

La Paz Communiqué
Developing the Guiding Principles and Framework for
Action:
Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial
Development
For “Leaving No One and No Space Behind”

Preamble

In February 2018, UN-Habitat in collaboration with partners including Cities Alliance, FAO, GIZ, IFAD, OECD, UNCRD, UNEP, WFP and WHO initiated a participatory process for developing “Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages” to advance integrated urban and territorial development. The Guiding Principles will serve as guidance for governments at national and sub-national levels and to other urban and rural stakeholders to collaborate towards a more integrated territorial development while reducing inequalities across the urban-rural continuum. The Principles aim to inform, advise and guide the UN system, sub-national, national, regional and inter-governmental processes in their efforts to advancing and achieving the 2030 agenda and implementing the New Urban Agenda. The Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages will be a useful tool for decision makers when reviewing national or subnational (urban) policies.

Urban-Rural Linkages are multidimensional and complex, with opportunities and challenges closely related to the economic, social and environmental as well as spatial local context. To develop Guiding Principles that are globally applicable and practical, a collaboration of multiple stakeholders covering different perspectives and issues and with expertise in various fields is needed. The concept is also very useful in promoting the vertical and horizontal coordination of policies, action plans and activities from global and regional levels to national governments, as well as to subnational and local authorities.

Ultimately, the Guiding Principles will ensure that *No One and No Space is Left Behind*.

Our Commitments

We, the partners in the process of developing the Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages and the participants of the Expert Group Meeting on the Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages that took place in La Paz, Bolivia, 19-20 June 2018:

Acknowledge the usefulness of developing and adopting global Guiding Principles to advance integrated territorial development and strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages. Similarly, we emphasize to take into consideration the local context when using and implementing the Guiding Principles;

Commit to support the revision and finalization of the Guiding Principles on Urban-Rural Linkages;

Recognize the importance of developing more evidence to support the implementation of the Guiding Principles and Framework for Action;

Commit to localizing the Guiding Principles and their accompanying Framework for Action in our respective work, local context and mandate, as appropriate;

Commit to share good practices, data, indicators, and tools for integrated territorial development and strengthened urban-rural linkages;

Commit to support and collaborate on the development of tools for enhancing the implementation of the Guiding Principles;

A call to action for integrated territorial development and strengthened Urban-Rural Linkages

We call on the group of actors that were convened by UN-Habitat to continuously build up and strengthen the global partnership of **international and regional organizations** and bodies including those of the United Nations system and multilateral environmental agreements, development partners, international and multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, the private sector, and other stakeholders (as requested in the New Urban Agenda, para 82) , to continue supporting the Urban-Rural Linkages efforts in the following ways:

1. Revise the current second draft of the Guiding Principles, taking into account the inputs and recommendation and case studies from the Expert Group Meeting on ‘Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Development -Guiding Principles and Framework for Action’ held in La Paz, Bolivia 19-20 June 2018 as well as the outcomes of the online consultation process;
2. Undertake additional consultations (virtual and/or face-to-face) to develop the final draft of the Guiding Principles;
3. Develop and validate the responsibilities of the different actors in implementing the Guiding Principles;
4. Present the key messages for the Guiding Principles, finalised ed in the Expert Group Meeting in La Paz, in relevant global, regional and national events including the High Level Political Forum and the Committee on World Food Security, among others;
5. Continue developing an evidence base by collecting and disseminating inspiring case studies, practices and tools to support and facilitate the implementation of the Guiding Principles with the view to produce a Compendium of Inspiring Practices;

6. Explore funding opportunities to pilot and implement the Guiding Principles and Framework for action where appropriate;
7. Support advocacy work with Member States to support the adoption of the Guiding Principles at the UN-HABITAT Governing Council and the endorsement of the Guiding Principles in respective Governing Bodies of other agencies or institutions;
8. Develop strategies to promote, communicate, enhance the capacity to use the Guiding Principles;
9. Facilitate the exchange of good practices and experiences among urban-rural actors at all scales (sub-national, national, regional and international) to increase the dialogue between different levels and sectors in order to reduce disparities between urban, peri-urban and rural areas and their respective populations;
10. Provide targeted support to countries and partners to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate projects and programmes that strengthen urban-rural linkages and foster integrated territorial development by localizing the Guiding Principles.