



URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING: A MANAGEMENT TOOL

Cities management requires a vision that extends beyond the mere administration of urban public services; a vision that focuses on incentivating multidimensional urban development as a sustainable and equal process.

Cities, in their economic dimension, are productive cores within a region. However, population many times outgrows economic opportunities and urban poverty remains the main challenge that cities should face.

Local managers have to respond to a set of basic needs, mainly in the short term. However, it is also crucial to guarantee sustainability in the long term. Strategic planning is an instrument that can be adapted to local conditions. It can also be a contribution to help actions and investments enjoy of more consensus, more consistency and more validation from key players in the city.

Worldwide, urban strategic planning exists in very different contexts and planning schemes but it always is a tool closely linked to municipal management.

Awareness of such differences may potentate planning diversity across cities. This is the reason why the most appreciated contributions come from local governments.

It is also important to point out that urban strategic planning success comes hand in hand with innovation and leadership. The creation of spaces that foster dialogue among politicians, technical people and related actors are a formidable support to disseminate urban strategic planning as a management tool.

Join this initiative, add your city.

In order to associate your local government to the UCLG's Urban Strategic Planning Commission,
Please, download the membership document and email it to www.rosario.gov.ar/comisionpeu or by post or fax to:

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URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMISSION

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



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Any city member of United Cities and Local Governments can join the Urban Strategic Planning Commission.
Membership of the Urban Strategic Planning does not imply payment of any membership fee.



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
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MUNICIPALIDAD DE ROSARIO

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to take part in the Urban Strategic Planning Commission, recently created in the context of the II UCLG's World Congress celebrated in Jeju (South Korea) in November 2007.



The Commission was created based on a Work Programme developed on the initiative of the city of Rosario and represents the response to the increasing demands of local governments to find spheres for the discussion and exchange of experiences on Urban Strategic Planning. The Commission is also intended to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of public policies that are developed from the cities.

Those of us who are involved in the daily management of cities in dynamic contexts of high complexity consider that responding to the urban development phenomenon, facing the fight against poverty, contributing to the betterment of the quality of life and adapting local governments to these new scenarios are key responsibilities of local authorities.

It is in this context that the Commission is intended to promote and disseminate successful experiences relative to the integration of urban strategic planning in local policies, as well as to facilitate the visibility and worldwide appreciation of good management practices that have already accomplished relevant urban transformations.

The Commission is also intended to become a forum that, from its specificity, will make recommendations on sustainable urban development, will strengthen global links between cities, specially focusing on South/South cooperation and will articulate its actions with current initiatives and networks of cities on strategic urban planning.

Last, I would like to highlight the very positive results that, based on our own experience and those of other several local governments, have allowed a successful strategic urban planning with significant impacts on the improvement of citizens' quality of life.

That is why we hope more cities will take part in this Commission's work.

Sincerely,


Ing. Miguel Lifschitz
Rosario City Mayor



OBJECTIVES

Main Objective

::Foster economic and social development of cities through the introduction and continuous updating of urban strategic planning in the public policies implemented by local governments, always in the context provided by the CGLU.

Specific Objectives

::Build spaces for discussion, exchange, dissemination of lessons-learned and of good practices, spaces that may contribute to improve the quality of local policies on urban strategic planning.

::Facilitate the visibility and worldwide appreciation of management experiences that, thanks to the integration of urban strategic planning, have accomplished relevant transformations, with positive and significant impacts on the quality of life in cities.

::Facilitate and promote the transfer of technical assistance accumulated in successful experiences. This transfer of knowledge will be carried out regionally.

::Make contributions, from the Commission's specificity, to UCLG's political instances such as the Executive Bureau or the World Council. The Commission will channel the demands that cities may bring to its consideration and will support cities' perspective in the international scenario.

::Consolidate links with other UCLG's commissions and/or groups working on issues that cross-section with this Commission's work and that can contribute to the same.

ARTICULATION WITH CURRENT INITIATIVES

The Commission intends to work within the UCLG's structure, to articulate its actions with urban strategic planning initiatives presented by different cities, associations, networks of cities and programmes carried out worldwide.

One of the main current initiatives is the Cooperation Programme of UCLG and the CityFuture Alliance. The Commission intends to establish a privileged relationship

between both. The programme is based on the exchange and implementation of lessons-learned from local management and in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. African and Latin American cities take part of the above mentioned programme. They obtain support for managing and developing their own strategies from cities that are referents on urban policies. It is in this context that the Commission intends to support and extend the exchanges of experiences already existing in the Programme and to foster their transfer to cities in other continents.

Cooperation will also exist for current networks and initiatives on urban strategic planning, including, **Mercocities** (Mercosur Cities Network); the **IberoAmerican Center for Urban Strategic Development** (CIDEU), the **South African Local Governments Association** (SALGA); the **URB-AL Programme** (European Commission) and the **League of Philippine Municipalities Network**

WORK SCHEDULE

The first year we intend to:

::Extend the call so that a larger number of local governments may have an active participation in the Commission

::Organise a workshop to exchange experiences on urban strategic planning, with a good selection of specific topics based on identified applicable good practices. This workshop will be held in Quito, Ecuador, by mid 2008 in the context of the UCLG's Executive Bureau.

::Summon well-known experts to start developing a Draft Document that will express UCLG's vision on urban strategic planning. This Draft Document is to be approved by a Commission's plenary meeting.

URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMISSION STRUCTURE

Presidency: Miguel Lifschitz, Rosario City Mayor

Vice-presidency: Mayor from an African city

Technical Secretariat: Sara Hoeflich, UCLG's World Secretariat