



DECLARATION DE PARIS – SMART PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES CAMPUS URBAIN 20/21 JANVIER

The **Paris Urban Thinkers Campus on « Smart Planning for Sustainable Cities »** took place on the 20th and 21st of January 2016, at UNESCO. It gathered around 200 participants from all sectors.

Facing a new paradigm for “the City we need”

Smart planning must **place people at the heart of urban and territorial development and must promote the “right to the city for all”**: the right to have access to quality of life, jobs, cultural resources, territorial services, decent and affordable housing, affordable mobility, internet access... and the right to contribute to urban processes, projects and decision-making. Smart planning must mobilize the expertise of each person as user, producer, inhabitant and citizen.

Cities and territories have to **tackle current issues**: resilience, energetic transition, climate change, new economic models, and digital revolution... Urban and territorial segregation remains a crucial problem to be addressed towards a more inclusive and sustainable development. These challenges require **decentralized action** at city, metropolitan and regional scales, and a **systemic and integrated approach** in order to offer relevant solutions, adapted to local contexts.

Smart planning as a permanent, integrative and participatory process

Smart planning is a process for building a shared vision and coherent actions between institutions and stakeholders, for urban and territorial policies, services and land use, through appropriate regulatory frameworks or instruments.

Planning is smart only if it is an **open and collaborative process** led by elected authorities and involving all stakeholders (institutions, economic actors, citizens and communities, researchers, NGOs...) from initiation to implementation of projects and services. Smart planning is really a new way of designing the city through a permanent, integrative and collaborative process focused on the quality of life and urban efficiency.

Smart planning should offer a matrix to articulate:

- **Territorial strategies and land use regulation**

- **Prospective vision and present actions**
- **Large scale projects and proximity policies**, following the subsidiarity principle to reach the “good answer at the right level”
- **Infrastructures** (urban services, public spaces...) and “**soft policies**” (social policies, information services, cultural intermediation, education...).

To ensure diversity and identity, planning must **promote solutions adapted to each context**, based on cultural heritage, local ways of life, economic and natural resources. It must avoid duplicating standard urban models, but should promote **experimentation** for testing solutions.

Planning appears as a relevant framework to reduce disparities, avoid speculation **and to reinforce territorial links, cooperation and solidarity** between deprived and wealthy communities, between urban and rural areas, or within cross-border spaces, and to develop reciprocity processes based on the responsibility of every stakeholder **to manage “territorial common goods”**.

Planning is crucial **to tackle climate change and environmental risks** and shall be well articulated with energy planning tools. It allows to identify vulnerability and stakes and to implement sustainable and adaptive management of policies of urban development aiming to protect and valorise natural resources and risk areas and to support energy transition by a balanced urban development, the mix of urban functions, bioclimatic urban design and renewable energy development...

Planning allows us to organize **an efficient mobility system**. Led by local authorities, it must:

- Guarantee the right to mobility for all and an equitable access to urban resources (jobs, services, culture...)
- Organize infrastructures for transport and public spaces to promote intermodality (public transport, biking, walking, informal and individual modes).

Planning provides the framework for integrated **housing policies** in order to guarantee the right for all to decent housing and basic services (water, energy...) and to organize mechanisms to finance affordable housing for low-income inhabitants.

The **digital revolution** has introduced new ways to handle planning. It offers opportunities for efficient management and predictability of urban services (water, energy, mobility) and tools to promote citizens’ participation. Public authorities must guarantee access to Internet for all and transparency for digital urban data used for the general interest. They must also ensure that smart technologies address the needs of all users in order to avoid a digital divide.

A sustainable city requires:

- **Economic models that promote convergence of interests in order to limit resource consumption** through public-private-people partnerships (empowerment of local authorities, integration of positive and negative externalities, circular economy...)

- Bottom-up contributions of all private sector actors (from international to local, large to small firms, informal sector...), through innovative platforms (e.g Tuba fab lab in Lyon)
- Open and flexible financing solutions for all sizes of innovative projects

Thus, the **sustainability of local authorities** is needed and can be achieved through access to financial independence but also through mechanisms of equalization that should be guaranteed by national governments. Local authorities must mobilize loan, fiscal and taxation resources. Those must join forces to achieve access to financing, credit markets and loans at national or international levels with tools adapted to each context (e.g French Local Financing Agency). Permanent fiscal resources and land-use and building rights taxation provide sustainable financing but require specific legislation, tools and technical services (cadastre, land-use rules...) in order to generate value. Accountability of local authorities is crucial for citizens in order to have a clear vision on the use of fiscal resources and cities should engage communities in financial decisions (e.g participatory budgeting).

Smart planning requires instruments and empowerment

- **Knowledge sharing** should be the basis for smart planning, organizing **interoperable data, relevant indicators and permanent urban observatories** to provide relevant diagnosis and monitoring, evaluating and adjusting policies.
- Strategic urban planning provides the framework for **mediation, coproduction, regulation and formalization** between elected authorities, the private sector and inhabitants. It requires adapted rules of the game (legislation, formal and informal processes, capacity-building...) and a strong territorial engineering (e.g partnership urban planning agencies...)
- **Empowerment of all stakeholders**: local authorities, leaders, inhabitants and communities – especially the more vulnerable ones – private and informal sectors, professionals...

Smart planning requires clear responsibilities for all stakeholders

Governments should:

- Define and provide national frameworks, legislation and data for urban policies to guarantee their coherence
- Allocate resources to local authorities through decentralization of competences, fiscal and financial tools
- Apply the principle of subsidiarity
- Stay involved at the local level with decentralized services, support local authorities, and encourage peer-to-peer and cross-border cooperation of local authorities.

Local authorities should:

- Empower their leadership on local policies through competences, legal, financial and technical instruments and also be exemplary about accountability, transparency and democracy
- Empower their capacity to produce a vision of the future, organize private sector action and contribution of all citizens through participatory processes
- Develop their cooperation with other institutions (cities, rural areas, regions...), especially in metropolitan regions

- Promote capacity building for all citizens, especially the weakest ones (women, young or aging people, low-income people, refugees...).

Private sector actors should:

- Empower their “territorial responsibility” and commitment in urban planning
- Promote “decarbonized solutions” and think “smart and sustainable” not only through a technical approach but also through uses and social strategies adapted to every local context
- Develop links and cooperation at the local level between large and small firms, research institutions and local authorities to improve sustainability.

Academic and professional actors should:

- Contribute to make more intelligible socio-economic, environmental and territorial situations
- Create new methods and tools to improve more participatory planning
- Contribute to developing tools and indicators to assess urban policies
- For researchers especially, play a role of innovation, watchdog and whistle-blower.

UN-Habitat should:

- Review its governance in order to include local governments, the private sector and civil society organization, inspired by the model of the International Labour Organization (ILO), in order to promote this new inclusive urban paradigm
- Promote innovative urban actions and networks of cooperation between cities (e.g the Urbact European Program), and support task forces and urban planning initiatives networking for sharing methods
- Provide guidelines to guarantee essential principles in digital issues and urban data management
- Provide guidance to develop climate plans and mobility plans
- Provide mechanisms for funding planning strategies and policies by grants through international fund as Green Climate Fund for developing countries.