Sustainable Urbanization

A Strategy for Development

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The role of urbanization in development

1. Economies of agglomeration
2. Urban value generation
History of urbanization

1. Neolithic revolution. Pre-historic urbanization process. Agricultural revolution. Mesopotamia, China…


5. Renaissance and Baroque period.

6. Industrial Revolution.

7. Post-industrial Urbanization.
I have had the opportunity to be a Mayor of a city that has its origins in the Third Millennium AC.

- The Iberian settlement.
- The Roman city (Barcino).
- The Industrial Revolution. Cerda. The Anarchist Movement. La Semana Tragica (The Tragic Week).
- The Post-Industrial Barcelona.

This is my personal experience – not historicism. Every period can be touched in the forms of the city.
The Urbanism in the Industrial Revolution

• A rationalistic approach
• A hygienistic approach

  o Philadelphia, 1795
  o New York, 1811.
  o Barcelona, 1857.
  o Amsterdam, 1876.
  o Vienna, 1850.
Amsterdam 1876

Vienna 1850
The Modern Movement

  - The Tower in the park.
  - The super block.
  - The highway and the overpasses for pedestrians.

- The city as a finished project. “Le Ville Contemporaine”. The city as architectural project. Chandigarh, Brasilia, Abuja.
  - Some variations of the model is the totalitarian urbanism and architecture. The Soviet urbanization and architecture.

- CIAM. Charter of Athens.
"Le Ville Contemporaine"
1. Partially based on the **Modern Movement**.

2. Takes some of the principles at convenience:
   - Zoning of the land use
   - The Tower in the Park
   - The Super Block
   - Mass housing schemes
   - Infrastructure as a guide for planning (Motorway, Railways, Channels)
   - Suburbialization of housing
The current International Urbanization Model

3. Acceleration of urbanization
   - Japan, Korea
   - Rapid reconstruction of Europe
   - Growth in the United States

4. Emergence of the real estate industry.
   - Modern financial instruments for housing and city development. Booms and cracks.
1980s

- Globalization of the economy
- Increased free capital movements
- Chinese development driven by manufacturing
- Continued acceleration of urbanization
- New urban poverty
- Gated communities
1980s

- Increased migrations with new forms of ghettos
- Metropolitization – loss of the urban frontier
- Increased land use specialization
- Weakening of urban planning and design
- City as an aggregation of functions and artifacts
- Conflicts of legislature. Diverse governments within the urban area. Wards, districts, counties, the harbour. The special industrial zone…
The post-industrial city
The post-manufacturing city

• Developed world and planned cities are going through a process of adaptation of the social and demographic realities – characterized by:
  o Low rate of urban population growth
  o Increased ageing of the population
  o Increased immigration
  o Regeneration of public spaces
  o Recovery of the Downtown (CBDs)
  o Proliferation of gated communities
  o Segregation by wealth. New urban poverty.
The post-industrial, post-manufacturing city

- De-industrialization; increased relevance of the service sector of the economy, including finance, media, design, research, tourism, personal services, healthcare, telecommunications, cultural industries.
- Employment is dominated by the service sector.
- High consumption of fossil-based energy. High contribution to climate change.
  - Direct: buildings and transportation.
  - Indirect: high consumption.
- Increased environmental footprint – energy, food, pollution.
The developing world city

- Lack of urban planning and design
- High growth of urban population
- Youth bulge
- Informal urbanization
- Lack of public space
- Lack of adequate plotting
- High urban risks on buildings
- Very high level of informal economy
- Lack of capacity to generate new jobs
- Privatization of urban development – real estate dominated without providing for public space and connectivity
The developing world city

- Weak legal normative framework
- Lack of a financial strategy to sustain the urbanization process
- No significant economies of agglomeration
- No significant economies of urbanization
- Infrastructure dominated urban growth – the octopus city
- Very high congestion
- Unaffordability of urban plots
- Modern architecture dotted around
Towards a New Urban Agenda for the 21st Century

• In the developed world:
  o Revitalization of the urban fabric
  o Well-designed compactness
  o Affordability of the city
  o Containment of the edges
  o Integrated regional planning
  o Mixed uses
  o Infrastructures adapt to the needs of the people and the plan (not the other way around)
Towards a New Urban Agenda for the 21st Century

• In the developed world:
  
  o Urban affordability policies
  o Addressing the climate change challenge
    – Renewable energy
    – Energy efficiency
    – Walkability
    – Proximity of sources of food
    – Adequate technology
  o Identifying new urban sources of prosperity and well-being.
Towards a New Urban Agenda for the 21st Century

• In the developing world:
  o National Urban Policies
  o Planned City Extensions and City Infills
  o Three-legged approach
  o Urban affordability policies
  o A design to obtain economies of agglomeration and economies of urbanization
  o Urbanization to eradicate poverty and promote development
The essence of urbanization is the proper design of public spaces and the provision of well-structured buildable plots.
Why urban planning and design?

Urban Sprawl -> Compactness

Segregation -> Integration

Congestion -> Connectivity
Urban Legislation

- Land Regulation
- Regulation and protection of public space: delimitation of the public space is the principal function of urban planning.
- Regulation of buildability & urban development rights.
- Plotting regulation - Cadaster.
- Building codes
Urban Economy and Municipal Finances

• **Municipal finances:**
  - Addresses the current and potential urban financing sources, mechanism and capabilities to make cities’ financially viable. A budgeting process of income and expenditure.

• **Land value sharing systems**
  - Land readjustment
  - Special improvement levies
  - Added-value periodic taxation
The indispensable role of local governments, but...
…good urbanization can only come out of proper dialogue between national and local government

• While **local governments** carry a great deal of responsibility, they often have limited power. They can do little without support and resources from their national governments.

• **National governments** have the greatest responsibility for the end-quality of urbanization. They establish the legal, and financial frameworks, as well as large infrastructures, and the broad national policies in security, social welfare (redistribution) and regional policies.
The role of national governments

• Many fundamental issues are decided at national level:
  o Degree of decentralization
  o Responsibilities of every level of government
  o Coordination between subnational levels
  o Structure of financing of the different levels of administration
  o Determination of the public debt capacity
  o Urban legislation

For proper urbanization to occur, an effective and relevant National Urban Policy is as necessary as good urban planning and design at local level.
Why a National Urban Policy today?

1. Accelerating rate of urbanization

2. The large number of people urbanizing, and the economic outputs

3. The need to move from a Housing Policy to an Urban Policy. Housing – especially affordable housing – can not be tackled in isolation from the urbanization process.
Good and sustainable urban planning should ensure adequate **compactness**, **mixed use of land**, **social integration** and a proper sense of human scale (walkability, quality of public space)
HABITAT III
Habitat III

• Habitat III will discuss how villages, towns, cities and metropolis can become better planned and managed, and fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development.
• First UN global summit following the adoption of the Post-2015 development agenda and a new climate agreement in Paris. A tremendous opportunity to drive sustainable development.
• Elaboration of a New Urban Agenda for the next 20 years – focused on implementability.

“Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost”

Report of the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on the post-2015 development agenda
The Future We Want......

......The City We Need

Thank you!