



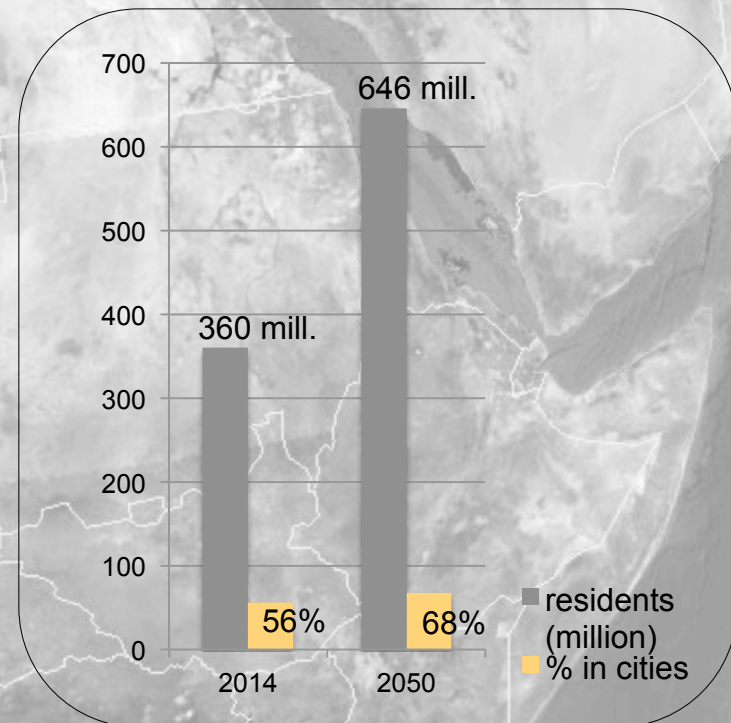
A New Urban Agenda – Advocating for Integrated and Inclusive Sustainable Urbanisation in the Arab Region

05 November 2014, Katja Schaefer (UN-Habitat ROAS)

Urbanization Challenges - Arab Region

Oldest urban civilizations in the world + one of the most urbanized...

- Urbanization driven by
 - ✓ Rapid population growth
 - ✓ Economic development
 - ✓ Migration to oil rich countries
 - ✓ Natural disasters (drought)
 - ✓ Conflict
- Fundamental socio-economic challenges influencing sustainability
 - ✓ **Poverty***
 - ✓ **Unemployment**
 - ✓ **Social fragmentation**



reference: State of Arab Cities Report (2012)

* Marginalisation + poverty induced by lack of mobility > political polarisation (rural – urban divide)

Urbanization Challenges - Arab Region

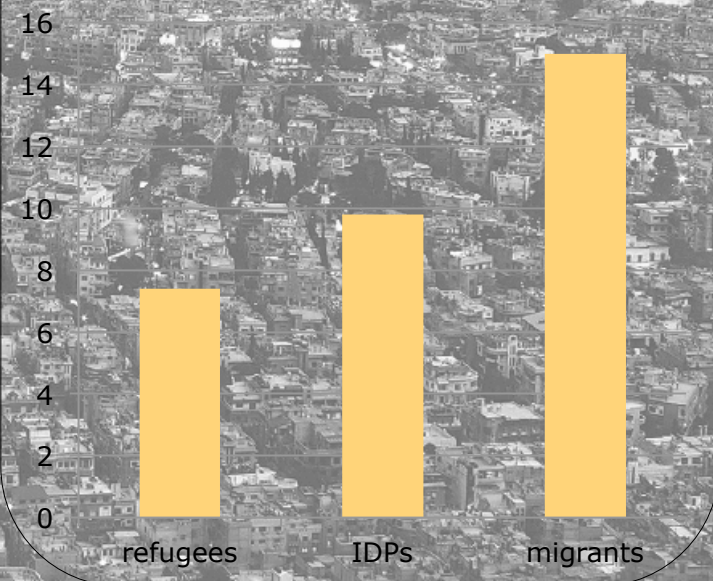
- **Peace and security situation**

- ✓ human wellbeing
- ✓ economic development
- ✓ natural resources
- ✓ ecological habitats

2010:

- ✓ 7.4 million **refugees**
- ✓ 9.8 million internally displaced peoples (IDPs)
- ✓ 15 million international migrants
- ✓ Most live in cities = **one-third** of sub-region's population

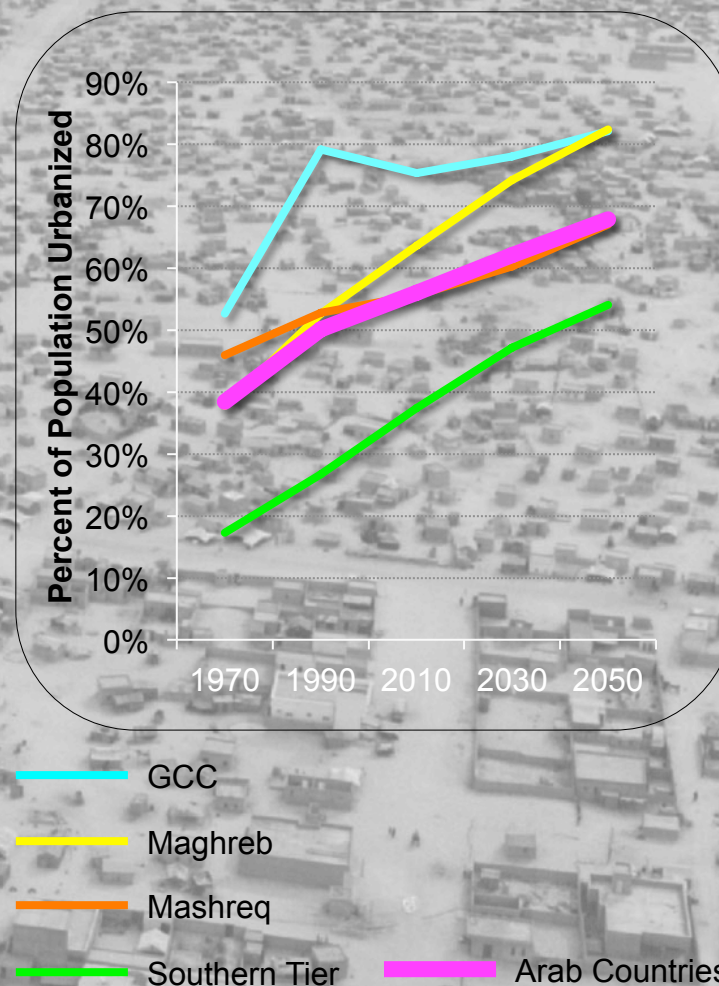
Displacement in the Arab Region (2012)



reference: State of Arab Cities Report (2012)

Urbanization Challenges - Arab Region

- **20 % of population** lives under each country's national **poverty line** – high differences among sub-regions (GCC, Mashreq, Maghreb and Southern Tiers)
- **High dependency on natural resources** by some Arab countries + intensive economies; vulnerabilities:
 - ✓ economic shocks and fluctuations to international prices
 - ✓ profound repercussions on growth, employment and economic stability and environment



reference: State of Arab Cities Report (2012)

Urbanization Challenges - Arab Region

- In general, **access to services, infrastructure, health, education** attainment is better in cities than in rural areas, although **unemployment and continuing poverty** is a growing urban phenomenon
- **Informal settlements <> slums**
 - ✓ Sudan: 67 - 94% of urban residents in informal areas
 - ✓ Population living in informal settlements is nearly the **30%**
 - ✓ Informal settlements and least developed countries: **2/3** of population living in **slums**
 - ✓ Maghreb and Mashreq, middle-to-low-income groups tend to live in informal settlements with **decent quality** and **infrastructure** but **without land title**

reference: State of Arab Cities Report (2012)

Challenges for Social Inclusion

Land, Housing and Urban Planning

- **Data** (accurate, timely and disaggregated) and appropriate collection methods
- **Definitions** of statistical variables to ensure comparability between countries
- Insufficient **financial resources**
- **Conflict** in some countries and foreign **occupation**
- Centralized and bureaucratized **administrative systems**
 - ✓ local authority efficiency
 - ✓ local participation in decision making processes
 - ✓ weaken relationships and coordination between citizens and local government
- General weakness in (in)formal **institutions**
 - ✓ Without civil society participation
 - ✓ Land management and housing acquisition unencumbered by bureaucracy, nepotism and inefficiency

Challenges for Social Inclusion

Land, Housing and Urban Planning

- High **urbanization** levels
 - ✓ Population growth, rural migration, displacements due to armed conflicts, economic transformations and increased migrant labor
 - ✓ Especially along coast
 - ✓ Water and other services infrastructures requirements
 - ✓ Threatens cultural and natural heritage
- Development of **unsafe informal settlements** in urban centres
- Limited availability and access to **transport, health, education and other basic public services** in hazard prone areas
- Affordable **housing shortage**
 - ✓ Difficult legal process and prohibitive land prices constrain access by the poor to formal land ownership relegating them to informal modes of land acquisition
 - ✓ Housing reliant on market rather than being plan-led, with negative effects manifesting in land shortages for housing, urban sprawl, imbalanced housing market rigid housing differentiation, shrinking green spaces, etc.

Challenges for Social Inclusion

Land, Housing and Urban Planning

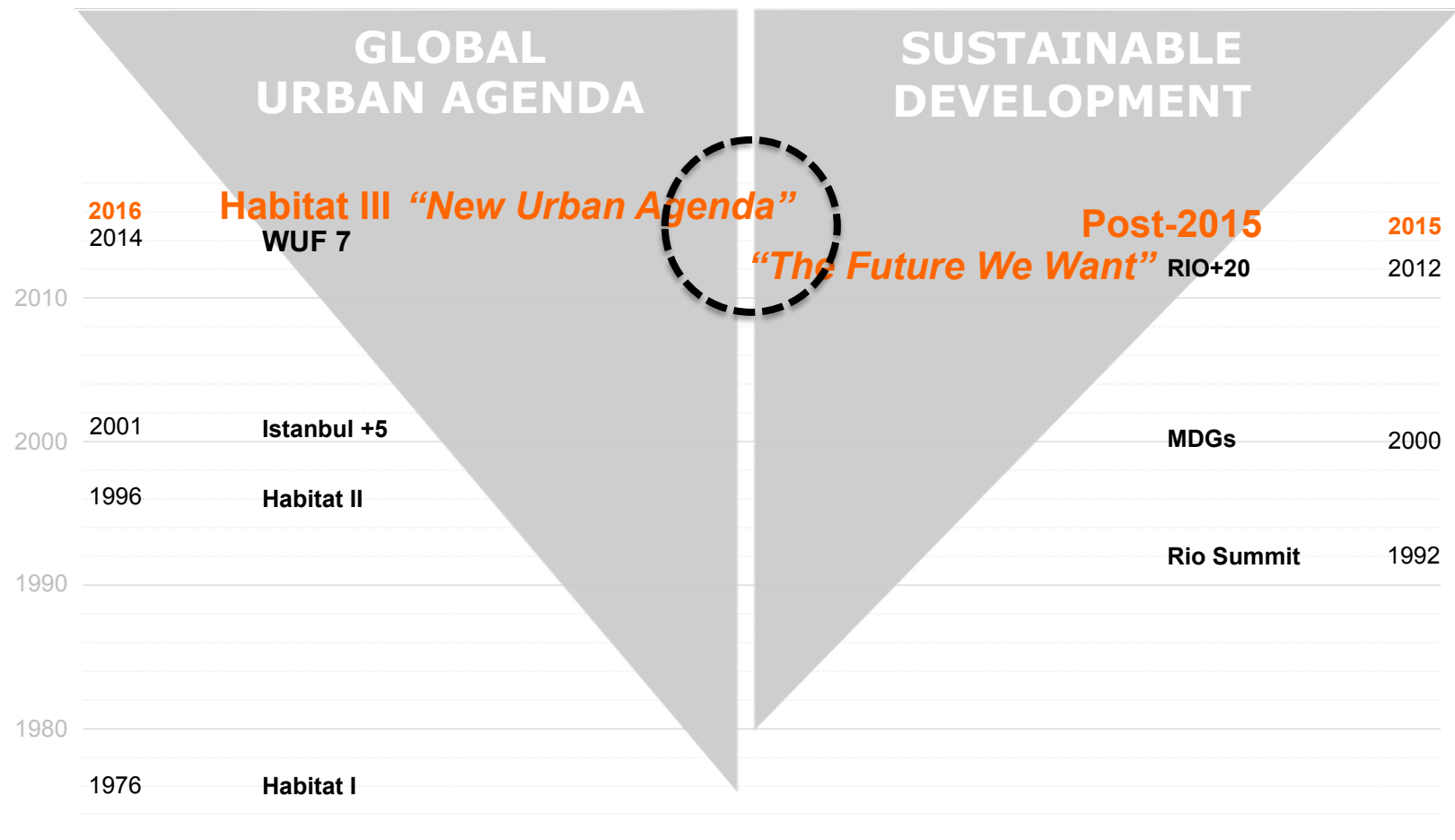
- Urban planning and services not friendly with **groups with particular needs** like elder and disabled persons
- Low governmental **capacity** to roll-out of housing, land formalization, construction and service provision
- Lack of **building codes** and disaster **resilient construction**
- **Environmental** threats
 - ✓ Unregulated disposal of solid waste and waste water
- Limited availability of high-quality **public transportation** systems, wide-spread **private car use** and overburdened road transport systems, causes percent of primary energy in the Arab region and produces **air-polluting** toxic gases
- High demand and consumption of **fuel, electricity and water**, caused by rapidly expanding populations and widespread subsidies

Challenges for Social Inclusion

Land, Housing and Urban Planning

- Need to upgrade and expand systems of infrastructures to improve **services standards** and **cope with energy and water losses**
- Youth, migrants, refugees and women remain partly or totally **excluded** from the processes of power that are shaping the future of the region
- **Women** are facing many challenges to their **participation** in the political realm as well as in the private and public sectors
- Post-disaster or post-conflict relocation or **resettlement policies** may lead to the poor being evicted and land disputes

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



scarce recognition of the role of urbanization

Urban Divide

spatial - social - economic - political - cultural

nationally

within cities
between cities

regionally

educational - income - gender - youth - ethnicity -
quality of life - level of attainment

Urban Equity in Development

Cities for Life...

- 2/3 of world's urban population live in cities where income inequality has increased since 1980s
- Inequalities are present in urban spaces - cities divided by invisible borders that take the form of **social, cultural and economic exclusion**
- **Slums** - face of poverty and urban inequality - **continue to increase** in most countries of the developing world, perpetuating the **lack of access to basic services and political representation** to the most vulnerable communities
- **Gender inequality** persists, preventing women from accessing secondary education, decent employment, political representation, and reproductive health care
- **Youth inequalities** manifest in discrimination in access to education, differentiated levels of employment and livelihood opportunities, lack of participation in decision making, and prejudice against sexual preferences

Cities are a critical component in addressing the inequality problem

- Their **design, governance, and infrastructure** have direct impact on the lives and opportunities of their inhabitants

MDGs & Sustainable Urbanisation...



Targets:

1. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
2. Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
3. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
4. Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Post2015 Agenda and SDGs - Goal 11

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable **housing** and **basic services**, and upgrade slums
2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable **transport** systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
3. By 2030 enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and **capacities** for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement **planning and management** in all countries
4. Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural **heritage**
5. By 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by **disasters**, including water-related disasters, with the focus on **protecting the poor** and people in **vulnerable** situations
6. By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita **environmental impact** of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management
7. By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and **public spaces**, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Post2015 Agenda and SDGs - Goal 11

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- a. Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening **national and regional development planning**
- b. By 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to **climate change, resilience to disasters**, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- c. Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, for sustainable and resilient **buildings** utilizing local materials

Why the World needs an Urban SDG?

SDSN, UN-Habitat, UCLG, ICLEI, Cities Alliance

1. Educate and **focus attention** on urgent urban challenges and future opportunities
2. Mobilize and **empower all urban actors** around practical problem solving
3. Address the specific challenges of **urban poverty** and access to infrastructure
4. Promote **integrated and innovative** infrastructure design and service delivery
5. Promote **land use** planning and efficient spatial concentration
6. Ensure **resilience** to climate change and disaster risk reduction

Why the World needs an Urban SDG?

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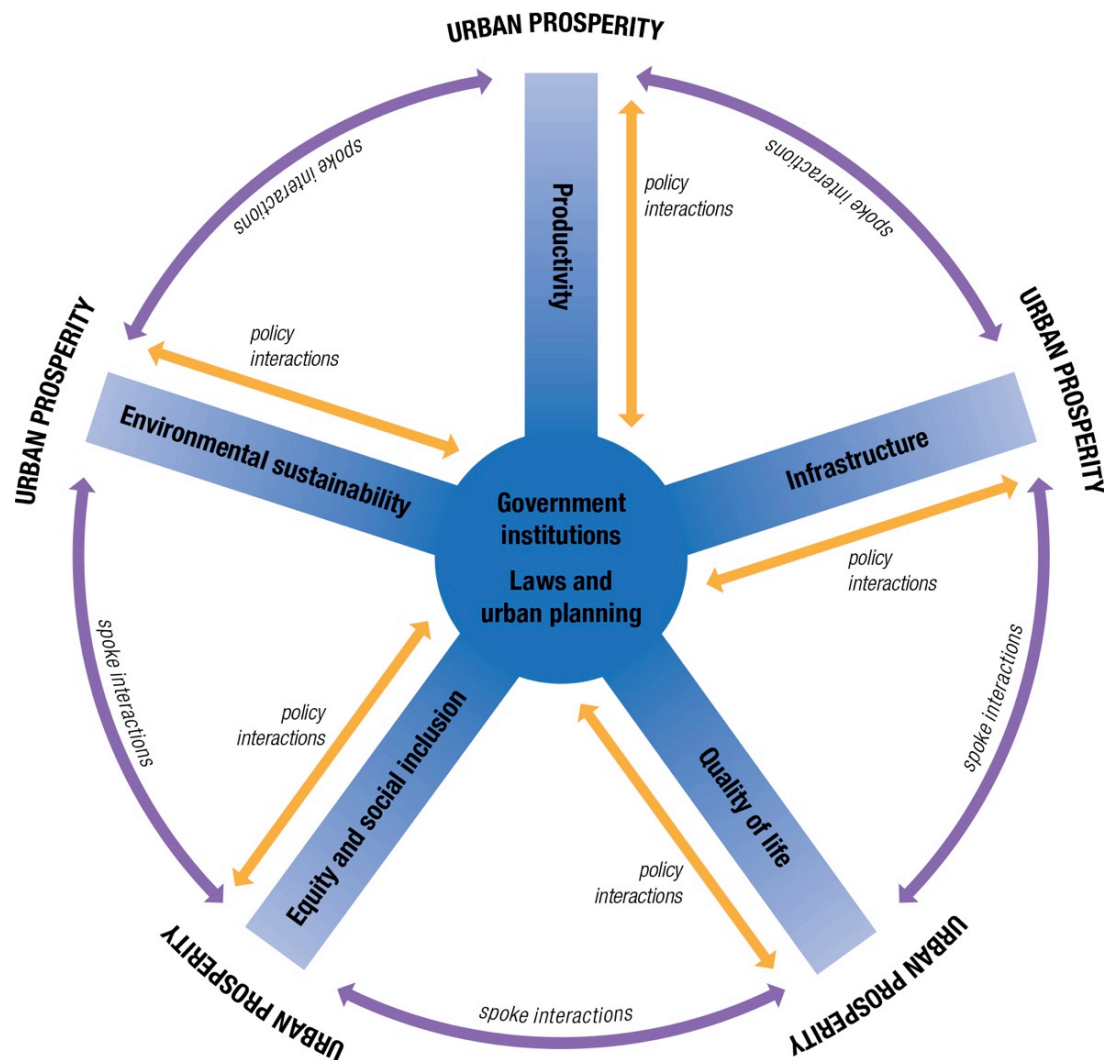
1. In the quest for sustainable development, a focus on cities is **unique** because it foregrounds space and place as well as the subsidiarity of local government.
2. Cities constitute the arena where action is concretized. As engines of growth they are **transformative**; they concentrate the institutions and infrastructure required to bring about change.
3. As hubs of peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing they are **integrative**; their championing of innovative approaches strengthens institutions and builds capacities.
4. As homes for a majority of the world's people, they are **universal** - there are significant sustainable urban development challenges in all major regions of the world.

Towards a *New Urban Agenda*

Urbanization and Sustainable Development...

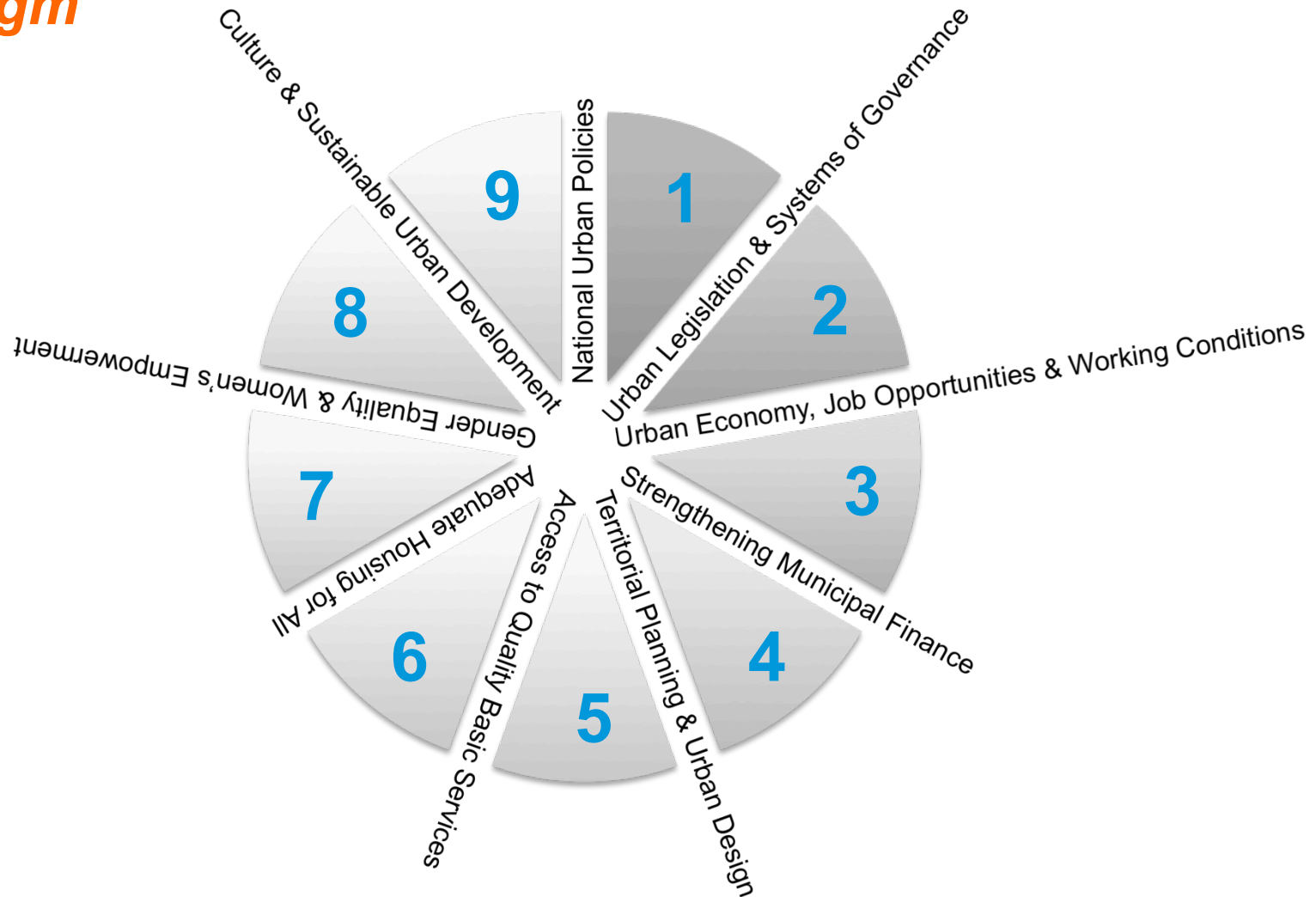
1	New Urbanization Model	Universal & adaptable to different national circumstances; based on key urbanization challenges & opportunities shared by all countries
2		Mechanisms & procedures > respect, protect & promote human rights
3		Equitable urban development & inclusive urban growth, which entails bringing <u>equality</u> & <u>non-discrimination</u> considerations, including <u>gender</u> equality, to the center of urban development
4		Integration in implementation - address the environmental, social & economic objectives of sustainability ; inter-linkages and the concerns of different levels of government
5		Empowerment of civil society , expanding democratic participation & reinforcing collaboration
6		Green cities & environmental sustainability , which involves establishing a critical connection between science, environment, economic growth, urban planning & governance
7		Innovations that facilitate learning & sharing of knowledge , which entails creation of supportive learning, science, technology and innovation policies as well as development of capacities
8		Global data revolution for effective, results-based, implementation & monitoring of the new urban agenda at the local, national & global levels

City – Home of Prosperity



Towards a *New Urban Agenda*

Paradigm Shift



The city we need...

- ... is **socially inclusive**
- ... is **well planned**
- ... is **regenerative city**
- ... is **economically vibrant and inclusive**
- ... has a **singular identity** and **sense of place**
- ... is **safe city**
- ... is **healthy city**
- ... is **affordable** and **equitable**
- ... is **managed at the metropolitan level**

