conditions. The data is organized according to three indicators:

1. Making living together easier
2. Caring for all with datasets such as number of new social housing flats and
3. Building the world of tomorrow provides relevant data on innovative and ecological projects in the city.

### ■ Lack of frameworks to facilitate urban regeneration:

The focus of planning has been on greenfield development. Many cities are facing the constraint of land but lack the wherewithal or policy environment to undertake urban regeneration of existing built-up areas. Land and property pooling required to undertake regeneration projects of scale require financing and processes of onboarding stakeholders in the absence of which, only small plot level reconstructions take place. These do not allow for infrastructure integration, carving out of green and public spaces and thus have little or no public outcome for the city.

**London's Canary Wharf** project is an example of how private public partnerships within designated zones can super-charge regeneration and development. Spread over 17 years, more than 8 square miles of urban land were regenerated, which helped create more than **120,000 new jobs** as well as housing stock and transport infrastructure.

### **The Master Plan of Delhi 2041, India**

It clearly defines objectives and outlines strategies. Development of new areas and regeneration of older brown-field areas are proposed through joint action of stakeholders, which is crucial for regeneration projects.

## Key Drivers for Action

- Planning and governance frameworks have to reinvent to keep pace with the changing requirements of space production, usage, and maintenance.
- Collaborating with multiple stakeholders to obtain technical and operational inputs as well as to understand the needs of the residents of the city can create public ownership of the city plan and the planning process. Regulatory top-down approaches have proven to be inadequate to cope with the diversity of people and choices that cities present.
- Urban design and regeneration can act as the most effective tools to incorporate new concepts of sustainability etc., in the city piece by piece and enable contextual solutions to be implemented.
- Flexible and tactical development control regulations could be most effective to implement and achieve objectives of a strategic city plan.
- Participation of the private sector can help facilitate and finance urban regeneration projects.
- Cities are developing nimble and innovative solutions that shift away from a one-size-fits-all approach towards context-based strategies that can be put into action for planning and regeneration.
- Strategic planning at regional level is imperative to prevent unplanned sprawl beyond the city limits. Facilitating regional economic clusters, regional transportation networks and satellite towns can be a few steps in this direction.



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