



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%

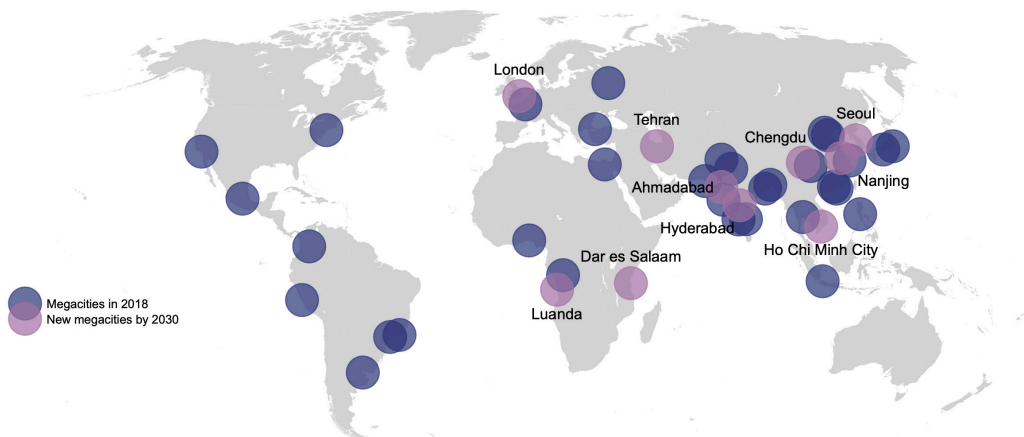
of the world's population, which is equivalent to 4.4 billion people, is urban

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%



Megacities of the world

Reinventing frameworks for Urban Governance and Planning : points to ponder

■ Existing planning policies are 'regulatory' in nature and not 'enabling'

Most cities follow a rigid planning regulations for e.g. land use assignment. These are updated without sufficient empirical evidence of their impacts. Strategic planning is required to enable cities to respond to ever-evolving diverse needs of a growing population with diverse needs.

■ Explore frameworks for planning and governance at regional level

Cities are constantly growing and planning needs to look beyond the municipal limits, taking into account city regions, urban agglomerations, etc. The peri-urban areas specially see more rapid growth, owing to lower land prices.

■ Data limitations in cities:

Cities often do not have the required data against indicators to measure the city matrix. Along with quantitative data, qualitative data is also important to assess city matrix like, assessing the degree of walk-ability within a city on a scale from highly walkable to not walkable. When cities evaluate data. Also, there are chances of inaccuracies in self recorded data by cities.

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.

■ Rigid versus dynamic planning frameworks:

Cities are dynamic and tend to grow organically. Various aspects shape the cities, such as, business growth, hubs of education, tourism, etc. and cities must be dynamic and cater to the growing needs accordingly. Cities need to innovate and relook at its priorities periodically.

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 outcome-based thinking:

Cities need to look at the larger picture when implementing urban policies or conceptualizing projects. The possible outcomes and impact should be envisioned, and projects need to align with a city's vision

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.

■ Incentivizing difficult 'regeneration' of existing brownfield area:

With many cities facing constraint of growth area, urban regeneration can help through re-densification, designating of special planning zones, etc. When supported by smart tax incentives, access to capabilities, these areas or zones can go a long way towards unlocking key development sites, kick starting infrastructure and attracting new businesses and residents.

London's Canary Warf 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

- Reinventing governance structures to keep pace with the requirements of production of space, its operations and maintenance.
- Collaborating with multiple stakeholders for grassroots levels input in urban planning, since top down structures alone are inadequate in coping scale of cities and technical know-how.
- Flexible development control regulations for absorbing the new concepts and allowing contextual solutions to be implemented. They need to be "enabling" and not just for "regulating"
- Participation of the private sector in urban regeneration to help enhance the effectiveness of the planning and implementation efforts.
- Nimble and innovative solutions by cities, leading to a shift from a one-size-fits-all approach to context-based actionable strategies for planning and regenerations.
- Strategic planning and vision setting to cater to the urban sprawl in the upcoming decades even beyond the city limit. Facilitating regional economic clusters and growth of satellite towns can be a step in this direction.
- People Centric Planning to improve livability and quality of life.



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