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FOREWORD:
PUBLIC SPACES
MATTER FOR UCLG

JOSÉ FORTUNATI
Mayor
Porto Alegre

ZANDILE GUMEDE
Mayor Ethekwini
Municipality
(Durban)

WE AS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD find ourselves at very interesting times, whilst we face severe challenges and crises, we also are energised by the prospect of the New Urban Agenda and the critical role that local governments would play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As local governments, we have a clear responsibility for promoting development that is sustainable and an urban future that is brighter and prosperous for all.

As we move ahead, it is apparent that the immediate surrounding environment influences the well-being of all citizens, including vulnerable groups. Public spaces are a common good, a public asset of high value with a direct impact on the quality of life of citizens. Building on our responsibility, urban policies should be developed at the local government level to address people's needs.

As part of our commitment as co-presidents of the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, we have always strived to connect the global urban agenda to our cities' realities and engage in dialogues and campaigns in our cities across our networks. Public spaces provide an immediate opportunity for local government leaders to share and learn from others.

• PORTO ALEGRE: Our extensive experience in participatory practices, mostly in the areas of public space development, allows us to testify to the value of promoting democratic interactions in our city. Transparency is a key principle in the city's management model, accounting for the strategic and transversal role of public spaces in urban policies and our recent strategy around

city resilience. Our streets have been gradually changing over time from spaces dedicated to mobility to areas used for people to gather and interact. Communities organize markets, fairs, and activities such as cycling events, to name a few.

• DURBAN: The Durban experience on public space varies across the different departments that we have. One of the experiences that we share with our international counterparts is the policy for street vending which reflects a continuous process of negotiations between the public and private interest in the use of our public spaces. The city has a clear strategy that promotes and encourages local economic development opportunities in public spaces which is based on an appropriate mix of policy, planning and regulations. The city has also recently embarked on an ambitious and very successful program of developing seven new parks in seven days. Public spaces in our city is seen to be a catalyst for social cohesion, which is one of the city's long term strategic priority.

The Committee on Urban Strategic Planning has been actively involved over the past 6 years influencing the development of the New Urban Agenda. For the coming years, we hope to consolidate all the progress achieved, be open to new challenges and possible solutions, and keep on sharing our experiences in an ongoing learning process worldwide. We would also like to encourage cities to actively use this policy framework to inform the development, review and/or the amendment of their localized public space policies or other policies which can have a public space component (e.g. climate change action plan can have a public space component, etc.). Our cities have benefitted immensely through the development of the policy framework and we would like this framework to energize local governments globally in order to develop policies that promote people centred public spaces.

CONTEXT

The policy framework was developed through intensive engagement sessions between the Urban Strategic Planning Committee and its partners, which is indicated in the graphic above. The framework incorporated lessons of learning exchanges in three cities (Blantyre, Durban and Porto Alegre), sector specific engagements, engagement with key strategic partners, activation and advocacy at key global events highlighting the importance of public space.

SDG **03**

SDG **05**

SDG **06**

SDG **13**

SDG **11**

THE UCLG COMMITTEE ON URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING has over the past years actively contributed to the development of global policy and advocacy on public space. This was facilitated by organizing learning events in Durban[1], Porto Alegre[2] and Blantyre[3], hosting side events at the UN-Habitat Thematic Meeting on public space in Barcelona, partnering with HealthBridge and the Rockefeller Foundation on Public Space Development. Key inputs were also shared with members and partners who participated in the engagement process leading to the adoption of the Global Public Space Toolkit by UN-Habitat, as well as the Charter of Public Space led by the National Urban Planning Institute of Rome (Instituto Nazionale di Urbanistica, INU). One of the key outcomes of the interaction with the partners was to develop an all-encompassing definition of public space:

"Public Spaces are places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable, by all for free and without a profit motive. Public spaces are a key element of individual and social well-being, the places of a community's collective life, expressions of the diversity of their common natural and cultural richness and a foundation of their identity." The Charter of Public Space[4]

In 2015, the role of public spaces in sustainable development received unprecedented recognition by the international community by including a target to "provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities" in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Target 7 of SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements. Beyond the recognition in target 7, public space is a key component to achieve a number of the other SDGs such as 3, 5, 6 and 13. Localizing and implementing all the SDGs, with special emphasis on SDG 11, will depend on local governments across the world and the support offered to them.

The United Nations is committed to the inclusion of SDG 11 into the New Urban Agenda that will be agreed upon during the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October 2016. UN-Habitat is proposing a set of targets for the amount of land allocated to

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[1] « Searching for the promised land of public space, the key to an equitable city ». June 2014, Durban.
[2] « Public space and citizenship ». October 2014, Porto Alegre.
[3] « Public space as a generator of growth in African cities ». December 2015, Blantyre.
[4] GARAU, P. LANCERIN, L. et. SEPE, M. The Charter of Public Space. LISt Lab, Rovereto, Italy. 2015.

Starting point
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

With the Mayor of Rosario, Argentina and the Mayor of Durban, South Africa as chairs

2011 - 2012
CITY MENTORING MZUZU-DURBAN

October 2012
PEER LEARNING EVENT - MAPUTO
Hygiene, health and markets

October 2013
WALKING CHARTER - UCLG CONGRESS - RABAT

With the Mayor of Porto Alegre, Brazil and the Mayor of Durban, South Africa as chairs

2008 2009-10-11 2012 2013 2014

November 2008
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM LILONGWE - JOHANNESBURG

May 2013
THE CHARTER OF PUBLIC SPACE
(FIRST EDITION)

January 2014
1ST MEETING FOR THE TOOLKIT WITH UCLG AS PARTNERS

SDG 11 Target 7

streets and public space in urban areas to ensure adequate foundation for the successful city. The proposed goal/target for public space being suggested is that 50% of land should be allocated to streets and public space. This can be broken down into 30% for streets and sidewalks and 15 to 20% for open spaces, green spaces and public facilities. Currently, many cities, in particular in Southern regions, are far from this target.
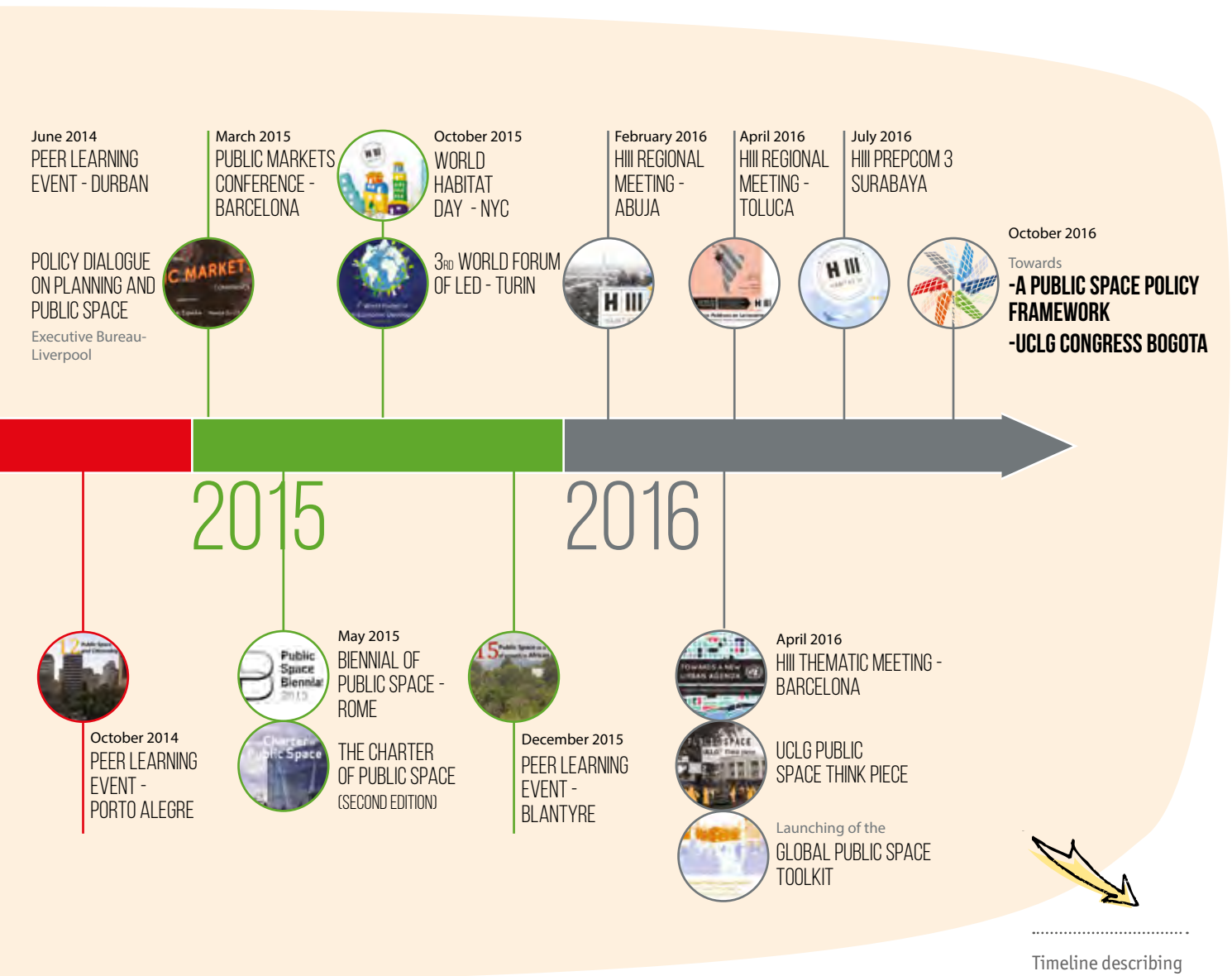
The Habitat III Conference provides us with an opportunity to create greater awareness, to understand and foster partnerships and above all to influence cities, regions, national governments and communities to clearly define

responsibilities of all the stakeholders on public space. UCLG, considered as one of the key global voice of local governments, is committed to facilitate a process that makes towns and cities better places and ensures that the city perspective is included in the overall SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

To further develop the global discussion on public space and contribute to the New Urban Agenda, the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning developed this public space policy framework for local governments and by local government practitioners and elected officials. The purpose of this framework is to assist and

June 2014
PEER LEARNING
EVENT - DURBAN

POLICY DIALOGUE
ON PLANNING AND
PUBLIC SPACE
Executive Bureau-
Liverpool

March 2015
PUBLIC MARKETS
CONFERENCE -
BARCELONA

October 2015
WORLD
HABITAT
DAY - NYC

3RD WORLD FORUM
OF LED - TURIN

February 2016
HIII REGIONAL
MEETING -
ABUJA

April 2016
HIII REGIONAL
MEETING -
TOLUCA

July 2016
HIII PREPCOM 3
SURABAYA

October 2016
Towards
**-A PUBLIC SPACE POLICY
FRAMEWORK
-UCLG CONGRESS BOGOTA**

2015

2016

October 2014
PEER LEARNING
EVENT -
PORTO ALEGRE

May 2015
BIENNIAL OF
PUBLIC SPACE -
ROME

THE CHARTER
OF PUBLIC SPACE
(SECOND EDITION)

December 2015
PEER LEARNING
EVENT -
BLANTYRE

April 2016
HIII THEMATIC MEETING -
BARCELONA

UCLG PUBLIC
SPACE THINK PIECE

Launching of the
GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE
TOOLKIT

Timeline describing
the process of UCLG
work on public
space since 2008

guide local governments in implementing localized
urban policies on public space and to deepen the
understanding of local government's role and
responsibilities in public space development.

Through this journey, the Committee and its
partners are advocating for public space to be
a strategic component of city development and
as such this framework provides cities with an
opportunity to develop their own public space
policy. The process will culminate in the launch of the
Public Space Policy Framework during the 5th UCLG
World Congress in Bogota, where the Committee will
actively promote cities to embrace the development
principles listed in this framework.

"provide universal
access to safe,
inclusive and
accessible, green
and public spaces,
in particular for
woman & children,
older persons and
persons with
disabilities"

WHAT IS A PUBLIC SPACE POLICY FRAMEWORK?

ECONOMIC
SOCIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
CULTURAL
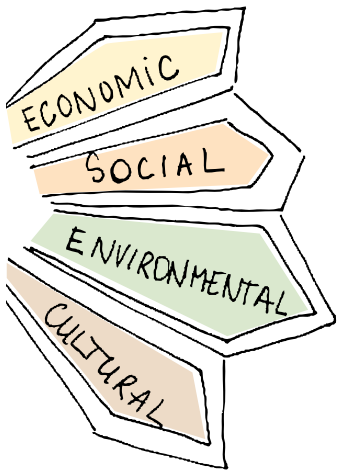
THE INTENTION OF THIS FRAMEWORK is to influence cities to recognize the importance of localized citywide public space policy, to deepen the understanding of local governments' role and responsibilities on public space development, and to maximize public space dividends at a city level.
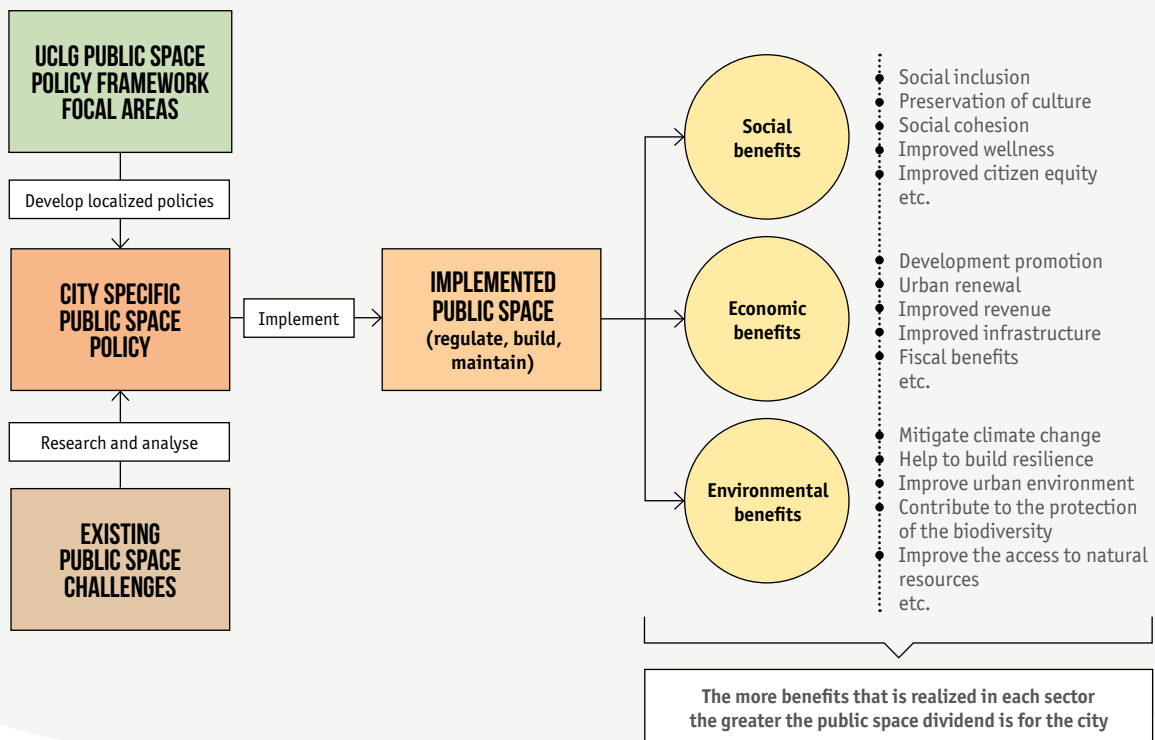
A public space policy framework provides a high-level strategy for local governments to localize key targets listed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as opposed to detailed prescriptive policy interventions.

The aim of this framework is to assist municipalities to develop new public space policies and implementation strategies.

This framework is a guiding strategy for local governments in which public space is a central axis. In such frameworks, built on evidences and practices, public space is a catalyst for cities' development to enhance citizens' quality of life by ensuring the values of equity, public participation, accessibility, transparency, efficiency, fairness, and accountability. These elements are central to develop public space implementation strategies for cities.

Local governments should start implementing this framework by recognizing their challenges, specific to their own realities. Therefore, the government can decide to develop new public space policies and implementation strategies, to improve or shift existing policies and public spaces. It is very important to check the sustainability of the policy by monitoring regularly the social, economic and environmental benefits. The higher the dividend in a certain area, the better the policies met the challenges and the demands.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR MAXIMIZING THE PUBLIC SPACE DIVIDEND

UCLG PUBLIC SPACE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOCAL AREAS

Develop localized policies

CITY SPECIFIC PUBLIC SPACE POLICY

Implement

IMPLEMENTED PUBLIC SPACE (regulate, build, maintain)

Research and analyse

EXISTING PUBLIC SPACE CHALLENGES

Social benefits
- Social inclusion
- Preservation of culture
- Social cohesion
- Improved wellness
- Improved citizen equity
- etc.

Economic benefits
- Development promotion
- Urban renewal
- Improved revenue
- Improved infrastructure
- Fiscal benefits
- etc.

Environmental benefits
- Mitigate climate change
- Help to build resilience
- Improve urban environment
- Contribute to the protection of the biodiversity
- Improve the access to natural resources
- etc.

The more benefits that is realized in each sector the greater the public space dividend is for the city

PUBLIC SPACES
THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

"Unlike many other areas of urban policy, public spaces are the full responsibility of local governments either officially or by default"

THE CITY ADMINISTRATION IS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPHERE charged with the responsibility of creating, maintaining and managing high quality public spaces with people and for people. It is important for cities to define their own strategies and unique solutions that are appropriate and address the needs and interests of the various stakeholders, especially the poor.

Unlike many other areas of urban policy, public spaces are the full responsibility of local governments either officially or by default. Therefore, many mayors are accountable for developing concepts and projects for public spaces and frequently report on design, investment and implementation. Public space happens to be a unique and tangible opportunity for governance. Nevertheless, all actors directly or indirectly involved in public spaces should be consulted during the policy making process. Strong urban governance with accountable, transparent and effective institutions can ensure the quality and quantity of public spaces developed in cities. Local authorities and governments have legitimacy to take care[5] of public spaces as part of the urban commons in the public interest:

- Local governments work with communities, the private sector and marginalized groups to motivate their active involvement and balance competing interests in the pursuit of the common good.

- A strong synchronization of international, national and local government's efforts towards public space ensures the implementation of the policies based on existing practices and lessons learnt in different contexts.

- Public interest prevails over private interest. Local governments can avoid the privatization and speculation of public space thereby preventing a net loss of a portion of urban development.

- Local governments planning and design bodies task is to ensure a minimum quantity of land dedicated to public space and to ensure the quality of public spaces to be plentiful and accessibly to all people.

- If local governments finance public spaces, they have to take into account transparency when contracting, the quality of materials and follow up of the investments that will allow intensive use. Local governments are considered as architects and constructors' clients and in this regard, local governments should invest in guiding the implementation and design but also ensure the defense of the public interest.

- Governments and stakeholders can also ensure that adequate resources for the operation and maintenance of public spaces are provided for long-term sustainability. The concept of "place keeping"[6] is crucial when dealing with public space. It is crucial for the existing and future developments of the city, a prerequisite for risk management (flooding, heat waves), quality of life (greening, leisure and landscaping)

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5 By using the term "taking care" about public spaces we refer to regulate, design, finance, build, manage, maintain, preserve and defend public spaces.
6 Place keeping refers both to the management and the use of public space
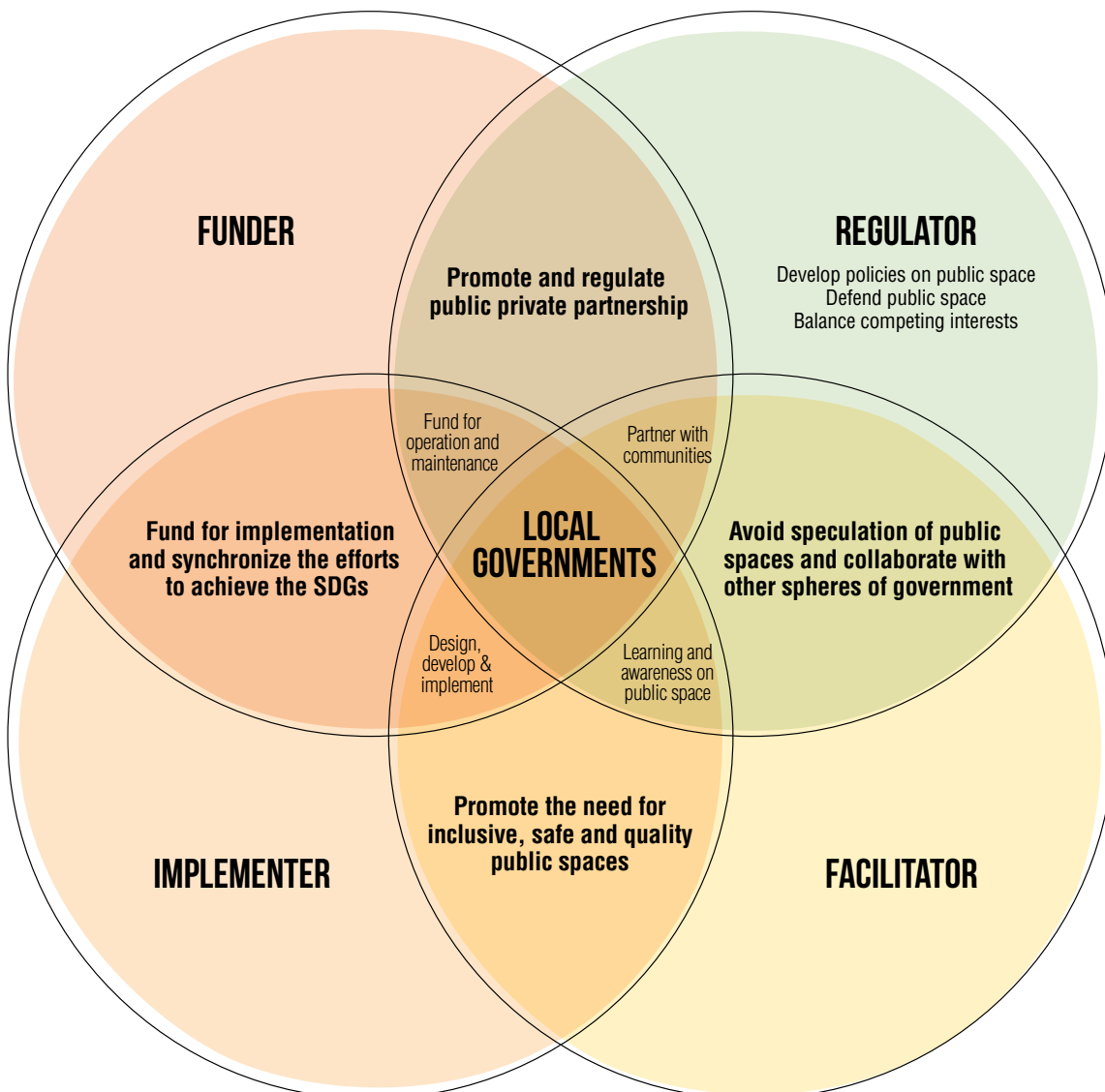
and mobility (street for public transportation, soft mobility and all transportation modes). Public space is the main prerequisite to develop and manage cities from very few proportions in rural areas to about 40 to 50% of the land (e.g. Manhattan or Paris) in dense urban areas. It is a crucial condition for city mobility and attractiveness (quality of life is a key asset) then the economic development.

• Local governments have a responsibility to promote the use of public spaces in an equitable way by finding the right balance between regulation and deregulation of the use of public spaces. The rules around the uses and activities on public spaces should be given particular attention to avoid negative impact on the urban life and how they might impact on vulnerable groups such as street vendors. This may require differentiated strategies at citywide and neighborhood level.
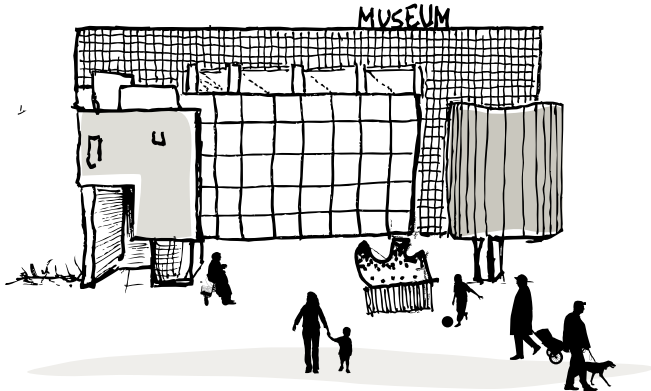
Legal frameworks and declarations of fundamental rights often neglect public spaces, given frequently higher consideration to individual land ownership rights, despite the priority that should be done to public space for collective interests. Through this framework, UCLG would urge local governments to use this opportunity to promote and advocate for the recognition of public space as a basic local service, and as an essential part of the Right to the City for all urban residents, like water and sanitation and therefore deserve appropriate operational and capital budgets. **The entire public realm has to be protected by local governments and the communities, as blue, green and grey grids are the cities' backbone**. Local governments must ensure that there is an adequate quantity and distribution of quality public space.
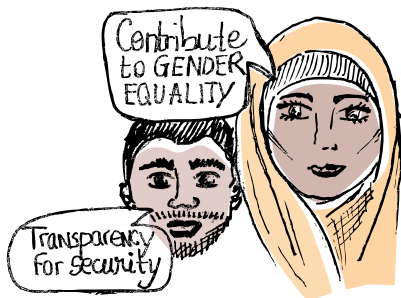
PUBLIC SPACE THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS


FUNDER

REGULATOR
Develop policies on public space
Defend public space
Balance competing interests

Promote and regulate public private partnership

Fund for operation and maintenance

Partner with communities

Fund for implementation and synchronize the efforts to achieve the SDGs

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Avoid speculation of public spaces and collaborate with other spheres of government

Design, develop & implement

Learning and awareness on public space

Promote the need for inclusive, safe and quality public spaces

IMPLEMENTER

FACILITATOR

MUSEUM

COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENS

KEY PUBLIC SPACE POLICIES
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Contribute to GENDER EQUALITY

Transparency for security

Each policy should take a holistic citywide and integrated approach to public space, taking into consideration the economic, social, safety and environmental aspects. The following key public space policies are meant to be used by cities and local governments adapted to their own realities.

LOCAL TOURISM

MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE
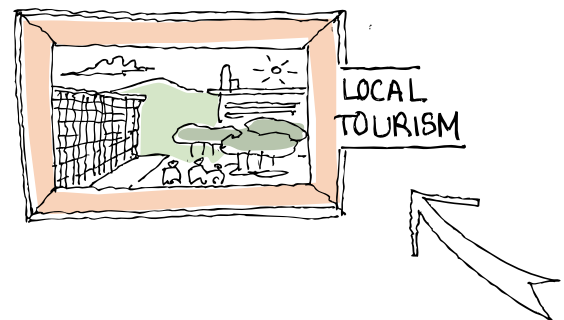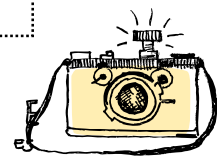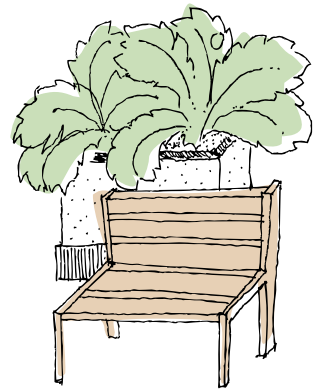
01. PUBLIC SPACE AND SOCIAL POLICIES
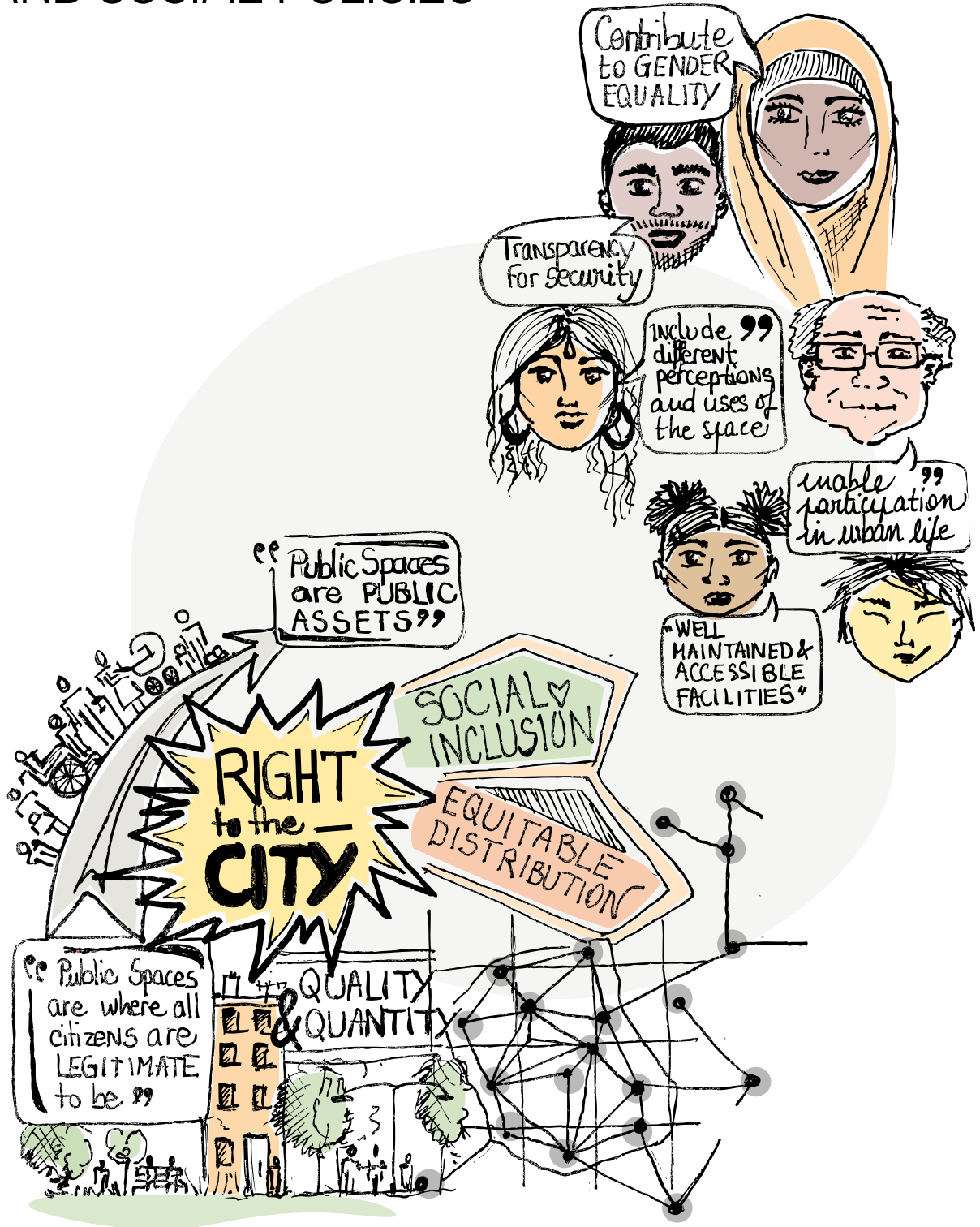
JOSÉ FORTUNATI, Mayor of Porto Alegre

"Managing the city is working for people, and to a great extent, to the qualification of public spaces, scenario of social, political and urban life. It is a unique work, meant to a place and time, but intrinsically collective, appropriate to exchanges and global learning."

ADA COLAU, Mayor of Barcelona

"In the conflict between privatization and democratization, we (the cities) have a critical role to recover the public space as a space for democracy, inclusion and equal opportunities of public space is the city."

JONATHAN VIERA, **Third Secretary of the permanent mission of Ecuador to the United Nations**

"Everybody must enjoy the city and the Right to the City needs to be guaranteed."

SIBUSISO SITHOLE, City Manager, eThekwini Municipality during the peer learning in Durban

"There are no viable public space that can exist without a community and there are no viable communities without publics space."

JOAN CLOS, Secretary General of UN-Habitat

"Allowing gated communities are failures of governments to provide security and that is why safety is a key target."

FATIMETOU MINT ABDEL MALICK, Mayor of Tevragh Zeina

"Our diversity finds expression in public spaces. It's in our parks where any women can meet, play, pray and bring their blanket and spend time, as equals."

ANA FALU, Architect and professor

"The inclusion of women in debates on public spaces requires a paradigm shift in what has been completely phallocentric thinking."

The Right to the City

- It is essential to promote **social inclusion** by providing spaces for people of all socio economic backgrounds to use and enjoy as public spaces are the only spaces in cities where people from all social classes can meet and engage on the same level with the same rights. Quality public spaces such as libraries, open spaces and parks can function as study and recreational spaces for the urban poor, women and homeless people.

- There is a need to ensure an **equitable distribution** of public spaces within cities. Through the provision of quality public spaces, cities can reduce the economic and social segregation that is prevalent in many developed and developing cities. By ensuring the distribution, coverage and quality of public spaces, it is possible to directly influence the dynamics of urban density, to combine uses and to promote the social mixture of cities' inhabitants.

- Rights and duties of all the public space stakeholders should be clearly defined. Public spaces are public assets and by definition a place where all citizens have legitimate access to use and enjoy and therefore discriminatory practices should be addressed if the right to use is being infringed. Public spaces have the capacity to gather people and break down social barriers. Protecting public spaces is a key prerequisite for the **Right to the City** and an important asset to foster tolerance, conviviality and dialogue.

EXAMPLE

1. Corridors of freedom, Johannesburg, South Africa[7]

This project illustrates the new vision of making public space an asset accessible to every citizen, in particular the poor. Because of the apartheid spatial legacy, parks and public facilities were all concentrated in higher income neighbourhood while townships remain dense areas with almost no open green spaces. The corridors of freedom is an attempt to re-connect urban areas with access to recreational spaces and freedom of movement. While Apartheid policies created the green areas between townships to segregate, the corridors of freedom look to link them.

Corridors of Freedom, Johannesburg. Source: http://www.corridorsoffreedom.co.za/

[7] UCLG learning note, Searching for the promised land of public space: the key to an equitable city, Durban, 2014. (Available online: https://issuu.com/uclgcglu/docs/searching_for_the_promised_land_of_)

Housing

- Public spaces in informal settlements are insufficient and merely enable people to reach their accommodation ignoring other functions and benefits. Frequently, there is a lack of public spaces in both quantity and quality, which often leads to high residential density, high crime rates, lack of public facilities such as toilets or water, difficulties to access outdoor sports and other recreational activities among others.

- The investment and creation of public spaces must be a component in all urban renewal and urban development processes. Public spaces increase value and acceptance of property and rental houses. In greenfield areas it is important to plan and budget for public spaces and for urban regeneration and slum upgrading, the creation and improvement of public spaces is an effective investment where entire neighborhoods can benefit form.

- Strengthen the definition of adequate housing by incorporating public space for all as a key component together with security of tenure, affordability, accessibility, location, cultural adequacy, security and access to water, sanitation and electricity.[8]

EXAMPLES

1. Child-friendly public space in Jakarta, Indonesia[9]

The Governor of Jakarta, Basuki Tjahaja, has initiated in 2015 the development of Ruang Publik Terpadu Ramah Anak (RPTRA), child-friendly integrated public space in high-density areas and poor neighborhoods. To initiate the project, Jakarta City Government built a partnership with private companies; the City provides land and the corporations cover the construction and provide public amenities. Since 2015, more than 40 RPTRAs were built and the number is continuously increasing. Following the goal to provide space for people living in crowded areas, RPTRA is expected to become a meeting spot for local communities. RPTRA provides public facilities in basic legal administration services, integrated health service for children, lactation room, early-age education center, sport center, center for arts among others. The facilities provided in RPTRA differ and depend on land areas. This initiative is a good illustration of the importance of public spaces in poor and densely populated neighborhoods.

Child friendly public space, Jakarta. Source: http://en.tempo.co/read/news/2016/01/22/057738408/South-Jakarta-Proposes-24-Child-Friendly-Public-Space

2. The strategy of Sao Paulo to improve public spaces in informal settlements[10]

The city of Sao Paulo has implemented a strategy to improve public spaces in informal settlements in order to expand and provide more social and cultural services. The city staff and young architects had the challenge to provide answers to the needs of the community with attractive solutions. New spaces do not only give space of leisure for youth, children, women and men, but also stand out for a new concept of social architecture and urban planning. This has inspired the City of Durban to review their housing delivery policy in a neighborhood by investing housing units and makes them a neighborhood delivery providing also public spaces.

Strategy to improve public spaces, Sao Paulo. Source: Irene Quintáns, http://www.laciudadviva.org/blogs/?p=28110

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[8] The Barcelona declaration for Habitat III on public spaces.
[9] UCLG ASPAC and UN-Habitat. Public spaces in Asia Pacific, why local governments need to act.
[10] UCLG Learning. Integrating lessons of housing policies. Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2011.

Gender equality

- Contribute to gender equality by improving comfort of women and girls, elderly and marginalized groups (e.g. transgender, migrants, etc.) in public spaces and enabling their participation in public life (including economic, political and cultural participation).

- Improve or build better infrastructure including lighting, wider pavements, public toilets and enhance mixed uses and activities to improve the comfort of all both during days and nights. Visibility (see and be seen) and well-maintained and accessible facilities make women and girls feel safer in public spaces and avoid sexual violence. Planners and decision makers should take it into account and include women in the process.

EXAMPLES

1. Riyadh Metro[11]

Riyadh, the largest city of Saudi Arabia with 5.7 million inhabitants, is facing important traffic congestions with 7.4 million of daily commuters and only 2% realized by public transportation. To mitigate this problem, the city initiated a rapid transit system called Riyadh Metro in 2012. In a context where women cannot access to driving licenses, a metro will increase mobility of women and their participation in urban life. There will be 3 types of carriages: executive, families and individuals. Members of the municipal council of Riyadh are also thinking about creating women-only carriages.

Riyadh Metro. Source: Bechtel, http://www.bechtel.com/projects/riyadh-metro/

2. Safety Audit[12] in Delhi, India

7 women's safety audits were conducted in 5 municipal areas of Delhi as part of the project called "safer cities free of violence against women and girls". The findings were studied and analysed in 2013 and concluded that poor lighting, lack of well-maintained public toilets and no pavements make women and girls feel unsafe in public spaces. The Ministry of Urban Development used the recommendations to improve the street lighting infrastructure in Delhi.

New Delhi. Source: http://wtop.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/India-Teen-Raped4-1880x1254.jpeg

3. Gender-sensitive park design at Einsiedlerpark and St. Johann Park, Vienna[13]

A study revealed that girls aged between 10 and 13 years are spending less time in public parks. Therefore, specific interests concerning games, sports, and other leisure-time activities are incorporated into public park design. Two parks in Vienna's fifth district were rearranged and redesigned in a participatory way. Appropriate design elements, proper lighting, clear and open common areas changed completely the parks. The City of Vienna intends to improve parks in all the 23 city districts following 'gender-specific' guidelines, which also shows the high level of policy transfer possibilities. The responsible Office for Planning and Housing Construction Methods assumed the supervision of the park design projects.

Gender-sensitive park, Vienna. Source: Metropolis, http://policytransfer.metropolis.org/case-studies/gender-sensitive-park-design

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[11] Bechtel. Riyadh Metro, Saudi Arabia. 2016. Online : http://www.bechtel.com/projects/riyadh-metro/
[12] UN-Habitat, Global Public Space Toolkit : from global principles to local policies and practices, 2016.
[13] Metropolis, http://policytransfer.metropolis.org/case-studies/gender-sensitive-park-design

Safety

- Work for safer cities with lower rates of crime and violence. Community ownership and appropriate design of public spaces, including urban furniture, in consultation with inhabitants, especially women, children, people with disabilities and youth, can contribute to building safer urban areas. The design has an important role to play to make cities safer but it has to be combined with continuous maintenance and place keeping.

- Include the police as a key stakeholder and protector of public space. Local police is not only a security service; through their presence on public space they improve the general feeling of safety, they act to protect public goods and can provide support in case of emergency. In addition to the police presence, eyes on the streets contribute to safety in public spaces. Women often feel safer using a space where you find street vendors and people than a deserted space.

- Manage and maintain public spaces. When the space is not well-managed, there are grounds for increased feelings of insecurity. People like and enjoy spaces where most basic services are in working order and clean. If we use an example of a park, people will feel safe where grass is cut, refuse is collected, trees are pruned well at least with clear visibility. The image and comfort of space support the feeling of being safe.

- Design that allows for mix uses and activities, as practice shows that most public spaces that are vibrant with buzz of activities have less chances of crime. This also encourages people to interact and meet in that particular space (sociability). The adjoining uses should also support the public space in more than one way.

- Connectivity to the surrounding community (easy access to and from the space) and wide visibility to public space is key to ensure safety. This means that there are no structures that prevent access to the space; and the space is well connected with the environment where is located.

- Provide good lighting. To support the use of the space during the night; and also ensure that the space is not perceived to be dangerous, it is important that the space is well lit at night. This allows for passive surveillance on what is going on in the space and may also encourage vibrant activities on the space.

- Accessible, clean and well-located support infrastructure is key to the use of public spaces. Public spaces close to public transport such as bus stops of metro stations contributes to accessibility and safety. Facilities such as toilets should be well-located within easily accessible and visible part of the space.

EXAMPLES

1. Medellin: safety as part of the slum upgrading programme[14]

As part of the slum upgrading programme and equipment of new neighborhoods, Medellin has built up a number of public spaces and new police stations. Those were part of a larger strategy "Medellin a place for life" of the city council, with the objective of increasing cohabitation, reducing extrusion, crime, and valuing citizenship.

Medellin slum upgrading programme. Source: GIZ, http://www2.giz.de/wbf/4tDx9kw63gma/08_UrbanNEXUS_CaseStudy_Medellin.pdf.

2. Government programme to rescue and improve public spaces[15], Mexico

Since 2007, SEDESOL, the Mexican Ministry of Social Development, has "rescued" 42 000 public spaces across the country by promoting the realization of social actions and the exe-cution of physical works to restore community meeting places, social interaction, and every-day recreation in insecure and marginalized urban areas. The goals of the 'Rescue of Public Spaces' programme are to help to improve the quality of life and the safety through public spaces revitalization in cities and metropolitan areas across Mexico, thereby promoting healthy living. This programme is a notable illustration of articulation between the national government, the active participation of local community members and the support and guidance of local authorities.

SEDESOL, Mexico. Source: Project for Public Space, http://www.pps.org/reference/ten-strategies-for-transforming-cities-through-place-making-public-spaces/

14 GIZ, available online: http://www2.giz.de wbf/4tDx9kw63gma/ 08_UrbanNEXUS_CaseStudy_Medellin.pdf
15 Project for Public Space. Ten Strategies for Transforming Cities and Public Spaces through Placemaking.

02. GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION
ACTORS-LED AND PLAN-LED
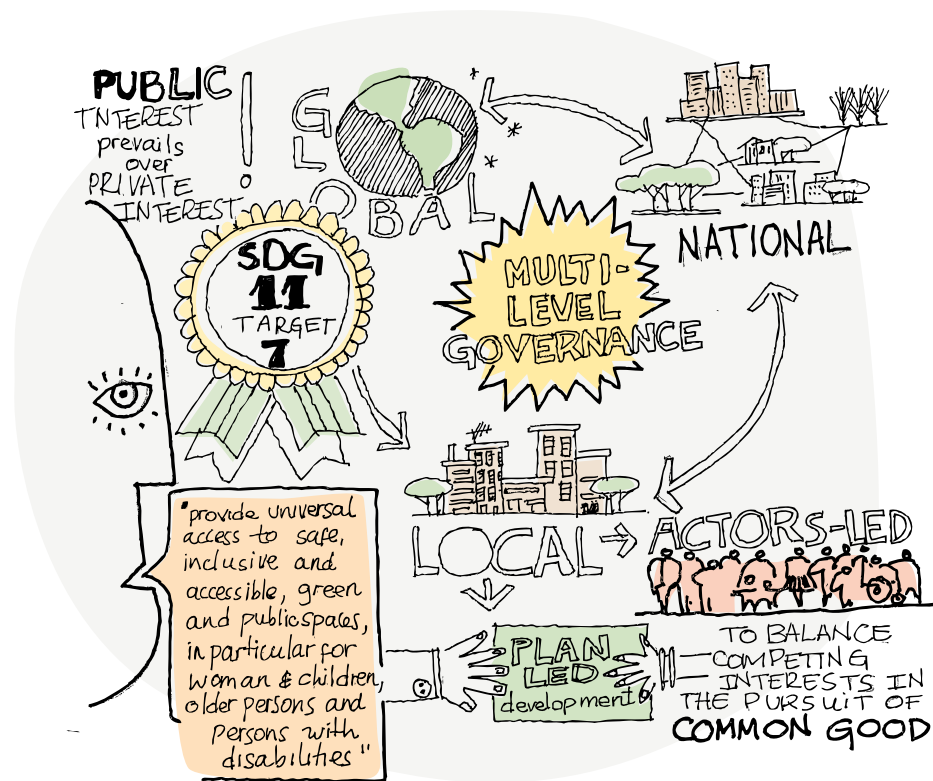
ANGELA WEISKOPF, Director of planning, City of Bremen

"Public space requires public attention and care. We, local governments must take it seriously as there is no other public sphere responsible for public space."

CEZAR BUSATTO, CEO Porto Alegre

"In Porto Alegre public spaces have been true laboratories for innovative community organization and networking. "We must be aware of the need to govern public space for all, not only those who make themeselves heard."

ALISON BROWN, Individual member WIEGO

"Organization and representation are key, working with local governments is absolutely essential."

ROSE MUEMA, Nairobi City Council, during the peer learning in Blantyre

"Public space centred urban development is a new concept in Africa that requires to be anchored in city development plans and policies for sustainability."

- The participation of the community, as well as organized communities such as NGOs, in all aspects of public space development such as planning, design, resourcing, enjoyment and maintenance is an objective for many local governments. This actors-led development refers to a type of governance in which local actors, inhabitants, organizations or associations are involved and engaged in the development. In this model of governance, the openness of the collaboration is sought for the place making and keeping as well as for the use of the space. The main challenge in an actors-led governance is the long-term inclusiveness of the collaboration that might at some point overstretch voluntarism or lead to an "excessive ownership" of actors which could possibly become exclusive over time.

- There is another model of governance on public space, in which the community has the role of the user. The plan-led development provides guidelines, in master plans for instance, to help local governments to guide their urban development including public spaces. Clear plans are essential to guide local governments in prioritizing, spending and planning their resources. They help local governments to show the value of public spaces and mitigate the negative impacts of site-specific interventions (e.g. gentrification). Plan-led development, projects a spatial reality that encourages other government levels or the private sector to evaluate the feasibility of their interventions. It is also important that communities see themselves as custodians of public space to protect the spaces for effective use for all. This, however, can only be achieved if the city and all the stakeholders work in collaboration with each other to design develop and maintain public spaces. It is further noted that during the process of engagement with the public, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders are defined.

EXAMPLES

1. Actors-led governance to manage public space: The Creative District of Porto Alegre, Brazil[16]

This project was set up in 2013 and is today a meeting point for artists and entrepreneurs from the creative class. It is the result of collaboration with NGOs supported by local governments. Several activities are regularly organized such as the recycled piano initiative in partnership with the Piano Livre project where 10 pianos were installed. In the C District project, creativity is not restricted to private art galleries since neighbors organize events for arts to be out in the streets, squares and façades.

The Creative District of POA. Source: UCLG Learning

2. Plan-led governance to create public space: the example of the City of Oslo

Norwegian municipalities are free to act and plan on their territories as far as they do not go against the national guidelines. The municipal council administers the Municipal Master Plans and then the mayor is in charge of planning.[17] The City-Region of Oslo is to develop public- private partnerships to create master plans. The creation of a master plan can take up to two years as it has to be revised and accepted by the city council.[18] In the case of Oslo, the waterfront revitalization master plan was accepted in 2000 by the city. This project is made up of 14 different projects including the famous Opera House. In 2002 the Oslo Waterfront Planning Office was created to manage the project for the next 50 years[19]. The waterfront revitalization project is based on public private partnerships for financial support and long-term management after a long process of negotiations and contracts between the private sector and the City of Oslo.

*Oslo, plan-led governance. Source: UCLG Learning*

16 UCLG learning note, Public Space and Citizenship, Porto Alegre, 2014. (Available online: https://issuu.com/uclgcglu/docs/public_space_and_citizenship)
17 COMMIN. Norway Planning system. BSR INTERREG III B project "promoting spatial development by creating COMon MINdcapes". 2007 p14-42
18 Nystad, F,J. "Building and Urban Development in Norway - a selection of current issues". The Norwegian State Housing Bank/ Hus- banken.2004
19 «The Fjord City, The Plans For Urban Development Of The Waterfront». 2004. http://81.47.175.201/
plalitoral/SIGlitoral/altresplans/oslowa- terfront.pdf.

03. PUBLIC SPACE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
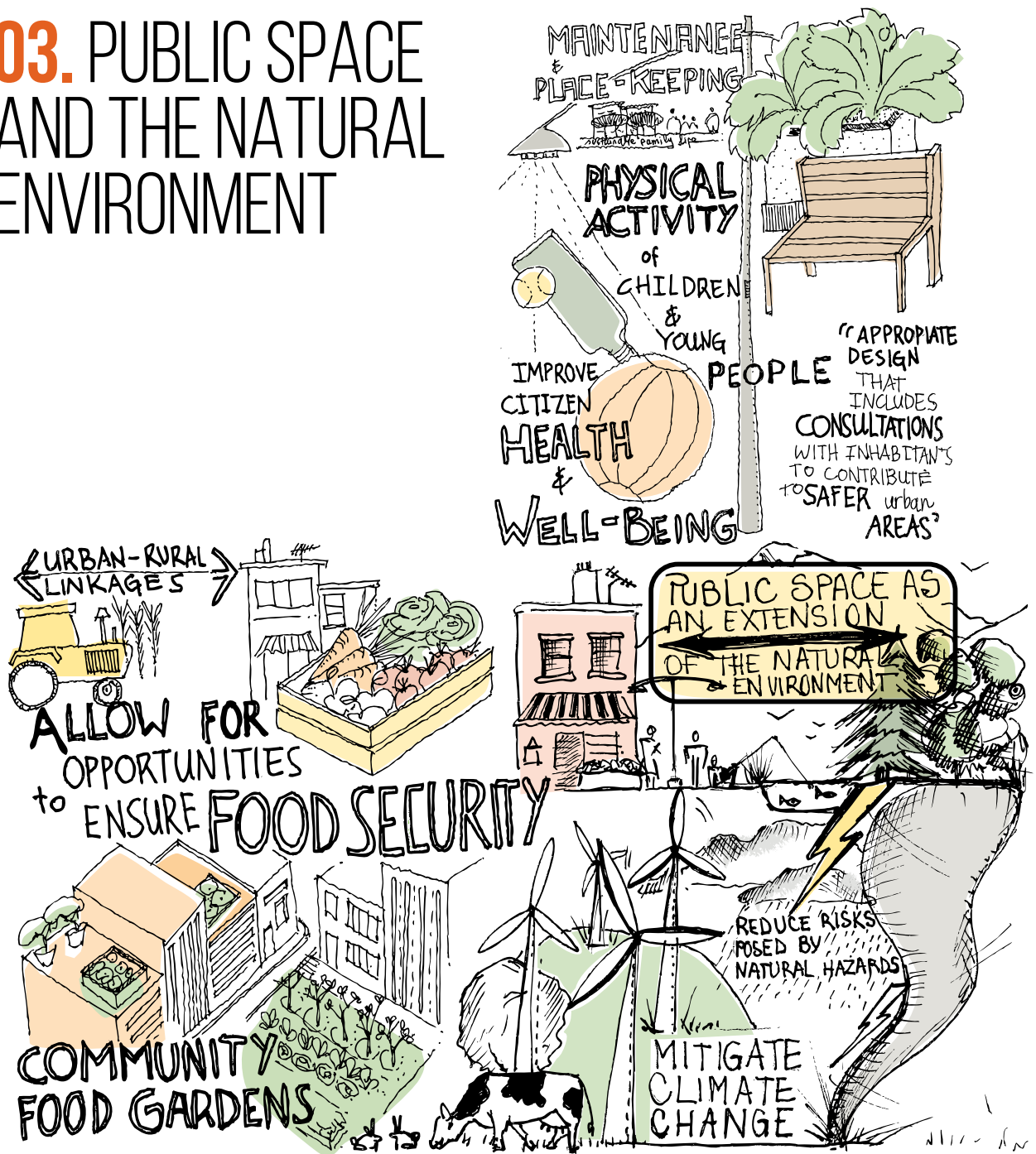
MARIA HELENA LANGA, Mayor of Mandlakazi

"Urbanization in Mozambique is almost 80% informal, we cope with the demand on land registration. The population does not see value in protecting land that is important to be reserved for parks and public use until the cities are built up. We need to raise awareness."

MOHAMED SEFIANI, Mayor of Chefchaouen

"Our intermediary cities count on many people form rural origin, with low economic status. If we want the natural environment to support the city, we need to acknowledge and promote its use: through public spaces along the river where traditional food is offered, and through the markets in the historical medina."

Health and well-being

- Public spaces that can be used for physical and recreational activities, including education and learning, improve citizens' health and well-being. Public spaces that promote active uses contribute to the physical activity of children and young people, and to sustainable family life, in particular in green open spaces.

- Public spaces should be seen as opportunities where citizens can improve their access to the natural environment thereby improving well-being. Parks and green spaces improve air quality and offer relaxation and leisure for the communities.

- Public spaces can also further well-being and health concepts by ensuring there is a network of public space that supports non-motorized transport encouraging walking and cycling.

- Public spaces with natural forested areas within the urban landscape provide opportunities that would stimulate users to be more active, thereby leading to healthier communities.

EXAMPLE

1. Public Market Research with the Ford and W.K Kellogg Foundations and Project for Public Spaces[20]

In collaboration with the Ford and the W.K Kelogg Foundations, the Project for Public Space initiated in 2002 a national funding program around public markets and farmers in low and moderate-income communities. Forty markets in 22 states were awarded funding and their efforts showed that through small amounts of funding markets could boost the sustainability of vendors and management, resulting in increased market sales and higher market operating revenue. They all support the idea that public markets diversify their vendor and customer base, support youth development projects, provide increased access to healthy food and serve as transformational places for their communities to gather.

Public Market Research. Source: PPS, http://www.pps.org/reference/kellogg_market_research-2/

[20] Project for Public Space. Available online: http://www.pps.org/pdf/kellogg_report.pdf

Food security

- Public spaces allow opportunities to ensure food security. Through the development of public food markets in open public spaces, cities are able to provide connections to the natural environment and foster urban-rural linkages. With the increase in food prices, more communities are turning to local food suppliers and systems to ensure locally sourced food that is nutritional.

- Local government administrators can ensure the possibility of creating food security opportunities for the citizens. Public spaces can foster fair trade and allow for the development of community food gardens especially in neighbourhoods and around community facilities.

- People centered public space development can promote urban food security through the development of public spaces that support food production at a community level. This would further promote access to a sustainable urban food supply helping to reduce environmental impacts, enhance food security and livelihoods of the urban poor and protect urban ecosystems.

- Public spaces are more widely used and have better users' satisfaction if they contain natural elements that create pleasant spaces.

EXAMPLES

1. The Brazil's National School Feeding Program[21]

Brazil's National School Feeding Program initiated in 1955 is part of the "Zero hunger strategy" adopted by the Ministry of Development. In 2009, the government passed a law requiring cities to spend at least 30% of their school meal budget on produce from family farmers. This program fosters interaction between small local farmers and public schools. It is a way to boost local agriculture while providing food and nutrition security to students from low-income neighborhoods. This example illustrates a strong synergy and coordination between the national government and local authorities.

Brazil's National School Feeding Program. Source: World Food programme

2. Ecological fairs, the City of Porto Alegre[22]

The city of Porto Alegre, Brazil, has seven ecological fairs selling products directly coming from the rural areas and adjacent cities (within 200km distance) to final city consumers. The fairs take place on public streets and plazas of different districts of the city, in an alternate weekly schedule. They represent a lively gathering moment for the communities involved. The products sold have no pesticides or synthetic substances. A capacity building program for the producers guarantees food security control and the compliance with the "SIM Vegetal", the Municipal Inspection Service of Vegetal Origin Products. In the coming future, Porto Alegre organic food will receive a controlled origin label.

Ecological fairs in POA. Source: UCLG Learning

[21] World Food Programme. https://www.wfp.org/content/brazil-desk-review-national-school-feeding-programme
[22] The City of Porto Alegre
[23] Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire d'Antananarivo- Madagascar

3. Urban agriculture as an integral element of public spaces, the example of Antananarivo, Madagascar[23]

Antananarivo is a city of water and hills where space is available for urban agriculture. The capital city of Madagascar has 2 million inhabitants with a majority of low-income families.

From 2003-2007, research helped to understand farming and urban agriculture in the area undertaking over 250 interviews undertaken. The functions of urban agriculture are multiple: economic, as it creates jobs in farming, transportation and collection of local produce; environmental, as rice fields are water storage to prevent floods; and cultural as rice farming is part of the Malagasy heritage reflected in the language, music, songs and the folklore. For these reasons, the city has a Master Plan and a 'Green Plan' in which the protection of agricultural land and the creation of reserves in the hills are essential. Over 40% of the 425 km^2 of Antananarivo is agricultural. It is therefore important to preserve it as public space in regards to the natural, economic, cultural and social positive aspects of urban agriculture and rice farming activities.

Urban Agriculture, Madagascar. Source: City Farmer

Natural environment and sustainability

- Public spaces are generators of cities as they act as integrators between the physical and the natural environment. Green spaces can act as sustainable drainage system, solar temperature moderator, source of cooling corridors, wind shelter and wildlife habitat.

- Open public green spaces are extensions of the natural environment: public spaces are essential elements in the search for greater urban sustainability and resilience. Public green areas play a fundamental role in strategies for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, as well as they help to reduce the risks posed by natural hazards and threats to public health.

- Mitigate climate change by increasing opportunities and develop the infrastructure required to promote non-carbon based urban transport, particularly walking and cycling.

This can lead to improved resilience for cities. Introducing bicycle lanes and platforms better suited to pedestrian traffic can do this. Creating incentives to use other forms of transport will make it possible to improve the quality of urban life, the urban environment and the public health of all the local citizens.

- Reduce disaster-related risks as part of the emergency and evacuation strategies. Disaster protections zones can also play a role as open public spaces in the every day life of cities.

- A good network of open green public spaces, when well-designed and well-managed, have the ability to combat urban heat islands and its impact on the urban microclimate phenomenon. Poor air quality at a micro level can also be alleviated by creating public spaces that incorporate an abundance of trees and natural elements.

EXAMPLES

1. Vancouver 2020: a bright green future

In October 2009, the Greenest City Action team released "Vancouver 2020: a bright green future", an action plan for becoming the world's greenest city by 2020. This roadmap sets out a long-term vision and 10 goals. It includes recommendations for the City of Vancouver such as its contribution to the protection of endangered species and ecosystems, the wetlands, the streams and the riverbanks but also the implementation of a program to monitor and control harmful invasive species.

Vancouver 2020. Source: UCLG Learning

2. Kathmandu[24]: the importance of public spaces during the earthquake

After the first earthquake of magnitude 8.4 in April 2015, residents ran to the closest open spaces. People admitted that the availability of these open spaces provided them with immediate safety. All the 83 open spaces in the Kathmandu Valley were used. People whose houses were not damaged or partially damaged lived in a tent in front of their house, whereas the people whose houses were partially or completely damaged or reside in a risky area ran to all the identified open spaces or any other open areas. It helped the citizens, the public administrations and the donor communities to understand losses, to coordinate action at the micro level. "Each and every open space, no matter how large or small, will be invaluable after a major earthquake. They will be our portals into delivering aid in a chaotic, anarchic environment," said Andrew Martin, the Head of UN-OCHA in Nepal. "

Kathmandu and public space. Source: http://eugene-kaspersky.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2014/07/nepal-katmandu-2.jpg

3. Medellin and the challenge of resilience[25]

Improving public areas will increase the resilience of a city overall. It helps cities to withstand and respond more readily after severe tensions or disturbances of any sort, and live better in more peaceful times. The City of Medellin is battling to resist and overcome tough problems that have been present in the Colombian cities for more than 60 years. Still rated as the most inequitable city in Colombia, it faces a huge challenge. Recently selected to work together with the Rockefeller Foundation on the 100 Resilient Cities program, Medellin is a good example of a city dedicated to fight landslide, rainfall flooding, volcanic activity, crime, and drug trafficking. Their resilience strategy is a co-creation exercise out of community-driven workshops that aims to address their future.


Medellin and resilience. Source: 100 Resilient Cities, http://www.100resilientcities.org/cities/entry/medellins-resilience-challenge#/-_/

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[24] UN-Ocha. Nepal: Preparing for an earthquake in the Kathmandu Valley. 21/05/2013. URL: http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/nepal-preparing-earthquake-kathmandu-valley
[25] 100 Resilient Cities. Medellín's Resilience Challenge. Available online: http://www.100resilientcities.org/cities/entry/medellins-resilience-challenge#/-_/

04. PUBLIC SPACE AND ACCESSIBILITY
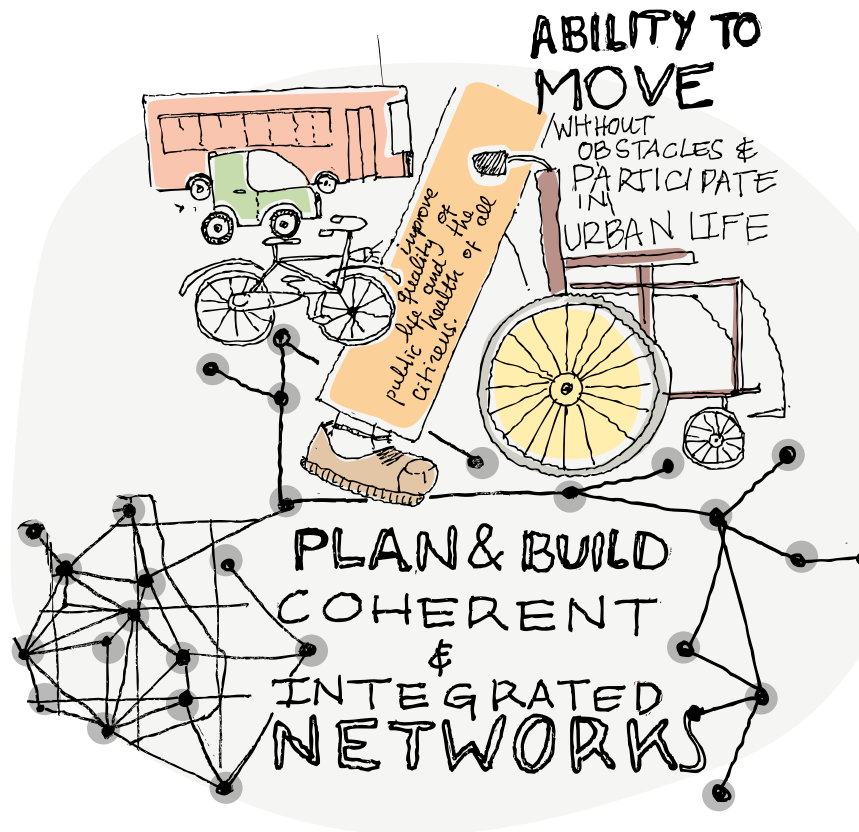
RACHEL KACHAJE, Chairperson Disabled Women in Africa

"Public space, as other public services should be provided to all the citizens, including those living with disabilities"

JANE JACOBS, Journalist, author and activist

"The streets of successful city neighborhoods must have .. a clear demarcation between what is public space and what is private space. Public and private spaces cannot ooze into each other as they do typically in suburban settings or in projects."

JAN GEHL, Architect and urban design consultant

"Cities must urge urban planners and architects to reinforce pedestrianisation as an integrated city policy to develop lively, safe, sustainable and healthy cities. It is equally urgent to strengthen the social function of city space as a meeting place …"

Mobility

ADA COLAU, Mayor of Barcelona

"We can transform our cities into shared spaces of human rights, including right to mobility."

- A strategy should plan and build public spaces as a coherent network in which public spaces are all connected to each other. Within this system, all the citizens must be able to move around without facing any obstacles. Public spaces need to be recognized as a system and not seen in isolation of city strategies.

- The mobility of pedestrians, in particular those with physical disabilities, need to be promoted in localized public space policies so that all citizens can use and enjoy public spaces.

- As with a city's mobility strategy, the public space policy should provide an integrated public space network at each scale and connect efficient and effectively to surroundings (citywide and neighborhoods).

- Public spaces can be used as a catalyst to inform cities non-motorized transport strategies, thereby promoting walking and cycling within cities.

EXAMPLES

1. The Critical Mass (cycling)[26]

The critical mass is a cycling event initiated in 1992 in San Francisco and is now in more than 300 cities around the world. It happens on the last friday of every month and gathers hundreds of cyclists involved in a "monthly protest to reclaim the streets." These events are celebrations and spontaneous gatherings.

Critical mass cycling. Source: sfcriticalmass, http://www.sfcriticalmass.org/

2. Bilbao: the strategy for mobility and public space[27]

The City of Bilbao, a leader in the UCLG digital agenda and also one of the cities that signed the Walk 21 Charter with UCLG, has transformed the approach to mobility and public space in recent years. Multi modal public transportation but also the changes in parking and traffic regulation helped to reduce the use of individual vehicles. Also, the re-design of streets and public spaces was made in favor of walking and cycling. New transport modalities such as tramway or funicular are all connected through a public space system, that is accessible for people with disabilities.

Bilbao and the strategy of mobility. Source: UCLG Committee of Digital and Knowledge-based cities

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[26] San Francisco critical mass website: http://www.sfcriticalmass.org/faq/
[27] Annual event of the UCLG Committee of Digital and Knowledge-based Cities held in Liverpool in June 2016.
[28] IAU Ile de France, 2016

3. Pedestrian friendly public space policy in Paris[28]

The Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, launched a campaign to reclaim some of the city's most beautiful, but also most congested, squares for pedestrians. Paris will allot €30 million to cut road traffic and open up seven iconic public spaces to make them more pedestrian friendly, with public participation to redesign the areas: Place de la Bastille, Place d'Italie, Place de la Nation, Place du Panthéon, Place de la Madeleine, Place Gambetta and Place des Fêtes. They are key areas for the image one of the most touristic cities in the world. This project is part of a larger policy aiming to reduce the place of cars and give priority to pedestrian. Other projects are transforming urban motorways into large public spaces (les berges de Seine) in the core part of the Capital city. It will boost the intensification of urban life with public gardens, café-terraces and monuments that remain an urban planning ideal for many people across the world.

Pedestrian friendly public space policy in Paris. Source: Le Parisien

Technology

The use of modern technologies to improve city life and spaces is a promising reality. Worldwide we are seeing examples of tools and programs for interacting with citizens, making urban life easier.

KENT LARSON, Brilliant designs to fit more people in every city – TED Talks

"We think, a new model for mobility, a new model for housing, a new model for how we live and work, a path to market for advanced technologies. But in the end, the main thing we need to focus on are people. Cities are all about people."

MARIA REGINA RAU, Urban Planner Consultant, City of Porto Alegre and Coordinator of the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning

"The use of modern technology to improve city life and spaces is a promising reality. Worldwide we are seeing examples of tools and programs to interact with citizens, making urban life easier."

- New technologies can make the use and management of public spaces more efficient. The information and immediate mapping of activities, occupation, obstacles and traffic regulation can be made accessible to all citizens.

- The impact of new technologies in cities is fast becoming a reality and the same is said to be true for public spaces. The introduction of wireless networks and access to free Internet in public space creates an enabling environment for tourists as well as citizens in the city who require digital access. The implementation of free Wi-Fi and Internet in public spaces makes the space more inclusive for the users.

- Data collection and free access to information reinforces the accountability and transparency of local governments.

- Make cities more functional by adapting public spaces to changing priorities and new needs: reducing or influencing the use of cars, improving public transportation systems and increasing security by applying new technologies.

- The implementation of new technologies on public spaces has physical impacts, as it requires an appropriate design. These innovative projects directly involve local governments and their investment for the creation and the management.

- Technology can also assist in bridging the gap between physical and virtual spaces by enabling the users of the spaces to have a more interactive experience with areas that concern them.

EXAMPLES

1. The port of Amsterdam[29]

The port of Amsterdam counts on 42 dynamic, dimmable LED smart streetlights, a DC grid and sustainable wind and solar energy on a bike path in the area. In this way it helps saving costs and energy. The port of Amsterdam provides light when they need it. As soon as a cyclist is nearby he can adjust the lighting by himself to a 100% with the GeoLight app on his own smartphone. During his tour he will feel safe and comfortable. As soon as there is no activity, the streetlights dim again automatically so energy will be saved.

Port of Amsterdam. Source: Port of Amsterdam, http://www.portofamsterdam.com/

2. Free Wi-Fi access in public spaces in Blantyre, Malawi[30]

Following the peer learning event held in the City of Blantyre in December 2015, Blantyre has just started engaging the private sector and other partners in smart city initiatives on public spaces. One of the areas to be explored is access to technologies and social networks. For example, introducing Wi-Fi zones in some parks in the City that will give a free access to internet and people will be able to connect and charge their cell phones. This will also be able to create closer ties between people, who don't always have access to internet at home. This will assist the youth, school students and the general public to access free Wi-Fi.

Blantyre Wi-Fi Areas. Source: UCLG Learning

3. Pokemon Go (outside): the gamification of public space with augmented reality[31]

Pokémon Go is a recent location-based augmented reality game that was launched in 2016. This game is a smart phone application that guides you within the city to catch small virtual creatures called Pokémon. Real-world landmarks, known by the players as "Pokestops", were selected through crowd-sourcing efforts. This game has truly become a great way to discover the architectural and cultural hidden faces that make a town, city or neighborhood unique. However, it is still to be seen that the player besides going outside and walk, will also interact in urban life and how this platform connects to local governments.

Pokemon Go. Source: Arch Daily, Scott Maurer, http://www.archdaily.com/791694/21st-century-nolli-how-pokemon-go-and-augmented-reality-could-shape-our-cities

[29] Port of Amsterdam. Self-illuminating bicycle path powered by solar and wind energy. 17/02/2016. Online : http://www.portofamsterdam.com/Eng/Self-illuminating-bicycle-path-powered-by-solar-and-wind-energy.html
[30] Interview with Costly Chanza, Director of Urban Planning in the City of Blantyre
[31] Patrick Lynch, « 21st Century Nolli: How Pokemon GO and Augmented Reality Could Shape Our Cities », The ArchDaily. 19/07/2016.

## 4. Stavropol: the "safe Stavropol" initiative[32]

It connects an emergency number and a control system with the intention to respond and prevent crime in public spaces. The city allocated 26 million rubbles to install more than 400 surveillance cameras in the regional center and to buy necessary equipment for processing and storing. Nowadays all public spaces, exits and entrance to the city, schools, institutions of culture, health and sports are equipped with surveillance cameras that transmit the information to the city Situation Centre and stored for a whole month. In addition, a video signal is transmitted to the law enforcement bodies. With this measure, Stavropol wants to analyze quickly, simulate and predict the scenario of any situation, and make more effective coordination of law enforcement agencies in investigating and detecting crimes.

Safe Stavropol. Source: UCLG Committee of Digital and Knowledge-based cities

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[32] The UCLG Committee on digital and knowledge-based cities. The city of Stavropol shares its experience "safe stavropol". 26/04/2011. URL : http://www.uclg-digitalcities.org/en/the-city-of-stavropol-shares-its-experience-safe-stavropol/

05. IDENTITY AND CULTURE
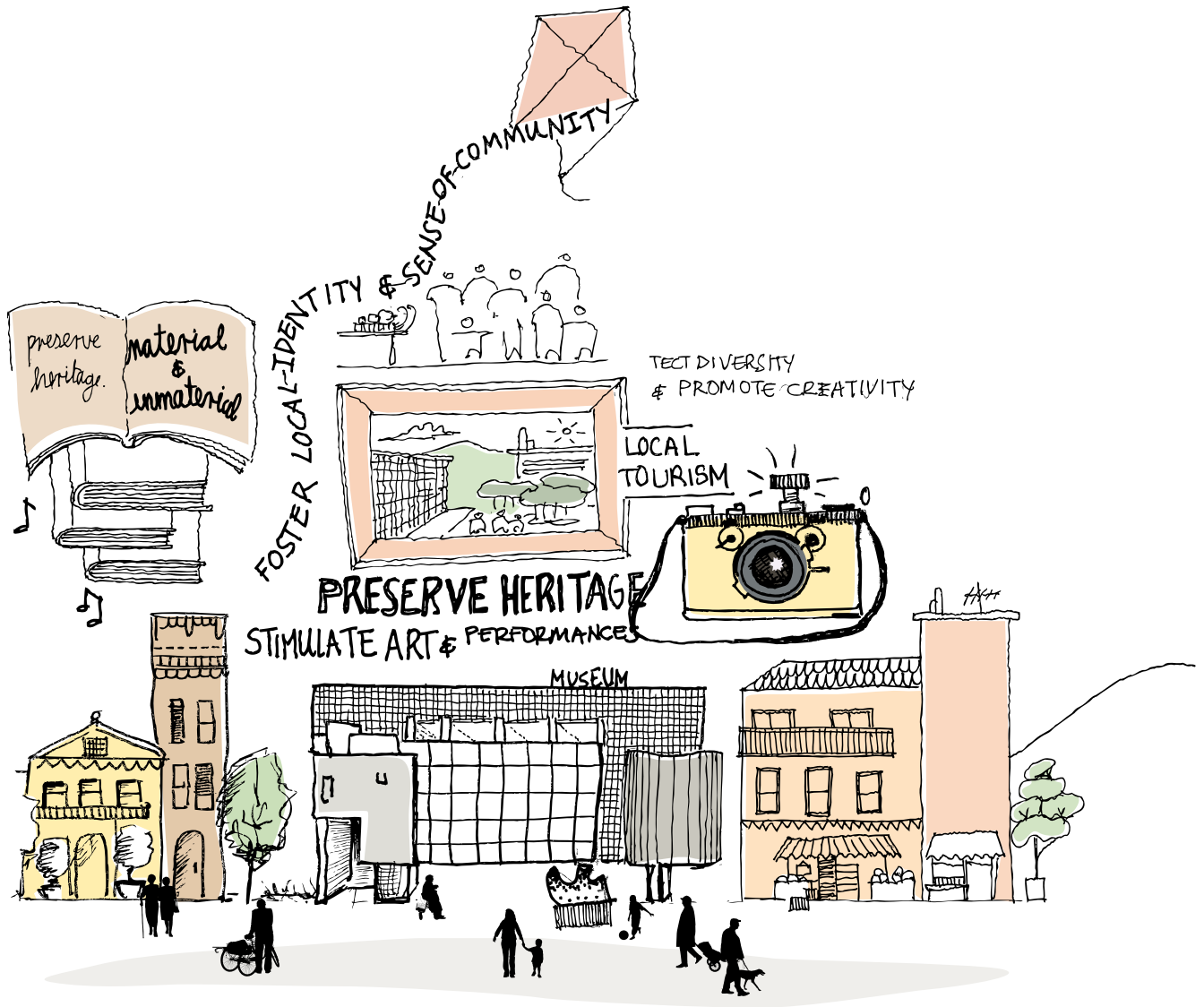
CEZAR BUSATTO, CEO Porto Alegre

"We need to understand public spaces as citizen's education and learning areas. It is known that deteriorated public spaces favor conflict and crime."

ANTANAS MOCKUS, Former Mayor of Bogota

"Public space is a public good. It is sacred!"

- Culture is an essential dimension in the transition to sustainable cities and regions. A localized public space policy that supports people centered public space development promotes city identity and culture through art, design and cultural activities in open public spaces as well as in public facilities such as public libraries, cultural and civic centers, etc. Public art and performances can celebrate and validate a sense of community, creativity, identity, belonging and well-being.

- Twenty-first century public spaces must evaluate cultural impacts, in the same way that it started to evaluate environmental impacts in the twentieth-century.

- The relationship between culture and public space includes the need for urban and regional development projects to adapt to their cultural context. One such example is the use, where possible, of local knowledge and traditional construction techniques that add personality and distinctiveness to the city, rather than using models from elsewhere[33].

- The potential of cultural activities and suitably designed infrastructures to contributes to urban regeneration, diversity, creativity and innovation which contribute to a distinctive urban environment and identity of cities and towns are some of the opportunities that can be extracted by cities through the development and cultural strategies of public spaces.

- Public spaces can preserve heritage (both material and immaterial), and be a reference for the history and belonging. While building change, public spaces remind the urban to analyze the morphology and the evolution of a city.

- Public spaces at a neighborhood level provide a valuable opportunity for a place of meeting and socializing thereby building social cohesion, with a balance among large and small facilities, city centers and decentralized neighborhoods in resource distribution and cultural planning.

EXAMPLE

1. Bogota Campaign for citizens' behavior in taking care of public space

Mayor Antanas Mockus initiated a unique strategy to reduce violence and increase cohabitation in Bogota. Applying the concept of Adorno on the different perceptions of individuals versus groups, he asked theatre groups to help reminding the impact of behavior. Clowns, stopped drives when crossing Zebras, campaigned with taxi drivers to reduce violence in traffic congestions, worked with citizens in neighborhood reducing vandalism. The city reduced murder and violence rates significantly, key indicators for cohabitation in public spaces.

The focus on public space continued with Biblored[34], an innovative network of public libraries initiated in 1998 by Enrique Peñalosa, the mayor of Bogota at that time. The network is made up of 3 complementary levels of libraries: metropolitan libraries, local libraries and neighborhood libraries all spread in the city.

Bogotá counts on an own body in charge of the Defense of Public space since almost 20 years. This has helped the different city mayors to articulate different social, economic, and cultural policies.

Bogota Biblored. Source: Fundalectura, http://fundalectura.org/?module=noticias-detail&i=526

[33] Culture 21 Actions, 2015. UCLG, Committee on culture
[34] Official website of Biblored: http://www.biblored.gov.co/

EXAMPLES

2. Cultural festivals in Cologne, Germany[35]

The "Summer Cologne" shows how cultural, commercial and social stakeholders cooperate with municipalities to use public space for leisure, theatre, music or other activities during the summer holidays. In German cities In this regard, municipalities provide exceptional regulations such as reducing parking spaces, extending opening hours for shops, providing more services (local police or emergency service, toilets, lightening, etc.). The festivals are attracting local inhabitants, people from surrounding areas and tourists.

Summer Fest in Cologne. Source: Jennifer Rumbach, Cologne show Aquamarine www.sommer.koeln

3. Sabantuy festival, Kazan, Russia[36]

The region of Tatarstan, in Russia, celebrates a joyful festival called Sabantuy. It was originated from many centuries ago, with origins to the pre-Islamic epoch, and symbolizes the end of the spring field works, expectations of good harvest and generally prosperous future. Sabantuy is a symbol of Tatarstan, arranged annually in villages, followed by rural districts, and the final ones taking place in major cities. The 2016 festival was held in Kazan, with traditional food, gifts, and dances, bringing memorable impressions.

Sabantuy festival in Kazan. Source: M.R.Rau, UCLG CUSP

4. The city hall turned into a public space, Seoul, South Korea[37]

The city hall and a large part of the administrative offices are located in the business district, a compact area mainly used for offices. Alsmost 40% of the city hall surface (ground floor and basement with access to the metro), are open to the public and used as public spaces. It hosts not only exhibitions, weddings and markets, but policy forums to work as a channel for the communication between the city and the citizens. Moreover, cultural activities can be performed there and this space welcome a limited number of cultural "spots" such as libraries and book stores. The space is very much used by general public and creates a unique sense of belonging to the city hall.

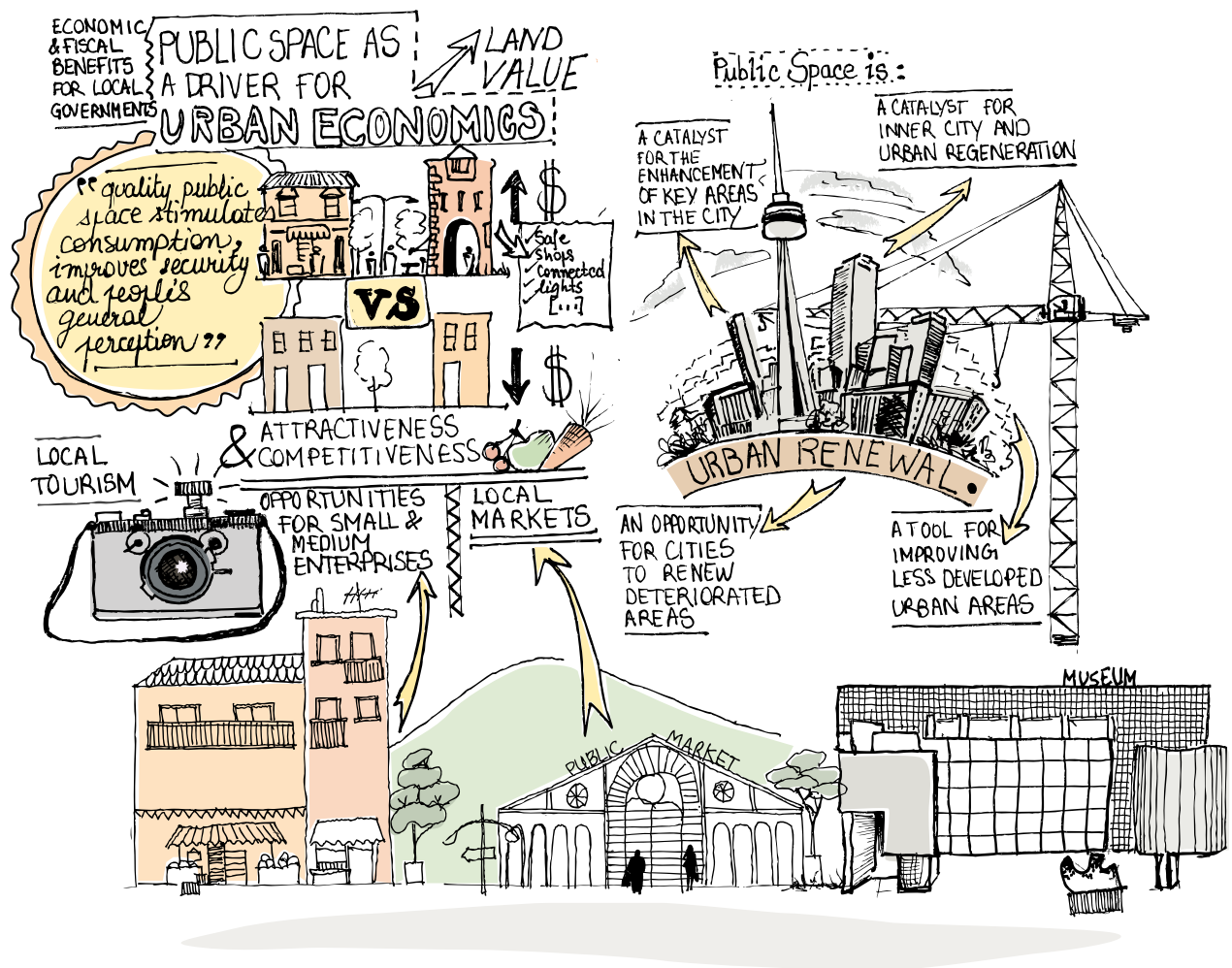*City hall in Seoul. Source: UCLG Learning*

[35] www.sommer.koeln
[36] Example provided by the City of Porto Alegre during the UCLG Executive Bureau 2016 in Kazan.
[37] UCLG Learning, 2016.

05. PUBLIC SPACE AND ECONOMIC POLICIES

JOAN CLOS, Secretary General of UN–Habitat

"Acting on public space is not an easy task: moreover, when globally public space is diminishing, because of privatization of the urbanization, of the urban design and the urban planning."

JAMES NXUMALO, the former Mayor of Durban

"As city leaders, we need to champion the development of public space policies at city, regional, national and global levels. We have taken the opportunity to network, learn and develop a body of knowledge on public space."

Economic opportunities

- Quality public space has a positive impact on the surrounding property values, in saying that the converse is also true, poorly managed public space can have a negative impact on surrounding land values. Cities need to view public spaces as drivers for economic development within urban areas. Whilst quality public spaces added to the diversity of urban areas, they also have the potential to generate income via rates and taxes that are generated from the higher property values surrounding the public spaces. Quality public spaces stimulate investment and consumption, improve security, and peoples' general perception of areas in question.

- By investing in public spaces, local governments can have important economic and fiscal benefits, as they contribute to the quality of areas, attractiveness as well as competitiveness. Land markets are one indicator to monitor this investment.

- Local governments should adopt redistributive policies to redirect municipal resources generated by gentrification in order to improve supply, quantity and distribution of public space in less fortunate neighborhoods such as slums and informal settlements.

- Enhance key areas in the city to promote local economic development, particularly through public markets and the integration of informal economy as well. Markets in public spaces provide opportunities for small and medium enterprises to get active in urban economy, and foster urban-rural linkages.

- The access of street vendors on public spaces can be regulated through local policies and the deliver of personal licenses. Local governments should acknowledge the role of informal economy as part of local economic development.

- High quality public spaces promote local tourism by providing spaces of high aesthetic, leisure, sporting and cultural value with activities for citizens and tourists.

- High quality public spaces provide a potential venue for events. Well-managed social events on public spaces can have a positive impact on the urban environment as well as generate income through local consumption.

- Cities which develop good quality public spaces, can effectively support economic development and trade by ensuring that the public realm is attracting people into the area.

EXAMPLE

1. The 'souk' as a link between urban and rural territories, Chefchaouen, Morocco[38]

The city of Chefchaouen focuses on the interactions between rural and urban areas as components for an integrated territory. The 'souk' of Chefchaouen is a merging point of the urban-rural linkages from an economic, social and spatial point of view. The products of the market come from rural areas close to the city (small producers, especially women) and rural areas in other regions (wholesalers). This market is close to the historical centre, called 'Medina' and is the place for small-scale activities generating social and economic dynamic and strengthening social cohesion.

Souk in Chefchaouen. Source: UCLG Learning

[38] UCLG learning note, Strengthening Local Economic Development through Urban-Rural Policies, Chaouen, 2014. (Available online: https://issuu.com/uclgcglu/docs/a_strengthening_led_through_urban-r)

Urban renewal

AUGUSTO BARRERA, doctor and politician former Mayor of Quito

"We have a serious problem of cultural and social accessibility in public spaces. Regeneration frequently means excluding vulnerable groups such as children, disabled and urban poor. The colonial urban model led to economic and ethnic segregation in modern cities."

- Public space development provides great opportunities for cities to renew deteriorated urban areas and integrate infrastructures. Urban renewal projects offer the opportunity to improve the supply of urban spaces and offer greater opportunities for citizens to exercise their social and economic rights.

- Public space has the ability to catalyze urban development and renewal by creating an enabling environment for private developers to capitalize on the public realm and upgrade within the urban environment.

- The quality of new developed urban public spaces can greatly influence and have a positive impact on the quality of life of citizens.

- Public space is the first implementation on large urban development project, as an asset to attract investments for urban development.

- Well-managed public spaces act as catalysts for inner city and urban regeneration by increasing surrounding land values. Public space is an important tool for improving less developed urban areas.

EXAMPLES

1. JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) [39]

JESSICA is an initiative of the European Commission developed with the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank to support urban development projects, JESSICA was set up in 2007 to 2013. Many European cities, applied to European windows for urban regeneration and improved their public spaces making their cities attractive through high quality design in historic city centres.

The case of Terrassa

The plan Distrito 2 in Terrassa, Spain, has favored social inclusion in a neighborhood with more than 30% of migrants from Morocco and vulnerable to conflicts. A transformation process started by integrating social mediation of neighborhood and owner associations. Then, spatial measures including the improvement of squares and infrastructure in public spaces were done costing 27 million of Euro. This Plan was implemented under the frame of the neighborhood law of Catalonia provincial government and supported by the European program Jessica.

JESSICA, Terrassa. Source: the City of Terrassa

[39] JESSICA. Website: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/special-support-instruments/jessica/

2. The medina development plan of Tangier[40]

Tangier created a medina development plan in order to meet the challenges of the Medina related to the downfall of traditional activities, the deterioration but also gentrification. The rehabilitation of the port was connected to several public space projects in the old city, as well excavation of the historical city walls to highlight the heritage. The new relaxation areas are not only meeting points for Tangier's youth and traditional neighborhoods; they also structure and increase cultural tourism.

Medina Development Tangier. Source: World Architects, http://www.world-architects.com/en/projects/50443_ Masterplan_for_the_Tangier_Old_Harbour

3. Tanjong Pagar station in Singapore: community revival through public space[41]

Tanjong Pagar is a former railway station in Singapore. Abandoned, this Art Deco and neoclassical building is now used by the Singaporeans and tourists as a public open space. Plans are under way to redevelop the station as a multi-functional community space. The architecture of the building will be retained but some facilities will be added such as an art gallery. The 24km stretch of former railway line will be turned into a linear park. In a town in which public spaces are highly regulated, designed and manicured, this place is the most "rural" area that you can find. The Singaporean government has begun to encourage community activities to "enliven" public spaces and get people interacting with the implementation of Our Favorite Place, a funding initiative for people to carry out creative projects in public spaces.

Tanjong Pagar Station, Singapore. Source: The Guardian

4. Urban Renewal Project Clichy Batignolles, Paris[42]

The large urban development project of Clichy Batignolles is a large urban renewal project aiming to create a new neighborhood based on functional mixing and social diversity. To begin the project, a large park was created in the middle of the project. The park was the first program implemented in order to attract inhabitants and investors. Here, public space is crossing quality of life and economic development, as a main factor of attractiveness. It is a driver for urban renewal and urban economics.

Urban renewal project, Paris. IAU Ile de France

[40] Hannae Bekkari in UCLG insight Heritage a cultural asset for development
[41] Ling Low, "Abandoned train station signals community revival in Singapore", The Guardian. 22/07/2016.
[42] IAU Ile de France, 2016

Financial policies

JOSEP ROIG, Secretary General of UCLG

"Cities of the future must be created by citizens, civil society, governments and the private sector. Local governments share the global responsibility, we need to co-create the city all together. This policy framework is an excellent tool to make this happen."

PUVEN AKKIAH, IDP Manager Durban, Coordinator of the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning

"As an art, public space requires human resources, investment and, above all, time."

AUGUSTO BARRERA, Former Mayor of Quito

"We need to have a legal framework and funding to understand public spaces as a structural element."

JOE ANDERSSON, Mayor of Liverpool

"The 58 percent cut to our budget by the central Government has left us grappling with the challenge of finding new ways to fund non-essential services, including maintenance of and investment in our green and open spaces. We need innovative ways to secure the long term future of our green and open spaces".

- The sustainability and the quality of public spaces depend on the resources allocated at the local level to the creation, the management and the maintenance of public spaces. Local governments arethe principal stakeholders investing in public space projects that have direct effects on the quality of cities, the increase of property value, the image and the attractiveness of cities.

- A local government is the public sphere in charge of allocating resources to public space development and maintenance. As such local governments need to ensure that there is adequate annual budget for public spaces, it is noted that there are severe constraints that local governments face when it comes to allocations of finances. It is therefore proposed that cities investigate innovative funding sources to supplement public spaces budgets at the local level.

- Private participation in funding is an opportunity that should be promoted in cities. However, it is important to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all of the partners involved. For example, if a BOT (built operate transfer) model - often used in public private partnerships to fund sport facilities, malls and gated community - is implemented for public spaces it can lead to the charging of fees for the use of space, or the privatization of public spaces that become exclusive and cannot be called public anymore. Moreover, communities can manage and maintain community public spaces but this requires the development of a framework by local governments to set up the partnership.

- Public spaces can generate local income, in the form of taxes, coming from increased property value or locally generated revenue. This increased value can be calculated in advance and be part of the public investment recovered through increased property taxes.

- In planned expansion projects a public space system should be established which could be seen as a capital investment that improves the overall quality of the environment as well as contributes to the economic growth of the city by improving surrounding land values. In fact, urban development is reducing private land to about 50 to 60% for roads, drainage, parks, utilities and amenities. To catch these land for the public realm, specific tools should be implemented. A strong land policy and operational tools (Land agency...), crossed with fiscal system to collect added value due to public investments are necessary to limit finance impact for this land capture.

EXAMPLES

1.Public self-financing on urban development in Porto Alegre[43]

The qualification of public spaces largely depends on cities' administrations. The cost of public spaces maintenance is frequently an issue, with no specific budget allocated. Cities need resources to mobilize public spaces, and mobilize people around it. Historically, property taxes are the most important revenue for local governments. The City of Porto Alegre is currently working on alternative funding sources, such as the transfer of development rights through auctioning. This is a pioneer modality in Brazil, seeing as a promising tool. Together with other funding sources, such as taxes or bank loans, is a way of auto-financing the city. The first auction sale took place in May 2014, accounting for 38,4 million USD raised. At the time, the resources support the implementation of important infrastructure work.

Porto Alegre, Public self-financing. Source: UCLG Learning

2. Participación en Plusvalías (Capital gain sharing)[44]

Participación en Plusvalías qualifies public participation in land value increase from public action, to be used for social investments. This tax aims at capturing the added value generated by the transformation of agricultural land into urban or suburban land, or changes in land use and densities to accommodate future growth (by increasing the density index, the construction index). Thereby Colombian cities are required to capture, as a one-time assessment, 30 to 50 percent of this increased value through the Participación en Plusvalías by taxing land and buildings owners. The revenue collected is made available to cover the costs of several public works or projects (and not just a specific one): road infrastructure projects and public transport systems, but also social housing projects, urban renewal programs or maintenance of the municipality's cultural heritage. They involve the municipal government (through City and District Councils).

*Plusvalias, Bogota. Source: the City of Bogota*

3. Liverpool parks management[45]

Liverpool has substantial green and open space resources, which include local wildlife sites, green wedges, parks, allotments, street trees, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, numerous playing fields. However, the maintenance of the green spaces is more than 6 million pounds a year and the city cannot afford the budget.

Learning from the city of Bristol, that identified park areas to be urbanized and ring-fenced the income of land converting to be used for maintenance of parks, the Strategic Housing Land Assessment SHLAA 'call for sites' is to provide an opportunity for anyone (the public, Liverpool City Council, land-owners and developers) to submit sites for consideration within future preparation of the Local Plan. The 'call-for-sites' in not a legally binding statement of intent to develop and out of 48 initial proposals 6 plots are now to be proceeded.

Liverpool parks management. Source: the City of Liverpool

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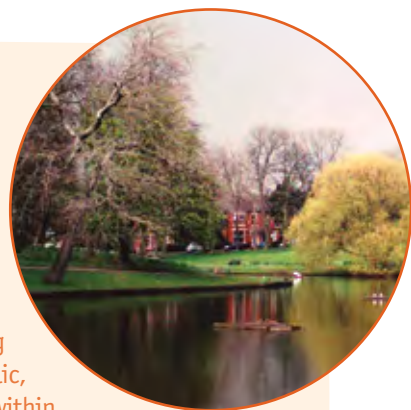
[43] UCLG learning note, Public Space and Citizenship, Porto Alegre, 2014. (Available online: https://issuu.com/uclgcglu/docs/public_space_and_citizenship)
[44] Source Committee on Local Finance and Development
[45] Source : Liverpool City Council. (2016) Strategic green and open spaces review, Board Interim Report. Available online: http://liverpool.gov.uk/media/8836/green-and-open-spaces-interim-report.pdf

INDEX
UCLG SUPPORTING TOOLS AND ACTIONS ON PUBLIC SPACE

• International Charter for Walking[46]

Built on extensive discussions with experts throughout the world, this Charter shows how to create a culture where people choose to walk. It identifies the needs of people on foot and provides a common framework to help authorities refocus their existing policies, activities and relationships to create a culture where people choose to walk. Numerous UCLG members, but also communities are associated to the charter. The NGO promoting the charter has also cooperated with UCLG during the UCLG congress held in Rabat in 2013, where the first walking audit in Africa was implemented and culminated with 7 mayors that signed the charter.

• The Charter of Public Space and the Biennial of Public Space in Rome[47]

This short document deals with the definition, creation and management of public spaces. It aims to raise awareness on the importance of promoting lively and accessible public spaces for all. UCLG contributed to the second edition of this charter adopted in May 2015 during the Biennial of public space in Rome.

• The Global Public Space Toolkit[48]

The committee actively participated in the development of the Global Toolkit for public space led by UN-Habitat. UCLG emphasized the relevance of local governments for public space and provided practical cases and inputs. The toolkit has been launched during the Barcelona Thematic Meeting on public space the 5 April 2016 after 3 years of work.

• The "Culture 21 Actions" toolkit[49]

The "Culture 21 Actions" toolkit is promoted by the UCLG Committee on Culture to operationalize in practice the role of culture in sustainable cities. It enables cities to self-evaluate their work in this field. It provides key basic information and it is a useful way to raise awareness of this field among local stakeholders. The toolkit facilitates the exchange of good practices, allows international peer-review and guarantees locally-owned capacity-building. The toolkit has nine "Commitments", including "Culture, Urban Planning and Public Spaces". The toolkit affirms that "planning cities and regions with cultural awareness and meaning" is one of the best ways to guarantee sustainability.

• Peer learning events addressing the subject of public space:

• A two-day event was held in **Maputo, Mozambique on "hygiene, health and markets"** in October 2012. This event was meant to establish the building blocks for initiating the project on decentralized cooperation between cities of Brazil and Mozambique. Urban management was the main subject of the event including public markets, waste management, street vendors and the question of gender equality.

• Mentorship program addressing the subject of public space:

• **From 2008 to 2012, an innovative four-way partnership between the City of Johannesburg, the Lilongwe City Council**[50] (LCC), and as well as Durban and Mzuzu as part of the Cityfuture program of Cities Alliance and UCLG. The peer support has led to the substantial improvement in the capacity of the Lilongwe City Council to formulate and adopt

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[46] Available online: http://www.walk21.com/papers/International%20Charter%20for%20Walking.pdf
[47] Available online: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5-VDO042qGmQ1lXR FhkaFRLTDA/view
[48] Available online : http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Global%20Public%20Space%20Toolkit.pdf
[49] Available online : http://www.agenda21culture.net/index.php/newa21c/new-a21c
[50] Available online : https://issuu.com/uclgcglu/docs/jb_lilongwestory

strategies in economic management, shelter, land and infrastructure. On the management front, the Lilongwe City Council computerized much of its accounting and billing system resulting in improvements in transparency; accountability and efficiency that was essential to identify, protect and create public spaces.

- **Peer learning events specifically on public space:**

- "Reimagining Public Spaces" was held from **4-6 June 2014 in Durban-eThekwini, South Africa**. The commitment of the city's politicians, officials and partners was outstanding, and the learning exchange was a milestone for the UCLG South-South exchange, widening recognition of the issue of public space and enabling the city to enter into a new era of commitment.

- In October 2014, a two-day peer-learning event called **"Public Space and Citizenship" was held in Porto Alegre**. Urban governance, the right-to-the-city as well as safeness in public spaces were raised to nurture the discussion on the future public space policy framework by and for local governments.

- A peer learning exchange on public space in the African context took place from **7-9 December 2015 in Blantyre, Malawi**. This learning exchange was an opportunity for the Blantyre City Council and all the participants to actively contribute in shaping the global policy whilst at the same time developing implementable solutions at the city level that will produce tangible results that all citizens can enjoy.

- **Conferences and meetings:**

- UCLG held its first **Policy Debate session on 17th June 2014 in Liverpool during the Executive Bureau**, dedicated to a crosscutting theme of UCLG's global agenda: **Planning and Public Spaces**. The role of local urban policies in the global agenda, analyzing public spaces as a crosscutting issue demonstrated a new way to understand the city as a concentration of public goods and values: a common space with equal access to leisure, communication, expression and identity for all. The Bureau encouraged the Committee to elaborate this policy framework.

- **Public Market Conference**: UCLG and the committee, Project for Public Spaces (PPS), the Institut Municipal de Mercats de Barcelona (IMMB) in partnership with UN-Habitat and various partners gathered together the world's leading public market operators, developers, and thought-leaders at the **9th International public markets conference in March 2015** in Barcelona. This event led to the Declaration of the 9th International Public Markets Conference[51].

- **The 3rd World Forum of Local Economic Development[52] (LED) took place between 13 and 16 October 2015 in Turin, Italy**. The event was an opportunity for the Urban Strategic Planning Committee and UN-Habitat to organize a panel session dedicated to opportunities for LED through effective public space policies, displaying a range of perspectives related to the social, cultural and economic benefits of public space, markets, job creation and the informal economy, logistics and mobility, protected land and citizen participation. Interventions from the floor also touched on the links between gender and dignity in public space policies and the right to the city.

- **Towards Habitat III:**

- **The Habitat III Africa Regional Meeting took place in Abuja, Nigeria from 24-26 February 2016**. UCLG and UN Habitat raised the topic of public spaces during a side event on 25 February 2016. The side event was the occasion to discuss issues in the African context such as the consideration of public space as a public service, the importance of strong urban governance or banning gated communities among others.

[51] http://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/9th_international_public_markets_conference_declaration_.pdf
[52] http://www.uclg.org/en/media/news/local-human-local-efficient-local-beautiful-highlights-3rd-world-forum-local-economic

• **On 4 and 5 April, the City of Barcelona hosted a Thematic Meeting on public space** to develop inputs to the New Urban Agenda. On 4 April, the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning and UN Habitat Nairobi held a side event on the role of local governments in creating and maintaining public spaces. This side event enabled decision makers, and technicians to share and discuss the role and vision of local governments with regard to public spaces.

• **Habitat III Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Meeting held in Toluca the 11 - 13 April 2016** was the chance for UCLG to organize a side event on Public Spaces in Latin America: the challenge of building equity, inclusivity and sustainability in our cities.

• Looking forward, **October 2016 will see the celebration of the Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito**, Ecuador and the **UCLG World Congress in Bogota**. Both will be an opportunity to build on SDG11 by ensuring access to basic and social services, mobility, public and green spaces and the enjoyment of natural and built heritage and by recognizing and protecting the Right to the City more broadly.

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