

**International
guidelines on
people-centred
smart cities**

JOIN THE MISSION



People-Centred Smart Cities

Smart Country Convention, Berlin

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October 16, 2024



Our Role

Focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system

Our Vision

Leveraging innovation and technology to make life better across cities and communities

Technology is disrupting our lives in cities



- Urban analytics, modelling, mapping and spatial planning through **GIS, data and artificial intelligence**.
- Making **public administration more efficient, open, transparent and accountable** and provide opportunities for better public infrastructure and use of resources, for example in tax collection.
- Improved and **faster service delivery** to residents, workers and visitors.
- **Job creation** and opportunities for youth, entrepreneurs, SMEs in the 4th industrial revolution
- Greater **participation of residents** in planning and decision making through digital tools.
- Transition to **greener, sustainable solutions** through digital transformation and smart technologies.

However, technology poses new challenges and risks

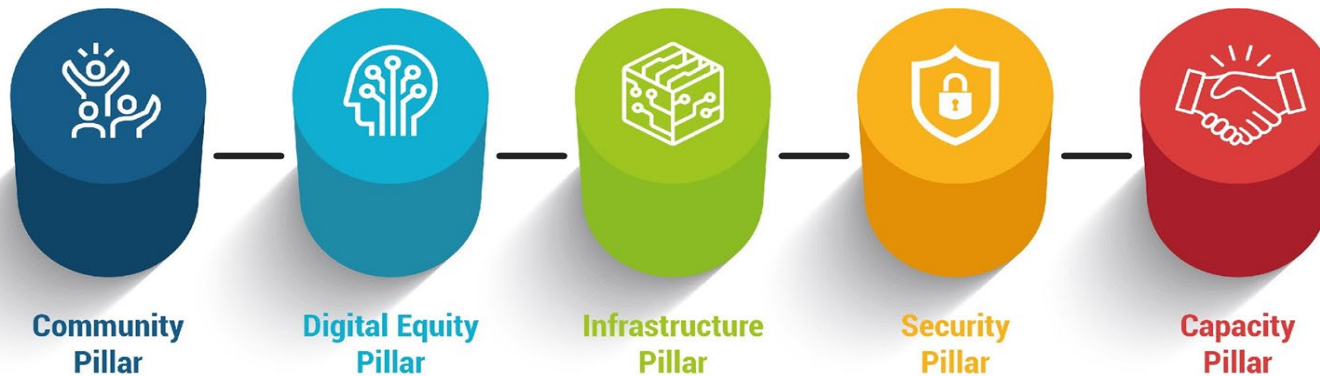


- **Supply-side and technology-driven solutions:** limited focus real needs of cities, residents and vulnerable people
- **Generic smart city "blueprints" and technologies:** not enough contextualization and understanding of urban sustainability
- **Leaving too many behind:** due to the digital divide, digital literacy and risks of exacerbating exclusion
- **Human rights protection:** data management & ownership, privacy and ethical concerns
- Lack of **accountability and transparency:** particularly in AI systems
- **Effective governance and regulation:** strategies missing; capacities limited; clarity of roles including public and private sector

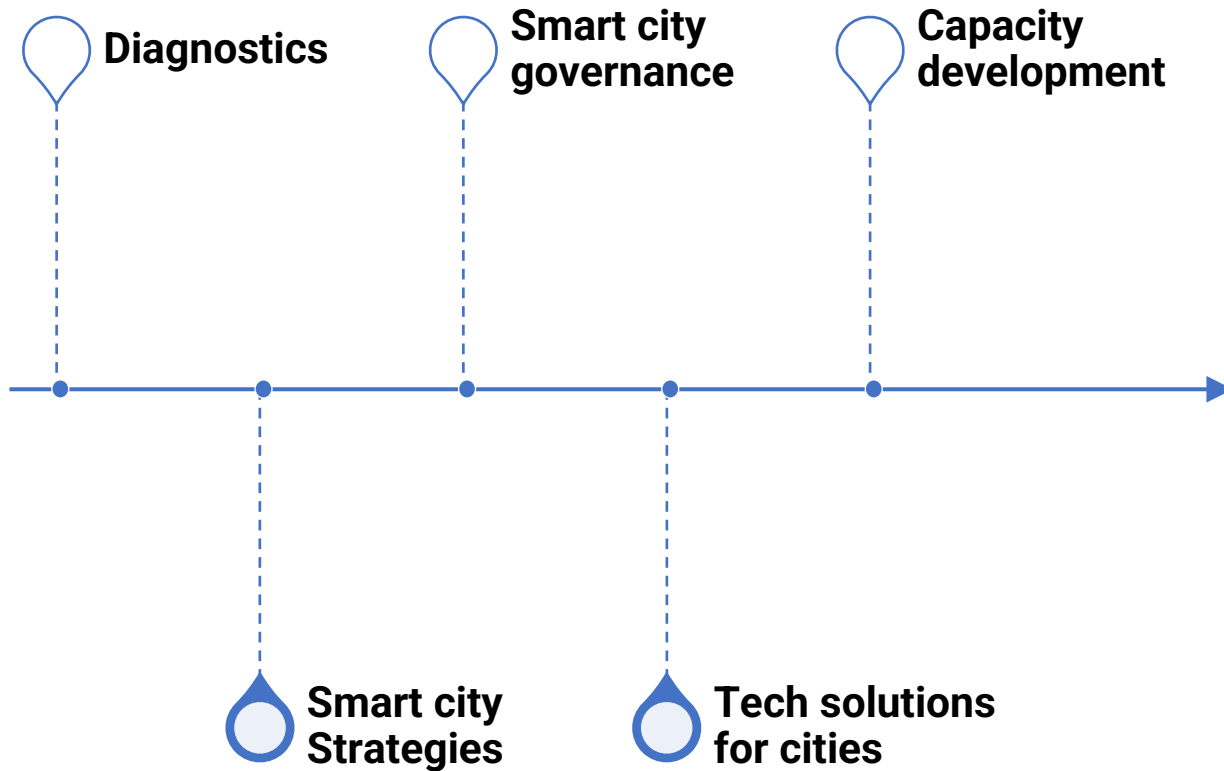
Our Focus: People-Centred Smart Cities

Three **key considerations** to make smart cities people-centred:

- Aligning with urban sustainability priorities
- Fostering digital inclusion and addressing the digital divide
- Protecting and promoting digital human rights

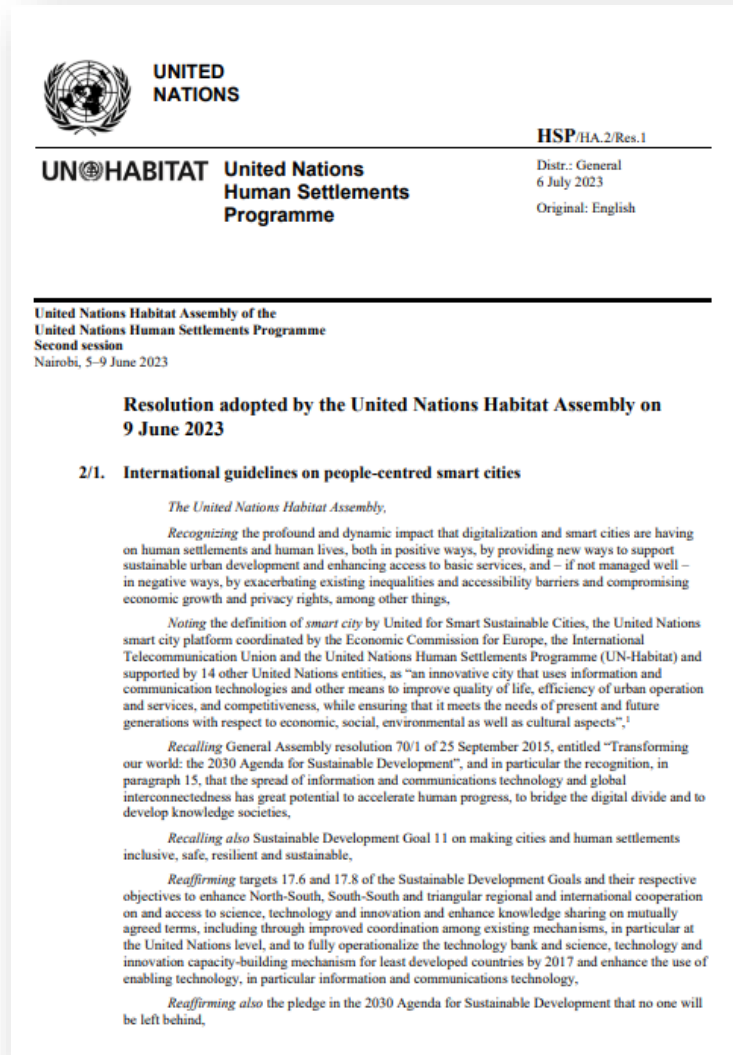


Our Focus: People-Centred Smart Cities



**United Nations Innovation Technology
Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC)
Hamburg**

193 Countries call for International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities



In June 2023, **193 countries** requested UN-Habitat to develop International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities.

The guidelines are a non-binding framework for developing **national & local** smart city policies.

To ensure that the International Guidelines are developed through an inclusive **consultative process**, UN-Habitat organizes regional, thematic and stakeholder consultations.



UN-HABITAT

**International guidelines on
people-centred smart cities**



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Objectives of the guidelines



**Develop a global normative
framework**



**Advocate for people-
centred smart cities**



**Provide practical
guidance**



Enable global cooperation

Expected impact



Enhanced knowledge, skills and policymaking



Implementation tool for the Global Digital Compact



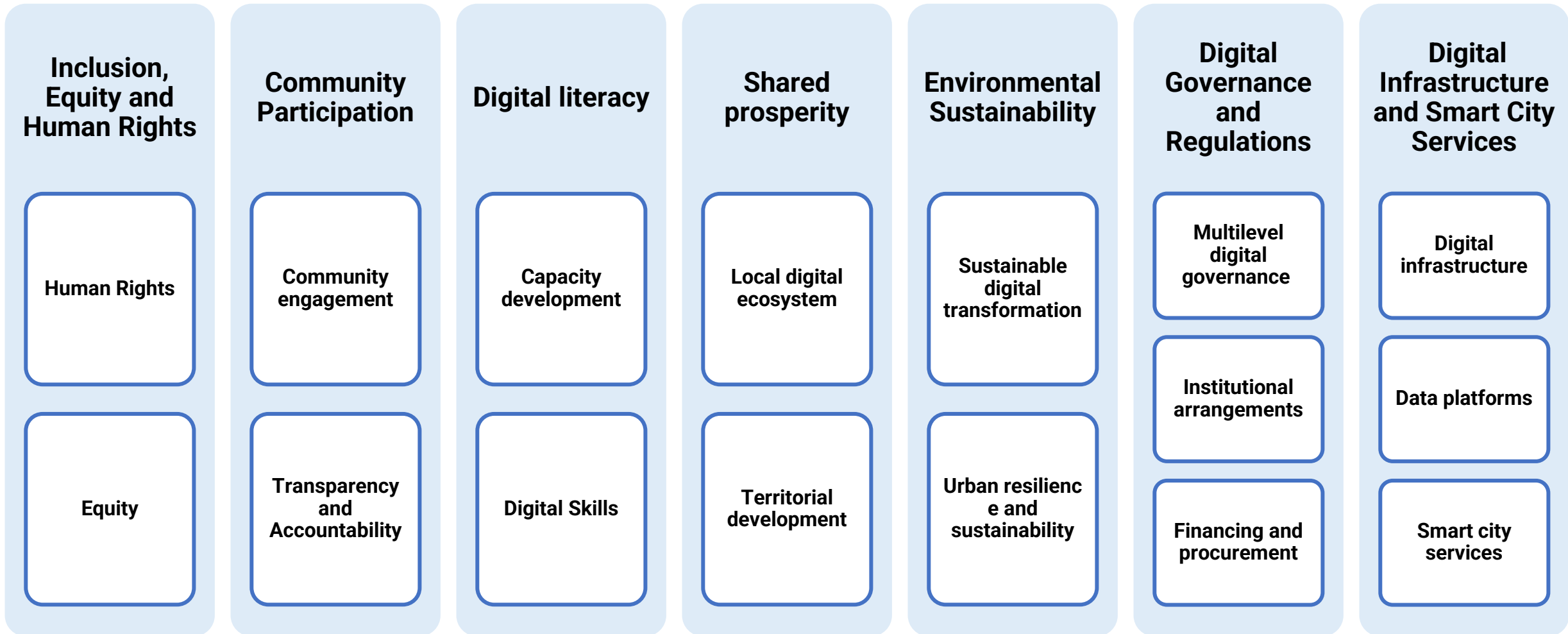
Cities globally comply with the principles and put people at the centre of sustainable urban development



Global multi-stakeholder coalition to advocate for - and collaborate on - people-centred smart cities



IG-PCSC: Principles and Duties



IG-PCSC Outline

1: Introduction

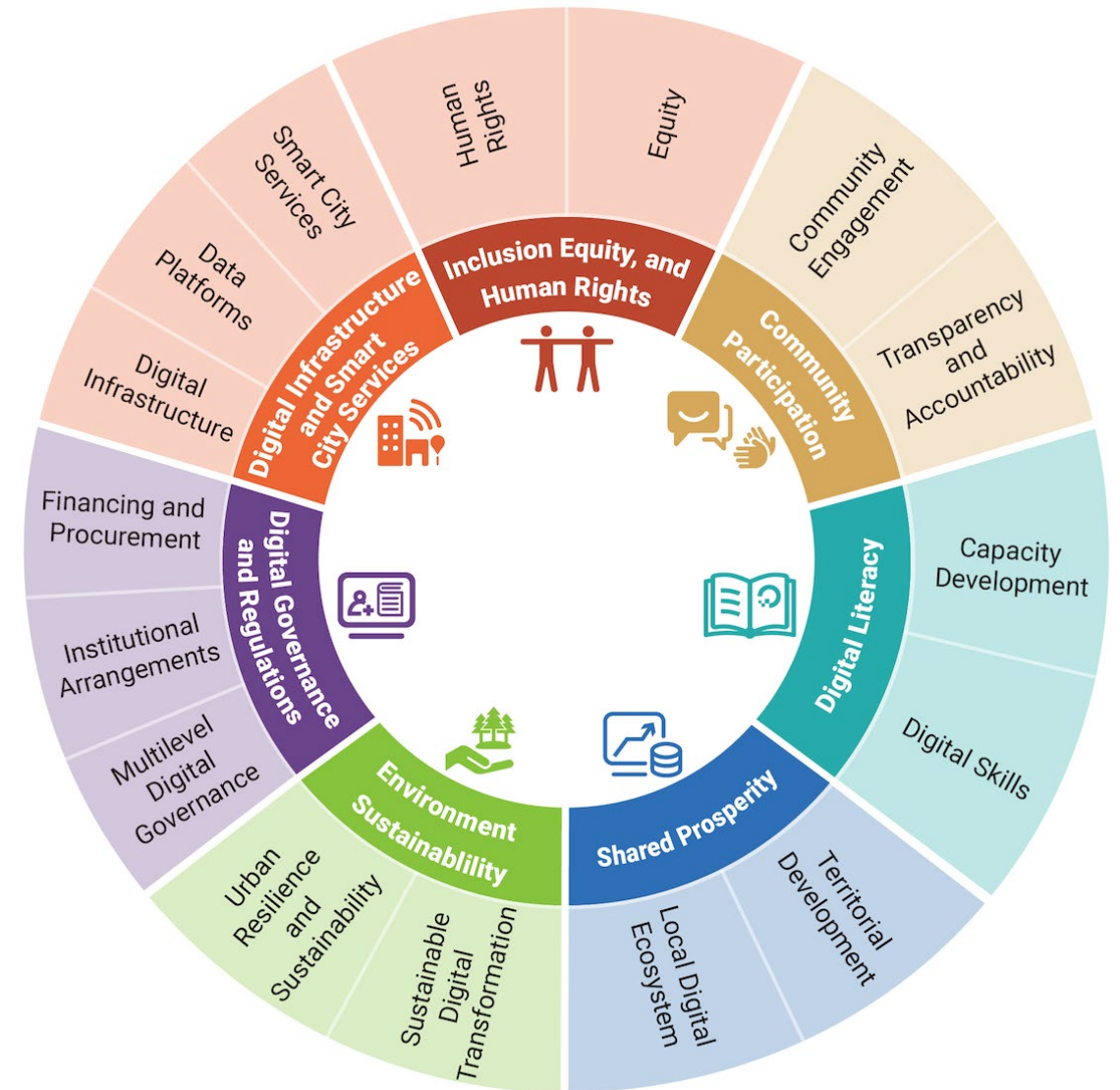
- Objectives of the guidelines
- Definition People-Centred Smart Cities
- Embracing a new paradigm of smart city development
- Preparatory process for the development of the Guidelines

2: International Guidelines

- Structure of the Guidelines
- Principles and Duties

3: Annex

- Annex I: Resolution
- **Annex II: Implementation of the guidelines**
- **Annex III: Actors**
- Annex IV: Glossary



Thank you!

Get in touch →



For more information on the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities: ig-pcsc@un.org

