



Who Will Pay for the Urban Future?

Key Challenges

Municipal Fiscal Health

Cities need the capacity to fund public services and invest in infrastructure

Value Capture

Land-based finance tools provide cities with sustainable own-source revenues

Urban Expansion

Monitoring the quality and spatial dimensions of urban growth will be critical to planning for an urban future

Implementing the New Urban Agenda
After Habitat III, what comes next?

For billions of people worldwide, quality of life will depend on the way cities grow over the coming decades, and sustainable development starts with sound land policy. Cities and regions can expand in ways that contribute to a better economy and quality of life, or they can succumb to sprawl, gridlock, and pollution. When urban development and public investment raise the value of land, cities can reinvest the gains in public works or affordable housing, or they can allow this value to escape as windfalls for private landowners, causing inequality to fester.

The Lincoln Institute has been engaged in the preparations for Habitat III since 2014, with a focus on helping cities make the most of land, both spatially and fiscally. We have served as a co-lead of the Habitat III Policy Unit on Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems, helped lead the General Assembly of Partners Research and Academia Partner Constituent Group, served as a member of the U.S. National Committee for Habitat III, and provided expertise to the Policy Unit on Urban Spatial Strategies: Land Market and Segregation. With the adoption of a draft New Urban Agenda in September 2016, we are now focused on the critical work of implementation.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is an independent, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to help solve global economic, social, and environmental challenges to improve the quality of life through creative approaches to the use, taxation, and stewardship of land. As a private operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute seeks to inform public dialogue and decisions about land policy through research, training, and effective communication.

By bringing together scholars, practitioners, public officials, policy makers, journalists, and involved citizens, the Lincoln Institute integrates theory and practice and provides a forum for multidisciplinary perspectives on public policy concerning land, both in the United States and internationally. The Lincoln Institute's work is organized in five major areas: Planning and Urban Form, Valuation and Taxation, International and Institute-Wide Initiatives, the People's Republic of China, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Municipal Fiscal Health

The Habitat III Policy Paper on Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems identifies four key components of municipal finance: expenditures, revenues, financial management, and borrowing. All of these are shaped by the rules of the game, the frameworks—often created by higher levels of government—within which cities exist. The Lincoln Institute and UN-Habitat are building a global municipal fiscal database that will increase accessibility and transparency of fiscal data, and help identify policies to improve city finances. We are also working on a municipal fiscal health dashboard for 150 U.S. cities, which will allow for more meaningful comparisons of finances across cities.

Monitoring Urban Expansion

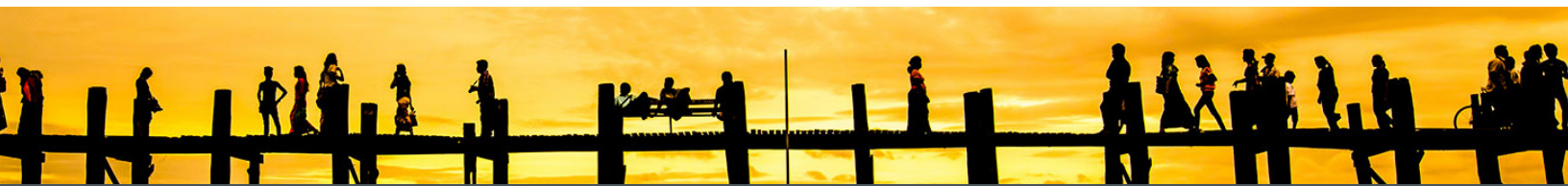
The Atlas of Urban Expansion: 2016 Edition, a collaboration of the Lincoln Institute, New York University, and UN-Habitat, will debut at Habitat III. A unique online open-source repository of satellite imagery of 200 representative cities worldwide, the Atlas provides analysis of the extent and character of urban growth, the impact of regulations, and trends in housing affordability. Cities in the developing world are expanding rapidly to accommodate huge influxes in population, but much of the growth is unplanned and disorderly, with vast areas of informal settlement at the periphery. The 200 sample cities were selected from among the 4,231 cities in the world with populations greater than 100,000 as of 2010; the sample constitutes 70 percent of the world's urban population.

Land Value Capture

Rapidly growing cities require innovative financing mechanisms for infrastructure, housing, and open space, and the Lincoln Institute is sharing expertise on value capture—the recovery of increases in property values that accrue to private landowners as a result of public investment or government action, such as a zoning change or development of public infrastructure. A prominent Networking Session, Land and Revenue: A North-South Dialogue on Value Capture, will feature case studies on this land-based financing tool from around the world. Value capture has been adopted in South America, Europe, and Asia, and is attracting increasing interest in the U.S. as a way to finance infrastructure and bring about more equitable urban development.

Implementing the New Urban Agenda

Habitat III is a major milestone, but what happens next is even more important. We are focused on ensuring that implementation of the New Urban Agenda leads to more livable, sustainable cities that offer opportunity to all who inhabit them. We are developing tools to monitor fiscal conditions and the spatial expansion of cities; seeking partnerships to build capacity in urban centers across the globe with an emphasis on research and policy; building on the foundations set by civil society, the research community, and academia in the run-up to Habitat III; and helping inform and implement policies to improve municipal fiscal health, including the property tax and land-based financing tools such as value capture.



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