



Forum: Sustainable Development Goals 11
Issue: Measures to improve urban planning and management
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Introduction

By 2050, 2.5 billion humans will be living in cities, and by 2030, the quantity of urban areas will increase by 300%. Immigrating from rural and sparse villages and towns to big cities and industrial hubs for economical reasons. Instead of commuting each day from their villages, it is easier for people to work near places that they lived in. Urban planning is needed to organise the infrastructure and economy of the city.

Since cities and countries, MEDCs and LEDCs, are developing by each second. Infrastructure, and improved health and education facilities being made and developed constantly. In order to accommodate the exponential increase in the population of urban areas, the government and Non-Government Organisations plan and manage the cities well. For this to be achieved, the planners need to deeply consider the factors of: the environmental impact; economical impact; the needs and wants of residents; community participation; social equality; public welfare; and expansion of infrastructure. Not only the expansion of roads and buildings and residential areas but also the ensuring splendid healthcare, efficient transportation and decent education for all levels. Urban planning is needed to ensure the safety of the people amidst a crisis or even emergencies such as floods and fires.

Definition of Key Terms

Urban

Urban is the characteristic of a city. Urban areas within a country are the most concentrated in terms of population and concentrated in industries and businesses.

Brownfield

Brownfield is a common term mostly used in geography to describe a specific area of land. A brownfield area is described as densely populated; located in urban areas; containing the potential presence of pollutants, contaminants and hazardous substances. Examples of famous brownfield sites are New York City, Paris and Tokyo.



Greenfield

Greenfields are the opposite of brownfield sites. They contain an abundance more of greenery and are very sparse; businesses are reduced to only a few and they are usually more sanitary in comparison to the brownfield sites and are less likely to contain hazardous substances, pollutants etc.

Concentrated

The high density of people within a certain area. A very concentrated area would mean that the area contains a lot of people and are highly populated: hence brownfield sites are very concentrated. On the contrary, a low concentrated site has a low population within an area meaning that people can move more freely and have more space: hence, greenfield sites are low-concentrated areas.

Sparse

Sparsity is the opposite of concentration. It is how low the density of an area is.

Urban Planning and Management

In one sentence. Urban planning and management is a very complicated field that uses strategies, activities and instruments to create a country or city that functions efficiently and to optimise the already existing features of a city to its maximum potential.

In order for a city to 'work', infrastructure such as parks and hospitals and schools have to be functional and accessible meaning that transport has to be affordable (both public and private) and roads must be well paved etc. Furthermore, goods and services are to be commonly accessible and divide equally within different communities. The interests of all residents, investors and shareholders must be kept into deep consideration equally and still satisfy and fulfill their needs and wants. For a city to function, one must implement policies containing rules and regulations. Improving living and housing conditions for the inhabitants would attract more people to the city.

Economy

Economics is a branch of knowledge that focuses on the production, consumption and transfer of resources.

LEDC

Standing for 'Less Economically developed Country' are poor countries that often have many developments within it to accumulate wealth. Compared to MEDCs the: life expectancy; literacy rate; life expectancy; quality of education; quality of healthcare; and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita are all relatively lower. Some of the LEDCs are: Indonesia, Brazil, Kuwait and China.



MEDC

Standing for ‘More Economically Developed Country’ are rich countries such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Canada and Australia. Many citizens of LEDCs immigrate to MEDCs for occupational and economical and social reasons. There are relatively less MEDCs than there are LEDCs. However, if a country is an MEDC, that still does not mean that the GDP per capita is averagely high and the healthcare is in a good quality. A prime example of this would be the United States of America.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (or shortly known as the SDGs) are a group of goals created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 after the Millenium Development Goals, (which were a similar group of goals formed by the UNGA in 200), had ultimately failed. The 17 SDGs range from: ending poverty; to climate action; to sustainable cities and etc.

Living cost

Living cost is the average price of common needs such as food, shelter and clothing within a city, country or area.

Background Information

Quality of life

The quality of life is an important factor to consider as a city planner. The other sub-factors relative to this are accommodations and employment. The authorities must keep a keen eye on the distribution of land, living space, public areas and other infrastructure, because if a very rich person were to buy too much land, then adequate living space for the rest of the residences are to certainly become a rare commodity. Although, sometimes the cost of living increases (average price of common goods; accommodation; taxes; transportation etc.): the opportunities increase proportionally (increase in employment and wage). Other side factors that people consider when thinking of migrating to another area is leisure. So this would include any form of entertainment for any demographic within the population which includes: parks, cinemas, theatres, etc. The authorities also have to constantly alter the traffic patterns as the quantity and movement of vehicles on roads fluctuate each day. All of these factors contribute to either improving or worsening the quality of life.

The environment



Global warming and climate change are both major issues to the wellbeing of both the Earth and the inhabitants of it. Urban planning councils must prepare from natural calamities coming from these invisible forces. Calamities such as: massive flood and hurricanes; forest fires, earthquakes and tsunamis. The city planners have to make sure that all of the residents and visitors are safe from those disasters at all. Thus, they have to make sure of it from the city's early constructions. Where emergency halls should be located, the reliability and safety of skyscrapers and where some buildings should be placed are just some of the things that planners have to think about.

The city planners also have to implement policies in which there are rules and regulations that create environmental boundaries for any infrastructure project. As they need to be sustainable to a certain extent and not waste as much valuable resources through the construction and also the maintenance of the infrastructure of the cities.

Economics and the utilisation of resources

As cities grow larger in size, the economies grow alongside it. Meaning that as more people migrate from rural areas to cities, that means that job openings will increase for the new comer and the cost of living will have to be reduced to assist the consumer's spending but not low enough to cause firms to go bankrupt. The main problem of most cities nowadays is that the current inhabitants in the city are moving out and migrating to other prominent cities because the living cost is unbearable and job opportunities are kept to a minimum.

Development of the Nation

According to a United Nations report. An estimated sum of 3 billion people will move from rural areas to cities by 2030. Although this would positively impact the economy of the country as employment sores and wealth is accumulated exponentially, the environmental impact is almost completely negative. As more land within a country would be solely utilised for brownfield sites, many biomes will be absolutely destroyed. Rainforests, deserts, reefs can all be faced to their extinction. Not only that, but also the constant decrease of biodiversity, especially with LEDCs such as Indonesia and Brazil where more portions of the rainforest have to be used for brownfield sites, thus creating less room for animal habitat.

With the density of people living within an area increasing by second, the question of transportation arises. City planners would have to decide whether to use some spaces as residential areas to adapt to the newcomers from outside the city or build roads so that more of the infrastructure can be accessible to more of the population.

Health and Safety



With the guidance of authorized organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the city planners must encourage its residents to lead a healthy lifestyle. City planners can contribute to this goal by increasing the corporate tax of unhealthy foods and decreasing it towards healthy goods. The government can also install more greenery into the city as a counter attack to the constant addition of pollutants to the air by vehicles by creating parks and planting trees on sidewalks. The addition of exercise machines and apparatuses as some of the population would not have access to them.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

ISOCARP

ISOCARP, short for the International Society of City and Regional Planners was founded in 1965 by individuals and organizations members from more than 85 different countries. This organization 's vision is to ensure that settlements are safe, inclusive and sustainable. In 2016, ISOCARP launched the 'ISOCARP Institute' as a platform to learn knowledge and generate better cities and settlements. ISOCARP's goals are to: develop connections between planners throughout the globe; research, train and educate new knowledge for the betterment of urban cities; and promote the planning profession and its significance.

Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing

The Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing or shortly known as the EAROPH is a non-governmental organization, established in 1956, New Delhi, India, that encompasses the public and private and academic sectors. Its goal is to ultimately consolidate and promote good quality of life. It focuses primarily on the Asian, Pacific and Australasian regions. The organization also famously promotes and utilizes sustainable methods throughout every process as they: promote sustainable construction industry services; promote adequate education systems; and stick to sustainable land-use, planning and management.

International Downtown Association

Founded in 1954, Washington DC, the International Downtown Association is a non-governmental organization that provides knowledge, tools and experience through a variety of different centres that emphasise the well-being of towns, cities and countries. The IDA hosts a lot of events that teach people topics such as: leadership development; economic development; and public space, management and operators.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme



Officially established in 1978 by the UNGA, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme or more commonly called as UN-Habitat is a sub-organization of the General Assembly. Its goals follow the Sustainable Development Goals also formed by the UNGA, mainly going under SDG 11, which is 'Sustainable Cities and Communities'. UN-Habitat works in more than 90 different countries and consults with governments and city planners about how to make human settlements more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The new strategic plan of the UN Human Settlement Programme from 2020-2023 consist of 4 entire sections: Think (research and application of knowledge); Do (its operational tasks varies from technical assistance to sustainable-urbanization and crisis response. The organization initiates projects to support each country in its tailored manner); Share (through constant advocacy and promotion); Partner(the UN-Habitat collaborates with firms, governments, intergovernmental, NGOs and etc.) .

Urban Land Institute

The ULI was founded on December 14th, 1936 in Washington DC. Now it has regional branches in Hong Kong and London too. This is a non-profit organization that researches and provide provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide

Timeline of Events

DATE	EVENT
October 24th, 1945	The United Nations was established
1965	ISOCARP was founded
1972	The United Nations (UN) Conference on the Human Environment or the Stockholm conference
1983 and 1979	The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.
September 2000	The Millenium Development Goals were officially established by the UN General Assembly



January 1st, 2016 September 25th, 2015	The Sustainable Development Goals were officially established by the UN General Assembly
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Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary
- The Stockholm conference
- The establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals
- The establishment of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme
- The establishment of the Millenium Development Goals.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

So far, the previous attempts of the issue of improving urban planning and management have been handled well. Large groups such as the International Society of City and Regional Planner host platforms in which the leaders and contributors to this field can disseminate knowledge with each other for the betterment of each of their communities. Multilateral organizations such as the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing ensure the cooperation between nations and ensure that the environmental impact of every action is constantly being kept in mind. To further add to that, prominent branches such as the UN-Habitat support the organization mentioned previously and governments making the process much more efficient and functional, meaning that the needs of the people are being fulfilled as fast as possible.

Not only the formation of different function organizations but also conferences, summits, treaties and conventions have been in circulation because as time continues, new types of problems arise from all around the globe, meaning that new solutions have to be made up too.

Possible Solutions

There are many various ways to improve urban planning and management. Although the measures being taken by organizations as of this moment in time are quite sufficient, think of potential scenarios that could possibly occur in the future and potential solutions prior to that problem. The formation of new organizations for practical, educational or promotional purposes; new economic, environmental or social treaties and conventions that can be put in place; and project and programmes are some of the ideas



that your delegation could introduce.

Guiding Questions

1. How is your delegation affected by this?
2. How does your delegation contribute to urban planning and management internationally?
3. How is the urban planning and management in the country of your delegation?
4. What is your delegation's stance on the issue at hand?
5. How can your delegation improve urban planning and management?

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“Urban Management.” *Iloveurban*, <https://www.iloveurban.org/urban-management>



Appendix or Appendices

- I. <https://planningtank.com/city-insight/importance-urban-planning> (The Importance of Urban Planning)

This website is helpful because it explains the general meaning of urban planning and management, its effects on society and the factors that contribute to how city planners make decisions.

- II. <https://www.iloveurban.org/urban-management> (Urban Management)

This website is also helpful because it clears out any prior questions that you might have had such as: who gets to be the planner; how does the planning process work; and etc. And this explains in detail the meaning of urban planning and its significance.