



SGG 7: INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Cities That Belong to Everyone

Cities are our greatest invention, but they also concentrate our greatest challenge: inequality.



Cities are living ecosystems where people seek opportunity, safety, and belonging. They are the beating heart of modern life, concentrating culture and innovation.

Yet, when urban growth is unmanaged, it deepens inequality. The result is stark: overcrowded housing, unsafe neighborhoods, and marginalized communities pushed to the periphery. SGG 7 responds to this challenge with a clear vision: cities that work for everyone, not just the privileged few.

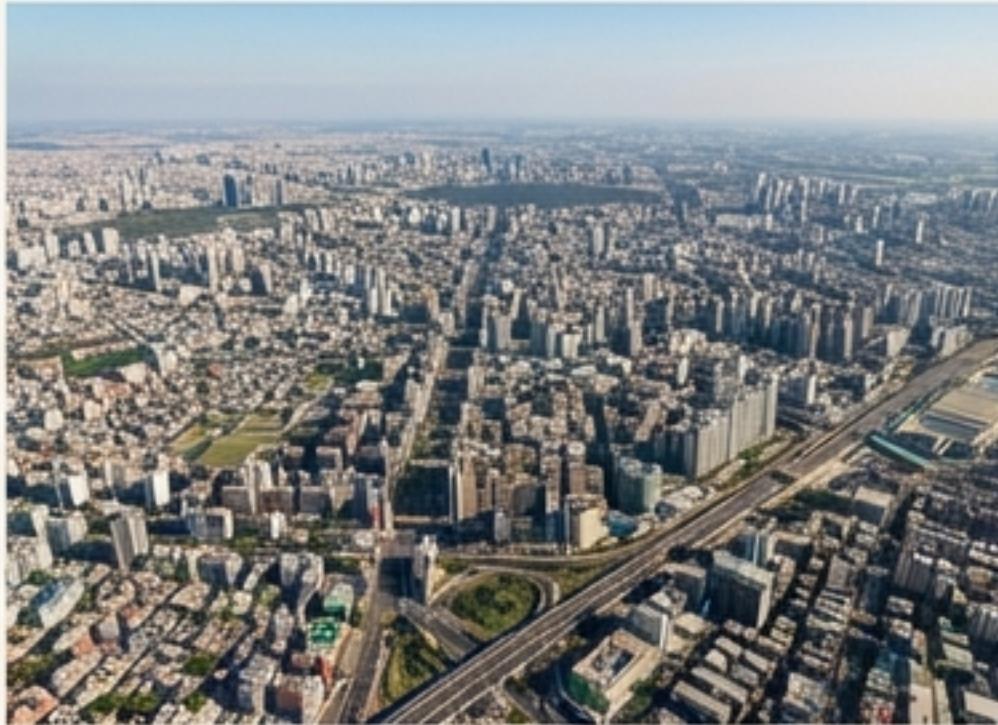


Our Goal: By 2074, urban spaces will be planned, developed, and governed for every resident.

To ensure that by 2074, all urban spaces are planned, developed, and governed in ways that guarantee accessibility, affordability, safety, and inclusivity for every resident, regardless of income, gender, disability, or migration status. This includes equitable housing policies, integrated transport systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and participatory governance that gives communities a voice in shaping their cities.



Why this goal is critical: Three truths about our urban future.



Urbanization is Inevitable

By 2050, two-thirds of the world will live in cities. Without inclusive planning, this growth will deepen divides between rich and poor, connected and excluded.



Cities Shape Life Chances

Access to housing, transport, education, and healthcare depends on where you live. Poorly designed cities trap people in cycles of poverty and vulnerability.



Resilience Depends on Equity

Climate shocks, pandemics, and economic crises hit hardest in underserved neighborhoods. Inclusive urban development is a survival strategy.

SGG 7 moves beyond existing frameworks like SDG 11 by making equity the cornerstone of urban planning.

Our advocacy strategy is built on four pillars of urban transformation.



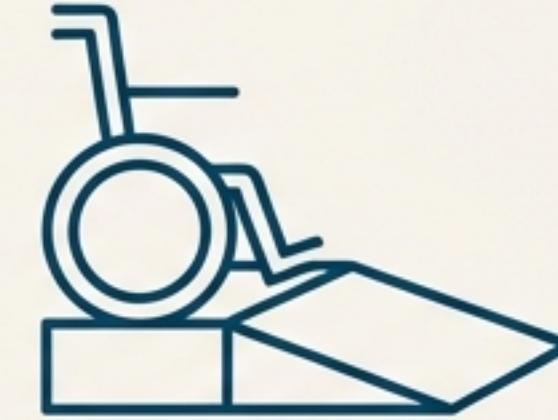
Policy Integration & Legal Reform

Adopt urban policies that guarantee affordable housing, accessible transport, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Prohibit discriminatory zoning and prioritize marginalized groups.



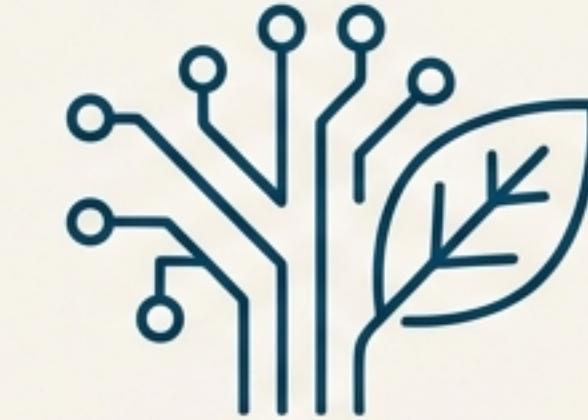
Community Participation & Voice

Promote participatory planning processes where residents, especially vulnerable communities, have a real say in shaping their cities.



Designing for Accessibility & Safety

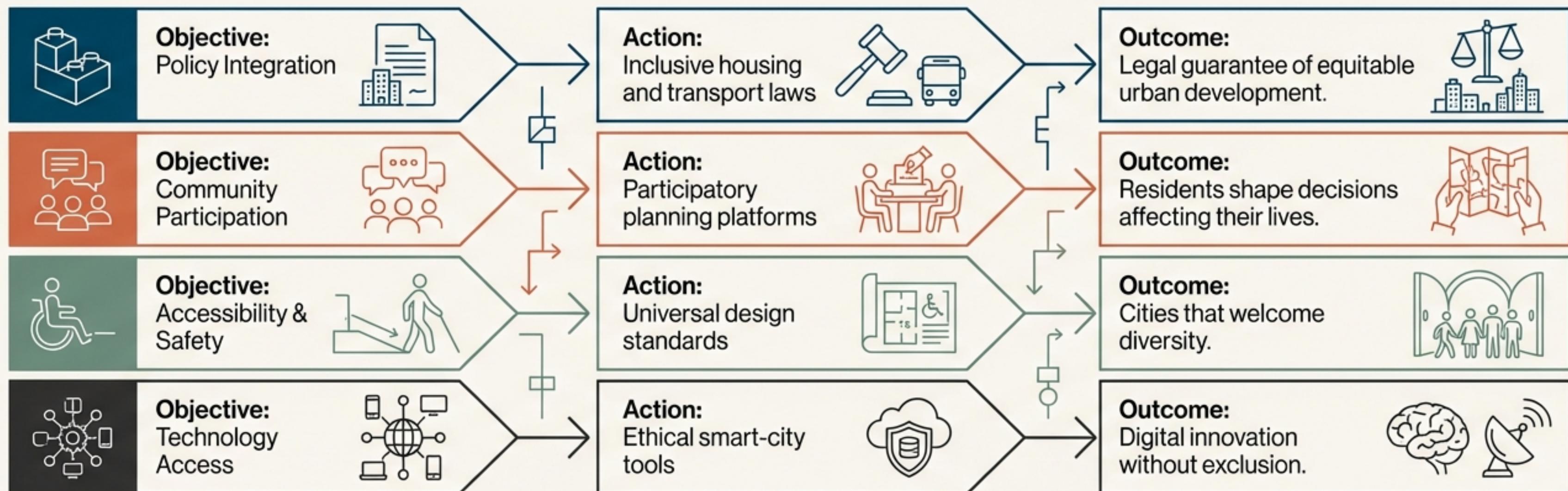
Push for universal design standards in housing, transport, and public spaces to ensure safety and accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities and older adults.



Technology & Smart Cities for All

Champion ethical urban tech: open-access platforms for citizen feedback, transparent data systems, and digital tools that improve services without creating new divides.

We will measure our advocacy through concrete actions and verifiable outcomes.



Key Benchmarks

- # of jurisdictions adopting inclusive laws
- % of housing projects meeting standards
- Uptake of participatory platforms
- Expansion of public transport coverage
- Deployment of ethical smart-city tech

Lasting change is driven by smart governance, not just massive budgets.

Turning inclusive urban development from vision to reality does not always require massive financial investment. These pathways focus on practical, non-financial steps that cities, institutions, and communities can adopt.

Embed Equity in Urban Policy

Integrate equity clauses, affordability standards, and anti-displacement measures into planning laws and zoning rules.

Education and Awareness

Teach urban rights and demystify planning processes to empower citizens.

Community-Based Planning

Create platforms (physical and digital) for residents to co-design solutions.

Universal Design Standards

Embed accessibility into building codes and procurement guidelines.

Digital Enablement

Provide open-access digital tools for mapping, feedback, and service monitoring.

An ecosystem of dedicated actors ensures custodianship and shared responsibility.



Universal Adaptability: All toolkits, charters, and digital resources will be freely available for local adaptation.

Compliance principles transform equity from an aspiration into an enforceable guarantee.

1



Legal Integration

Codify inclusive development into law. This includes mandatory affordability standards, universal design requirements, and anti-discrimination clauses in zoning.

2



Institutional Accountability

Require annual, publicly-disclosed audits on housing accessibility, transport coverage, and participatory planning processes.

3



Participatory Governance

Mandate structured consultation with residents—especially marginalized groups—in all urban planning decisions.

4



Technology Ethics & Data Transparency

Ensure smart-city tech complies with standards for privacy, accessibility, and fairness.

5



Open Access Principle

All compliance templates, charters, and toolkits will be freely available for universal adoption.

We will track progress through a clear and transparent monitoring framework.

Indicator	How It's Measured	Target by 2074
Policy Adoption	GSIA compliance audits	Universal integration of equity in urban law
Housing Accessibility	Developer audits; municipal reports	100% compliance with affordability and design standards
Transport Coverage	Infrastructure mapping; service data	Full coverage for underserved neighborhoods
Community Participation	Participation records; platform analytics	Inclusive planning in all urban projects
Technology Inclusion	DESA compliance checks	Universal access to ethical urban tech

We have a plan to anticipate and mitigate the key risks to inclusive urban development.

Risk

Gentrification & Displacement: Modernization pushes out low-income families.

Fragmented Governance: Overlapping agencies cause confusion and delays.

Digital Exclusion: Inaccessible smart-city tech creates new divides.

Climate Vulnerability: Poorly planned cities are exposed to climate shocks.

Social Resistance: Communities feel excluded from decision-making.

Mitigation

Legal Safeguards: Rent controls, anti-displacement clauses, affordable housing quotas.

Cooperative Charters: Clear institutional roles and coordination mechanisms.

Ethical Tech Guidelines: Standards for accessibility, multilingual platforms, privacy safeguards.

Resilient Design: Climate-resilient infrastructure, green spaces, early-warning systems.

Participatory Planning: Processes that give residents a real voice and build trust.

Inclusive urban development is a platform for achieving equity across all Social Global Goals.



The Future We Build: A City That Belongs to All.

SGG 7 envisions cities that welcome everyone—where housing is affordable, transport is accessible, and public spaces are safe and inclusive.

By embedding equity into the DNA of urban development, this goal transforms cities from engines of inequality into engines of opportunity.

Progress is measured not by skyscrapers alone, but by the ability of every person to live, work, and thrive.

