



URP-220  
Undergraduate Course  
on

# Planning Process

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## Lecture notes#1: Aims of Planning, its Steps, and Types,

### 1- Why we do plan the cities and regions?

In order to:

- a- Realize the sustainable growth/development (or the utopian, perfect, or ideal state/model of the city, by Sir Thomas More, 1516)
- b- Improve the quality of life.
- c- Realize the wellbeing/welfare (the contented state of being happy or what promotes it and the social utility)
- d- Provide the basic needs for the society (water, food, clothes, & shelters).
- e- Alleviate poverty, and increase family incomes.
- f- Provide social services and infrastructures.
- g- Mobilize the available recourses (natural or man-made) in sustainable way.
- h- Consolidate the local economy (build strong integrated economy), and to and to increase national income (NNP and GDP).
- i- Improve the skills and working knowledge of the human resources.
- j- Create job opportunities with adequate/sufficient wages.
- k- Conserve the natural, cultural, and physical environments.
- l- Provide the areas' accessibility, and to ease the people's mobility.
- m- Minimize the running and fixed costs and maximize revenues and payoffs.
- n- Realize solidarity (mechanical/organic), community development, and social enhancement (agreeable improvement).
- o- Build or restore the competitive economic city
- p- Improve the urban managerial system.
- q- Try to add other points/aims.



## **2- What are the types of the planning process?**

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- **The traditional planning (blueprint, long-range, long-term plan; and static in nature):** which usually do not involve all the concerned key-actors or stakeholders in the planning process; and most of its decisions are based on the assumption that the government will finance the implementation of all components of the plan, which was difficult to be implemented in reality, particularly in developing countries.
- **The strategic, action, and/or comprehensive planning (integrated and dynamic in nature):** which it involves the concerned key-actors or stakeholders in all (or most of) its processes: e.g., problem identification, setting goals/objectives, formulation of policies/actions, operationalization, finance, implementation, and evaluation.

## **3- Steps of traditional planning (blueprint, long range)**

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In short, the steps are: (i) collecting data, (ii) data analysis, (iii) problem identification, (iv) proposing alternatives solutions, and (v) selecting the best promising solution. The following are the extended list of the steps based on practical experience.

- a- Collecting data (field surveys covering all physical and non-physical aspects, and the updating of maps).
- b- Data analysis (using quantitative/qualitative methods in planning, multi criteria analysis, and might include creating data-bank)
- c- Identification of issues and problems (in all aspects).
- d- Review of previous studies, projects, best practices and the related literatures.
- e- Setting goals, aims, and objectives.
- f- Proposing alternative planning solutions (based on different concepts methodologies for realizing positive changes/interventions).
- g- Evaluating the alternative solutions/proposals, and selecting the most promising one.
- h- Estimating costs and prioritizing the planning components.
- i- Create time schedule and write executive report, for implementing the planning components (in short-term, medium-term, and long-term periods of time).



#### **4- Types of planning outputs/process according to size of the target geographic zone:**

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They are, but not limited to, the following:

- a- Global Planning (purports/agendas).
- b- Continental/Regional planning (reports/agenda).
- c- National Planning (agendas/reports at the country level)
- d- Regional planning (for the administrative areas, provinces, and/or governorates).
- e- City/Town/Urban/Physical planning.
- f- Rural planning (for agricultural villages and the like oases)
- g- Distract/City-sector planning.
- h- Neighborhood planning.
- i- Local area planning.
- j- Land/plot subdivision (2-5 hectares).

#### **5- Technical outputs of planning, according to its details.**

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In addition to the explanatory documents/reports, the following is the list of technical outputs, where each might be legal/statutory plan, i.e., approved by the central and/or local authorities.

- a- Structure plan (it is flexible and conserves only its structure in the realm of uncertainty)
- b- Master plan (detailed and statutory)
- c- Urban design and landscape architecture (in terms of type of urban fabric; hierarchy of spaces, vistas, and movements; path system, color system, esthetic elements, buildings/sky lines, plantation, etc.)
- d- Detailed plans (workshop/working drawings for implementation, which show(s): dimensions, site-levels, construction materials, construction/legal specifications, etc.)

#### **6- Technical Planning Team.**

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They are the technical consultants, companies, bureaus, and/or offices that produce the planning scheme and its related technical reports.

- a- Planners (leaders/coordinators of the technical planning teams).
- b- Architects and urban designers
- c- Land surveyors.
- d- Road/traffic engineers.



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- e- Water/sewage/irrigation networks engineers.
  - f- Power/electricity and telecommunication engineers.
  - g- Sociologists.
  - h- Urban economists.
  - i- Geologists.
  - j- Law and management experts.
  - k- Tourism experts.
  - l- Cultivation/plantation experts.
  - m- Industry/handcraft experts.
  - n- Climatology experts.
  - o- Culture, history, and monuments/antiquities experts.
  - p- Artists.
  - q- Geographers.
  - r- Information technology and GIS Experts.
  - s- Other experts/groups related to, or specialized in, other diverse planning components.

#### **7- Technical outputs of planning the cities.**

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- a. **Master Plan:** that will be in case if we are certain about every thing in the planning process, up to an acceptable degree of accuracy; and the technical teams/consultants have the time and the manpower needed to do so. Now, in some cases, it might be valid only for district planning or the like.
  
- b. **Structure Plan:** in case if the planning teams/consultants are uncertain about some information, and the time is limited; so they propose only the main and the most promising structure of the plan, which should be flexible enough to fit and work properly in diverse circumstances, with minor changes. That is, the planning team leaves the details of the plan to be done in the future by other planning team teams, when they get the accurate information.