

The City of 2030 – Our Manifesto

Our common urban future

Our future is not only globally intertwined, but increasingly urban. In Latin America, North America and Europe, the ratio of urban to rural population is already high; in the next 20 years, Africa and Asia will see by far the fastest growth in urban settlements.

It is the world's medium and smaller towns and cities, far more than the largest cities, who will be responsible for receiving and looking after these millions of new urban dwellers. Moreover, as the world's urban population grows, the interdependence of town and countryside become even tighter.

We know of course that the challenges facing city leaders differ from region to region, from country to country, and that those in low-income countries face stresses and problems on a vastly greater scale. But we share many common goals as well as problems, and are united in a common determination to make our urban world a better world. Here, therefore, is our Manifesto for the City of 2030.

A democratic, empowered city

The city of 2030 cannot be successfully managed from “above” or “outside” – it requires a democratic city government and leadership, chosen by its people and accountable to them. A city government which has the right powers and finances to enable it to perform its roles; and which works with other levels of government, as well as with neighbouring municipalities, to develop common policies and approaches to successful development.

An inclusive city of participation

Representative democracy is essential, but has to be complemented by a vibrant participatory democracy. Our city of 2030 is based on the participation of all its inhabitants, ensuring that all groups – poor as well as rich, women and men, young and old, migrant as well as multi-generation residents – are able to take an equal part. To make the urban mix work for the common good, city governments must, through active participation, design and implement powerful policies for social cohesion, based on its democratic values, on gender equality, human rights, and the people's “right to the city”.

A city with a vision for its future

Our city of 2030 knows where it wants to go, knows what it wants to be. It has a clear strategic vision, based on an accurate diagnosis of its potential and its resources, and a plan of action to make it a reality. The vision and the plan are developed and implemented in partnership with the citizens, as well as the public and private partners. The vision and plan must, of course, be realistically aligned with the city's foreseen resources, public and private; to play its leading role, the city government in particular must have adequate, diversified, well-managed finances.

A liveable city

A successful city is a blend of the positively planned and the creatively organic. Planned - to enable infrastructure, facilities, services and investments to take place in the right place, at the right time, and with a coherence and aesthetic in urban design and fabric. Organic - to enable the city to

develop and enhance its own life, culture, economic and social diversity **without overweening regulation**, and favouring mixed uses wherever this can be done without harm. In sum, to promote an inclusive and dynamic city, from neighbourhood to metropolitan scale.

A creative city, a city of culture

The city of 2030 constantly inspires and nurtures creativity and innovation – in its business life, its design and development, its public services. The city will also strive for excellence and creativity in education, at all levels and for all ages, endowing its children and adults with the skills, knowledge, and qualities they require. It fosters and promotes culture, **the essential “fourth pillar”** of the sustainable city. For culture is at once an expression of the human spirit, a means of bringing people together across divides, and a powerful factor in the city’s economic life and development.

A mobile city

The city of 2030 is one in which people are able to circulate freely and efficiently, for work, education, shopping, and leisure; where goods can be delivered and moved at the right times and in the right modes. The city will give priority to non-polluting, affordable and safe forms of transport, enabling rich and poor to have equal access to the city, and favouring changes between modes of transport. To these ends, it will in particular support an integrated mass public transport system, well connected to all key points within the city and the region.

A city fit for work

The city of 2030 will gear its economic development to the needs and technologies of the future, favouring a climate of enterprise for businesses of all sizes. The city will not, in general, have a stand-alone economy, but will form part of a network of cities favouring a cluster of connected industries. Therefore, its economic development strategy will need to fit into a broader urban-regional strategy, with urban land use, transport and service planning adapted to this strategy. The successful city will understand that issues of “liveability” and mobility, together with a supportive network of local relationships, are closely linked to economic competitiveness.

A city with pride in its public services

The city of 2030 recognizes that public services and public goods play an essential role in the lives of all its citizens. High quality, accessible, affordable public services strengthen the city’s economic as well as social life, and help to create a common sense of belonging. The city’s staff and administration – at all levels – will have a strong public service ethos, and a commitment to quality, effective management, transparency and accountability.

A city without slums

The city of 2030 is a city in which the poor are not exported to slums on the urban periphery or isolated in inner city ghettos, but where their needs (present and anticipated) are integrated into the city’s planning systems for land use, infrastructure development and public services. A city where land tenure rights and protections are defined and enforced, and where slum prevention and upgrading are given priority, wherever slums exist. A city, therefore, which values its strong social fabric, and where the voice of the powerless is listened to.

A cleaner, greener, more compact city

The city of 2030 will strive to reduce its urban environmental footprint. It will aim to become more compact - we cannot afford to use more and more of the earth's surface for low-density, resource-intensive settlements, in which mobility depends almost wholly on the car. The city will give priority to renewable energies and non-polluting technologies. The city's government and people will understand, more clearly than ever, the need to minimise and mitigate climate change, and protect themselves from its adverse impacts.

The city of 2030 – a shared responsibility of governance

The future of the city is, by definition, the responsibility principally of the city government. But cities do not stand alone. They are strengthened through cooperation with neighbouring municipalities. They form part of metropolitan or wider regions or provinces, and the regional government – through its policies, financial contributions and the quality of its partnership - is also an essential partner in the city's development. The success of the city of 2030 depends substantially on this co-operation between city and region.

With UCLG, full partners in global governance

The cities, towns and regions of 2030 will have, must have, a strong presence and role in the new global governance. This is already the task of our world organisation, United Cities and Local Governments. But the task becomes more and more vital as our planet continues to urbanize, and as our futures intertwine ever more intricately. UCLG, our representative and advocate at world level, must – both in formal status and in daily practice – be involved as full partner by the UN and wider international community, in all issues concerning the future of our cities and human settlements.
