



20-22 September 2017, Birchwood Conference Centre, Ekurhuleni

COMMISSION 3: INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA IN SOUTH AFRICA RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUMMIT *22 SEPTEMBER 2017*



human settlements
Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BUILDING THE FUTURE TODAY, TOGETHER

Summary of Discussion

- **Can we arrive at a unified vision** for moving forward? How do we arrive at a vision **that doesn't cover everything**? And a justification for why it doesn't cover everything?
- Can we agree on **roles and responsibilities** across government and with stakeholders? And can/should we **formalise** these?
- How are we going to **come to terms with informality**, people's own initiative? Is an **alternative to a top-down planning** process possible, one that **acknowledges the role of people themselves** in shaping the city? What about people's own initiatives?

Summary of Discussion

- Need to acknowledge **differentiated urbanisation**, and more focus on **secondary cities & small town revitalisation**
- Must **strongly address the rural - urban linkage, and unique South African urbanisation characteristics**, eg relationship between municipalities and traditional lands, two homes situation, stubborn apartheid legacy
- It can't be urban development at the expense of rural development, but rather a holistic territorial approach – Role of **Dept. of Rural Development and Land Reform is essential**

Summary of Discussion

- What are the expected outcomes of integration in disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods? Issue of commercial viability for developers – **how to prevent gentrification ?**
- Need for a consolidated set of **urban indicators** for NUA, SDG, IUDF that are **outcome oriented** and **support a transformative agenda for our space**. Data generation – Is there a role for community driven data in an informal settlement context?



Summary of Discussion

Issues Relating to: **Spatial Justice: Access to The City and New Urban Forms**

- **Township renewal:** what are the factors that make urban regeneration investments sustainable? E.g. Alex vs Soweto
- Is it possible to **restructure the urban form** to enable more resources to be channelled to the people?
- **Land and property markets** are prohibitive – cost, location, access to city housing and land for mixed-use residential areas



Summary of Discussion

Issues Relating to: Access to The City and New Urban Forms

- **Thinking about future urban areas:** what form will they take? Who will live in these spaces? What shapes the urban environment - e.g. culture, lifestyle, public space, dominant industries, etc.
- **What we are selling as an urban vision?** Tends to be aspirational according to a dominant discourse - freestanding house, car, shopping malls, gyms, cell phones, brands, etc. There is a need for advocacy on what inclusivity, liveability means?
- **The city as a common good** – For whom? Who builds the city? Innovation is happening – how can this be harnessed into architecture, design, governance and planning that is people-centred?
- What does **cities for all** actually mean?

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Summary of Discussion

Issues relating to Life in the City

- **People living the reality of urban life** often find solutions to creating innovative responses and need support – but frameworks / red tape / standards often prohibitive to innovation)
- **Smart cities** are not just about how technology advances safer, more innovative cities, but also how people use the space, how creativity, culture and diversity etc., are expressed.
- **Safer Cities:** it is essential to mainstream interventions for improved safety in cities and informal settlements, and bring safety and social cohesion into planning for urban spaces.
- **Who are we planning for?** active citizenry means the full engagement of communities in their own environment and future

Summary of Discussion

Issues: Transformation: local and global decision-making in urban restructuring

- **Civil society** needs to play a supportive role in developing indicators that support spatial transformation outcomes. Can citizens be actively engaged in such processes, and how?
- **Sustainability**: we cannot have viable urban areas without viable rural areas: this is not an either or – it is ‘and and.’ We need to understand the concept of differentiated urbanization across the rural-urban continuum, plus typologies, migration trends, densities: is there a need to debate, redefine, and involve other institutions on the elements that make up the rural-urban continuum?
- **Environment and Resilience**: reality is that we are planning for the future in a challenging global context – drought, climate challenges, food security issues etc.
- What choices will we make to bring meaning to “sustainability”?

Summary of Discussion

Issues: Examining Implementation challenges:

- **Managing our current realities** – to what extent are current urban interventions addressing issues of poverty, inequality, employment? Do we know how to measure change?
- **Comparative urban research and historical perspectives:** this can inform policy-making and long-term planning and interventions: what does long term planning mean across different sectors and stakeholders, and who decides if the plan is relevant to context, informed by urban futures thinking for e.g.?
- **Bringing municipalities and Traditional Councils** closer together to collectively plan, assess projects, budgets, municipal rates and taxes for comprehensive service delivery across regions. **We are one country**, but with different urban goals and approaches to urban / rural: we need to better contextualise and understand rural issues.



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Commission 3 Recommendations to Plenary:

- **Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda should be developed**
 - To establish a **localised agenda**
 - To establish **where we are**
 - To confirm **where we want to get to**
 - To establish **how we get there**, in context of scarce resources
 - To **track implementation**
 - To **form the basis of a collaboration compact**
 - To **form the basis for report back to the UN**



Commission 3 Recommendations:

SA's New Urban Agenda Implementation Framework should:

- Strongly address the rural-urban continuum of spatial development
- Harness the urban dividend – “sweet spot” of people – place – economy
- Find better ways to empower communities, including the vulnerable, to co-create liveable spaces
- Link to the work of all the other Commissions
- Be understandable, user friendly and implementable



Commission 3 Recommendations to Plenary:

- We know that we are not starting from a clean slate and this is an evolutionary implementation
 - New Urban Agenda is an opportunity to galvanize all the efforts and leverage more co-ordination.
 - Build on the IUDF and its implementation plan
 - Ensure we understand that we are working in a context of **very scarce resources**, eg WATER, FINANCES, etc.
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Recommendations from Commission 3: Linking New Urban Agenda (NUA) and IUDF

- The NUA vision of social inclusion and right to the city, given effect through its 'transformative commitments', is embedded in the IUDF as a policy framework
- The IUDF is South Africa's national urban agenda, and the focus needs to be on how to enhance it in the light of the NUA, and how to accelerate its implementation
- In this regard the focus of activities needs to be on cooperation and coordination, vertical and horizontal integration, networks and partnerships
- Effective implementation of the NUA depends crucially on sound urban governance, and South African local authorities need to be empowered to lead the urbanisation response
- The implementation mechanisms for the IUDF and NUA need to be integrated, and focus on building the inter-governmental and stakeholder partnerships for its effective implementation
- Clarify the roles of planners, implementers and investors, as well as create opportunities for citizens to offer solutions.
- Enable an active citizenry to shape policies and implementation.

Recommendations from Commission 3: Creating an New Urban Agenda Implementation compact

- Our primary **objective** remains **overcoming** the legacy of **spatial fragmentation** and exclusion, which requires investment in planning & managing spatial development, with a **focus on urban inclusion, compactness, polycentrism, mixed use and the centrality of public space.**
- A **spatial compact** for our urban areas needs to **align government and private investment** around integration zones, development nodes and corridors.
- Human settlements interventions need to ensure a **range of shelter solutions that respond to informality and which systematically build social inclusion** and create access to jobs and urban facilities.
- **Urban and rural areas** remain interlocking parts of a spatial continuum, and the **development of the different components of that continuum need to be done in concert.**
- The **differentiated needs** of settlements along the urban rural continuum need to be attended to in the way that programmes of **support for different settlements categories** are designed (e.g. small towns, intermediate cities, mining towns, metros)
- The Reporting Reforms initiative is producing a **consolidated set of urban indicators** that are **focused on outcome and impact**, and these will lay the basis for a set of urban indicators that we can use to measuring progress with NUA and IUDF