National urban policies and integrated urban and territorial planning as key facilitators supporting the achievement of SDG and NUA (ISO386)

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1. Context/Background

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has demonstrated the fragility of our urbanized world. With 95 per cent of the confirmed cases, urban areas are at the epicentre of the pandemic. Even before COVID-19, the territorial management of towns, cities and metropolitan areas was a main challenge for governments, urban professionals and civil societies. Urban and regional planning professionals support both decision-makers and civil society to build the essential frameworks and make large cities affordable, inclusive, resilient, sustainable and safe. Urban and regional planning has a history of more than 100 years of integrating policies, plans and designs do find solutions for complex problems and to adapt the physical environment of our cities and territories. Based on this rich experience, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat adopted in 2015 the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning IG-UTP, followed in 2016 by the New Urban Agenda (NUA) of the United Nations. This early development of NUP and IG-UTP and there first implementation in the years before the pandemic are of advantage because the experience and knowledge gained can now be used with much more vigour in response to the global pandemic as it is already used to implement the Agenda 2030 and NUA. It is assumed and proven by first experience that NUP and IG-UTP are of benefit for stakeholders on all policy levels from the neighbourhood and municipality up to the national and international level.

2. Short Description of the session

The session will be 45 minutes long.

It is proposed as a combination of three presentations (keynotes) followed by a discussion and conclusions.

3. Objectives of the session

Objective of the session is a critical assessment of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and New Urban Agenda (NUA) in the light of COVID-19 pandemic and related economic crises. More specifically, the session asks how national urban policies and the application of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) are able to support the achievement of SDG and NUA to improve pandemic preparedness and to assure economic diversity and resilience.
Guiding questions for the session include: What are the problem-solving capacities of local governments and stakeholders in context of pandemic and economic crisis? What is the specific potential for national urban policies and IG-UTP to contribute to cross sector cooperation and SDG achievement? What has been achieved so far by the National Urban Policy programme (OECD, UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance) and the IG-UTP? What needs to be improved in the governance framework for local governments to better respond to pandemics and to ensure economic diversity and resilience of cities and what does that mean for NUP and IG-UTP?

4. Format of the session

The entire congress will be virtually. Consequently, the session will be also fully virtually.

It will be composed of three presentations a 10 minutes plus two discussants speaking for 5 minutes each followed by a final discussion round.

5. Programme/Agenda

Moderation: Ulrich Graute, ISOCARP Scientific Committee

Keynote 1: Why are national urban policies and integrated urban and territorial planning key facilitators supporting the achievement of SDG and NUA? Ulrich Graute, 10 min

Keynote 2: Global state of NUP and the National Urban Policy Programme, Kibong Lee, UN-Habitat Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, 10 min

Keynote 3: Implementation of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP), Pamela Carbajal, UN-Habitat Planning, Finance and Economy Section, 10 min

Discussant: Tadashi Matsumoto, OECD (5 min) and Sara Höflich, UCLG (5 min)

Discussion: Speakers and audience