

FUKUOKA COMMUNIQUÉ

Fukuoka, Japan 12 November 2014

In response to the UN-Habitat Governing Council Resolution 24/3 of April 2013, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat established an Ad-Hoc Group of Experts to advise on the structure, content and wording of the proposed International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP).

WE, members of this Expert Group were nominated by our respective national governments, associations of local authorities (United Cities and Local Governments), associations of professional planners (International Society of City and Regional Planners) and international institutions (World Bank, United Nations Centre for Regional Development, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), representing experience and practice from Africa, Asia, Europe and America.

WE participated in three Expert Group Meetings (EGM) to carefully review the structure and content of the Guidelines in Paris, France (24-25 October 2013), Medellín, Colombia (10 April 2014) and Fukuoka, Japan (11-12 November 2014).

WE are pleased to report that this consultative and inclusive process has culminated in an agreed draft of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning that we recommend to be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for consideration and subsequent transmission to the 25th session of the Governing Council scheduled in April 2015.

WE based our recommendations on strong evidence, good practices and lessons learned from different contexts and at different scales. WE also built on the previous two sets of Guidelines: The International Guidelines on Decentralization and Strengthening of Local Authorities (2007) and the International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for all (2009).

The principles contained in the Guidelines aim at promoting sustainable development of cities and human settlements, from a social, economic and environmental perspective. Once adopted, the Guidelines are expected to provide a global framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change.

WE call on Member States to adopt the Guidelines and encourage countries who are in a position to do so to consider providing resources to speed up the implementation of the Guidelines and tracking progress in their adaptation and use.

WE believe that the Guidelines could be a significant tool to highlight the importance of sustainable urbanization in the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), scheduled to take place in 2016.

WE are grateful to UN-Habitat, the Government of France through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Japan through the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Prefectural Government of Fukuoka, the Municipal Government of Fukuoka and Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka for their financial and technical contribution throughout the process of preparation of the Guidelines. WE are committed, in our respective capacities, to promote and support the implementation of the Guidelines for a better urban future for all.