

# The Post-Covid Global Challenge

The pandemic has been regressive in its impacts. The pressure to recover quickly by a return to "business as usual" would however be a huge error. COVID-19 has laid bare long-standing inequities faced by people around the world. Inequality in gender, race, and disability have come to the fore. Gaps in healthy life expectancy and opportunity have deepened. The recent progress that has been made in reducing poverty and in improving living conditions in the most vulnerable communities has been put risk.

The existential threat of climate change has therefore been exacerbated by ongoing global disruption caused by the pandemic. These challenges have been compounded by international conflict and threaten the hope for the UN Sustainable Development Goals and their delivery through the New Urban Agenda.

An age of radical uncertainty has been created which calls out for a **Roadmap** that leads the way to just and regenerative recovery of cities, towns, and regions

In response to these concerns, HPF has set out a Roadmap for a Just and Regenerative Recovery. It sets out the key steps that now need to be taken in order to respond to, and recover from the pandemic, and to build resilience to future global shocks.

This Roadmap seeks to harness the full potential of the cross-disciplinary community of **HPF** to provide professional support ranging from direct engagement with local communities to mobilising international support where need is greatest.

The **Roadmap** is a call to governments at all levels that if they truly want to deliver a sustainable and just future for citizens and a healthy regenerative world, they must provide the political push for us to do the job. We stand ready.

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# HPF Roadmap to Recovery Executive Summary



The HPF Roadmap sets out *22 Propositions* to change the way we plan and manage our cities and regions, and to make them fit for purpose in the Post-Covid World. If acted upon, these Propositions will help align the separate and disparate actions of government at all levels and link policies to delivery mechanisms. These Propositions are underpinned by the following key interventions.

## 1. A Refreshed Commitment to a Shared Vision

A political re-commitment to the New Urban Agenda (NUA) through a *Global Urban Re-Start Campaign* to re-engineer existing urban areas to strengthen their resilience to potential future global shocks, adapted to the post-Covid norms, integrate far better with the natural world and climate-friendly.

## 2. Going Local

A *Framework of Participatory Democracy* to restore local trust in civic governance, and re-empower communities. This requires a renewed set of *Principles for Urban Social Justice and Human Rights* that safeguard the rights of individuals in shaping the future of the communities, and counter the centralisation of powers created by the short-term responses to the pandemic.

## 3. Establish Tests of Real Progress

Prioritising of Outcomes not Outputs through *National Outcomes Frameworks* that set out clear meaningful targets for measuring real progress and bridge the current chasm between policy rhetoric and practice, and failure to monitor action.

## 4. Scale up the Capacity for Action

The creation of professional *NUA-Task Forces* and linked national and regional *UN-Habitat Knowledge Hubs* harnessing the power of New Technologies: to enhance institutional capacity for effective engagement, service delivery and networking.



## Part A: General Propositions

### Institutional Capacity for Change

- **Proposition 1:** A Renewed Commitment to the New Urban Agenda.
- **Proposition 2:** Remedying the Poor Coverage of up-to-date Plans
- **Proposition 3:** Greater Engagement with Communities in line with an International Framework of Participatory Democracy.
- **Proposition 4:** Promoting More Effective Strategic Planning through a framework of best practice.

### Responding to the Spatial Impacts of the Pandemic

- **Proposition 5:** Progress in Implementing the New Urban Agenda through National Monitoring Reports.
- **Proposition 6:** Responding to the 'New Post-Covid Norms' through the review and up-dating of existing urban and territorial plans.
- **Proposition 7:** Prepare for future Global Shocks, especially in the most vulnerable communities through a Global Urban Re-Start Campaign.

### Re-tooling Planning Systems

- **Proposition 8:** Equitable Access to Professional Resources with NUA-taskforces to assist and support those without or lacking resources.
- **Proposition 9:** Transforming Planning Outcomes: guided by National Outcomes Frameworks.
- **Proposition 10:** Harnessing the Power of New Technologies through linked national and regional UN-Habitat Knowledge Hubs.

## Part B: Thematic Propositions

### Landscape, Identity and Culture

- **Proposition 11:** Build Landscape Capacity through the integration of landscape into the work of all built environment professionals.
- **Proposition 12:** Harness Landscape in the delivery of the NUA through the assessment of long-term and inter-generational impacts of urbanization.
- **Proposition 13:** Integrate Landscape in Decision-making by systematically embedding the landscape dimension in all programmes and policies of compliance procedures.
- **Proposition 14:** Provide International Leadership through an International Landscape Convention (ILC).

### Architecture

- **Proposition 15:** Learn from COVID about the health and wellbeing contribution that urban and regional design and architecture make.
- **Proposition 16:** Integrate Architecture into the implementation of the NUA.
- **Proposition 17:** Future-skilling to tackle dysfunctional built environments to make them more resilient, climate-friendly and better integrated with natural systems.

### Urban Design

- **Proposition 18:** Promote the Contribution of Urban Form and Design to Recovery through a NUA Urban & Regional Futures Campaign.
- **Proposition 19:** Manage Future Megacities through a more strategic collaborative process.
- **Proposition 20:** Meet the challenge of 'Going-local' through new metrics of success based upon the health and well-being of communities.

### Culture and Heritage

- **Proposition 21:** Secure the Future of our Heritage by promoting its wider value and financial stability.

### Human Rights and Urban Legislation

- **Proposition 22:** Refresh Urban Law systems based upon an integrated vision of Social Justice and Human Rights.
- **Proposition 22a:** Establish a juridical basis for the urban planning of human rights with minimum standards and guarantees of rights.
- **Proposition 22b:** A vision of Legal Urbanism for confronting future human settlements crises to be, based on the rights to life, health, food, water, access, housing and participation.
- **Proposition 22c:** A Legal Framework for Urban Social Justice to be adopted and promoted by the UN Habitat and HPF Partners in accord with resolution 45/86 of the UN General Assembly.