

Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings

Panel on National Urban Policies

New York, 28 April 2016

National Urban Policies

- **WHY?** Opportunities of National Urban Policy (NUP)
- **WHAT?** Setting priorities for a NUP
- **OUTCOME?** Expected results from a NUP
- **ACTION!** Transformative NUP: Action-Oriented Recommendations and Targets



WHY: OPPORTUNITIES OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES

Tool for government to **achieve better urban results** by

- **aligning sectorial policies** that affect urban areas
- developing **enabling institutional environment**
- NUP provides **clear strategy** and **tools for effective coordination** between policies that affect national territorial concerns
 - at metropolitan and regional scales, as well as across urban-rural continuum, and at supranational level.
- NUP **complements** and **reinforces** rather than replicates sectoral or local urban policies.
- NUP **technical and political** process:
 - both technical strength and political commitment / support from stakeholders needed to make it **transformative**.



WHAT: SETTING PRIORITIES FOR A NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

The process of defining priorities for a National Urban Policy should:

- Be an **inclusive dialogue** aiming for consensus, involving all key actors
- Be based on **effective assessment of *status quo***
 - evidence base (stocktaking) is critical, implying need for strong technocratic/expert component within inclusive process
- Build on **realistic assessment of capacity**
 - financial, professional, human and institutional
- Review and/or adjust existing national **legal, institutional and fiscal** frameworks and policies/guidelines of all sectors
- Take advantage of opportunities for **intensified peer-to-peer exchange** and knowledge sharing between countries



WHAT: SETTING PRIORITIES FOR A NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

Each country will identify its domestic priorities during **NUP process** .

Qualifiers may assist in setting key priorities to ensure that NUP:

- responds to population dynamics
- safeguards inclusiveness and participation in both process and outcomes
- prepares for infrastructure and services development
- develops effective urban governance systems
- promotes effective municipal finances systems
- supports partnership and cooperation between urban actors
- promotes urban land-use efficiency
- protects public space
- ensures balanced territorial development
- enhances resilience to climate change
- includes mechanism to monitor and evaluate NUP periodically



OUTCOME: TRANSFORMATIVE NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

Successful NUP can enable the following key **transformations**:

- Increase **coherence** of national and local policies
- **Empower local authorities** by
 - building capacity
 - rebalancing fiscal systems
 - giving legal and political mandate
- **Empower communities**
- Foster **co-operation and collaboration** across jurisdictions
- Increase **investment** in cities by improving business environment
- Improve **quality of life and wellbeing**
 - poverty, accessibility, environmental quality, etc.



OUTCOME: TRANSFORMATIVE NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

Due to its transformative nature, a NUP can be a **tool for global agendas:**

- A NUP is relevant **to many of the SDGs**, particularly SDG 11 on cities
- A NUP can be a key instrument to co-ordinate national and local climate policies for **implementation of the Paris Agreement (COP21)**
- Well defined NUP prerequisite for international financing for sustainable urban development
 - In particular if multiple sources of finance need to be coordinated in financial blending frameworks (including public finance, grants, private investment and loans from international development banks)
- Implementing a NUP requires action from cities, national (and in many contexts regional) governments

A National Urban Policy should be recognized as a key lever towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda



ACTION-ORIENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

Summarising the pre-conditions for development and implementation of successful NUP:

- Reflecting **international agreements** (Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030, Sendai Framework, etc.)
- Develop effective **institutional form** (legal framework, allocation of financial resources, etc.)
- Political **leadership**
- Addressing **inclusiveness, equity**
- Addressing **sustainability** and **resilience**
- Addressing **priority issues** (people-centred, complement sectoral strategies, long vs. short-term, etc.)
- **Coordination** among different actors, sectors and functions
- **Capacity** (institutional, fiscal, etc.)
- Multimedia **communications** strategy to target stakeholders
- Improving **data**



ACTION: RECOMMENDED TARGETS

2020

- $\frac{2}{3}$ of member countries will have **initiated** the process for developing a NUP or reviewing their existing NUP framework

2025

- $\frac{1}{2}$ of member countries will have formulated and initiated the **implementation** of a NUP

2030

- $\frac{1}{3}$ of member countries will have **monitored** and evaluated their NUP





Thank you