

# Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial Development: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action

DRAFT Key Messages for Policymakers -- 28 June 2018

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), and other international agreements, United Nations Member States agreed to normative policies supporting *integrated and sustainable urban and territorial planning and development*. In doing so, they called for new, inclusive approaches and enhanced synergies between urban and rural communities and spaces. The Guiding Principles and Framework for Action have been prepared to support governments at all levels and diverse stakeholders to implement policy, programmes and actions in support of urban-rural linkages. Urban-rural linkages are defined as the reciprocal and repetitive flows of people, goods, information, financial and environmental services between rural, peri-urban and urban places.

The 2030 Agenda calls for leaving no one behind and the New Urban Agenda adds that no space must be left behind. The progressive actions to foster territorial development for the urban-rural continuum are a means for social inclusion and resolving inequalities and conflicts. Tools to strengthen urban-rural linkages need to reflect the different roles, responsibilities and priorities of governments at national and sub-national levels. The Guiding Principles can also be a framework to help achieve policy coherence from local to national levels, promote new collaborations between levels of government with adequate financing, and are formulated with transparency and full participation. The following key messages evolved in a six month consultation process and were finalized during the Expert Group Meeting in La Paz, Bolivia on 19-20 June 2018 on Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages. See <https://urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/>

## Key Messages for Governments

1. **Create policy grounded in local realities:** As a result of inclusive assessment of challenges and priorities at local and subnational levels, a national enabling policy to promote and support urban-rural linkages should be included in development plans and national urban policies. Legislation and regulatory frameworks should be reviewed and adapted to address potential contradictions and ensure territorial relevance.
2. **Incentivize inclusive governance:** Efforts to support the urban-rural nexus should reward multi-sectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approaches to governance integration
3. **Develop connected urban and rural policy tools:** Address urban and rural poverty, food insecurity, inequality, peoples' mobility and migration that impact urban and rural communities in different but interconnected ways.
4. **Incorporate human rights:** in relation to issues of land, access to resources and services, food and water, adequate housing, social services (health, education, etc.) and other acute challenges of vulnerable populations living in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, especially concerning the roles of women, smallholders, children and youth, and Indigenous Peoples.
5. **Promote urban-rural inclusive finance:** Incorporate urban-rural linkages in innovative finance mechanisms and collaborative donor and private sector impact investment, e.g. in green infrastructure, and climate finance.
6. **Foster partnerships and collaboration:** Include policy and financial support and joint training for metropolitan and municipal associations and private sector alliances that equitably link urban and rural actors and different sectors including civil society.
7. **Link urbanization and rural transformation:** Urban planning, labour needs, capital and market development should consider intrinsic rural sustainable development needs for infrastructure, rural economic development, natural resource conservation and ecosystem services, integrate migration opportunities and challenges and foster resilience.
8. **Prioritize social inclusion across the urban-rural continuum:** All policy addressing urban-rural linkages should address inequalities through participation, capacity development, adequate finance and technical support in both local governments and vulnerable groups in civil society.
9. **Promote transparent, integrated and coordinated information systems** as a means to improve urban-rural linkages including gender and spatially disaggregated data, accessible and adequate ICT infrastructure for participation and monitoring, and spur economic development across the urban-rural continuum.
10. **Take into account socio-cultural priorities** of peoples across the urban-rural continuum, including traditional and Indigenous Peoples' customary practices, laws and customs often originating in rural areas, but found also in peri-urban and urban areas.