

# Guidelines on Urban Planning for the City of Benghazi (Libya) for Its Reconstruction

<sup>[1]</sup>Dr. Nura Saleh Alfaidy

<sup>[1]</sup>Mediterranean International University, Benghazi, Libya  
 Corresponding Author Email: <sup>[1]</sup>NuraAlfaidy@miu.edu.ly

*Abstract— Urban planning involves cities and their urban growth with the primary function, from an architectural and economic standpoint in shaping and its impact on the identity of cities. However, it is a powerful way to reformulate city forms, define the shape of cities, and create their functions in order to generate urban economic growth that works at the local level of the city, besides satisfying and providing the repair, development, or construction and services required for the city's infrastructure structure, to highlight the features and the impact of the city's items and vocabulary on the shape and development of the city, to clarify the city's image and self-identity, and the urban planning as a process that has the ability to make decisions to achieve economic, social, cultural and environmental urban goals, by setting strategic visions of the city, to implement a set of basic principles in the mechanisms of work to set the first steps for reconstruction in terms of organizational procedures. So, the importance of the study and its justifications in the guiding principles in a framework to improve policies, plans, designs and comprehensive implementation processes that lead to the restoration of the city is more integrated, by more socially inclusive, and interconnected, promoting sustainable urban development, it embodies the goal in studying the guidelines, especially the city of Benghazi, which has a religious, historical and cultural character, as well as studying the techniques for planning new cities and the extent and development of it in other cities. From here, the main recommendations of urban planning for the city of Benghazi are drawn up by studying the new development in the urban design of other cities, while preserving its cultural, religious and historical fortunes. We can help the city to effectively direct urban demographic changes (growth or decline) and improve the quality of life in areas that have been affected by the war, and the guidelines should use a focus on redeveloping the affected areas according to institutional, urban and planning requirements and needs, by providing a system of rules and regulations is established that provides a legal framework for urban and long-term development, enforceability, and the ability to enforce the legal framework where applicable, therefore for correct and flexible urban planning and design. Special attention should be given to designing places that need to be redeveloped, such as narrow streets and places that lack squares and green squares. Preserving the city's landmarks because it is one of the main elements that contribute to generating the urban value of the city, while providing appropriate street patterns, linking and allocating open spaces.*

**Keyword-** Urban Planning, Development, Sustainable, City Forms, Identity of Cities, Designing Places.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The successful implementation of plans always requires strong political will, appropriate partnerships that include all relevant stakeholders, and three main enablers:

- A transparent and enforceable legal framework, the focus should be on creating a system of rules and regulations that provides a strong, well-known and long-term urban legal framework for urban development, particular attention should be given to accountability, enforceability, and the ability to enforce the legal framework where applicable [4].
- Planning and designing of two civilizations, and special attention should be paid to the design of public spaces, as it is one of the main elements that contribute to the generation of urban value, while providing appropriate street patterns, linking and allocating open spaces. Equally important is the clarity in designing plots of land that can be built, including appropriate solidarity of the constructed area and mixed economic use, in order to reduce per capita mobility needs and the costs of providing services. Finally, the design should facilitate the promotion of social mixing and interaction and the cultural aspects of the city [7].

- A financial plan for the acceptable level of spending and cost-effectiveness.

The successful implementation of the urban plan depends on a sound financial basis, including the ability to make initial public investments to generate economic and financial benefits, and to cover current costs. Financial plans should include a realistic revenue plan, which includes sharing urban value among all stakeholders, and managing expenses that meet the needs of the urban plan [1].

A balance should be struck between the above three elements to ensure positive and achievable urban outcomes, this should lead to increased synergies between sectors, partnerships focused on implementation, and rational and effective actions [9].

## II. OBJECTIVES FROM THE STUDY

The interests of the population differ from each other, given the time, place, and population themselves, and it is one of the important things and basic requirements in the life of society, the more different directions and interests are multiple the greater the percentage of problems. Here comes the role of planning, as planning has a distant view resulting from several comprehensive studies, where the perception of planning varies with different problems at the regional or

national level, and finding aspirations and goals that suit these employees, to achieve a balance between work and housing, between services and residents, and for planning several goals.

### III. URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT METHODS

The city consists of a group of land uses in which housing is the primary use in it, as it occupies the largest percentage of land uses ranging between 53-45% of all other uses and the use of transportation and entertainment comes at the second and third levels with rates ranging between 15-20%, then the rest other commercial, industrial, services, administrative centers, cemeteries, etc. [3]. The expansion of cities and their urban development will be according to plans or designs prepared for this purpose and for a long period of time up to 25 years, as the design includes a set of different projects for various uses, so all uses evolve at a single pace to achieve the needs and desires of the growing city population, and it is worth noting that each person has a share of the land of the city and has been identified between 80 m<sup>2</sup> and 120 m<sup>2</sup>.

But most planning studies adopt the average of these two numbers, which is 100 square meters, and may not be achieved until the minimum of those standards in some developing countries due to the presence of planning problems, and since the city is changing in shape, size and function, so it continues to grow and develop in a way over time, and for the purpose of providing the human need from housing entertainment, transportation and services must be provided suitable land for the expansion of the city, the location of some cities may allow expansion in several directions freely until it reaches an area that stops its expansion and work to find alternatives outside the city limits, as happens in the capitals of cities, where the system of satellite cities is used as in London, Moscow and Cairo, and other cities may be the location does not allow this to exist Natural and human determinants that prevent the city from continuing to grow in most directions. This needs to take advantage of the available capabilities within the basic design and outside it, as there are several methods for the urban development of the city, including:

- 1- Full style, i.e. exploiting the available capabilities within the design.
- 2- The method of crawling, that is the successive and continuous creeping of urbanization towards the planned areas for the urban expansion of the city, inside and outside the design.
- 3- Jumping method, this method is used when there are restrictions that hinder the continuation of growth, such as a highway, a train, or a factory, valley or river.
- 4- Multiple cores method, multiple cores are sometimes used by distributing activities in areas far from the city center, then both cities and those centers grow towards each until they form a continuous building mass.
- 5- Compound growth, which means using two or more of

the above methods in the urban development process.

- 6- The dependent cities style, this method is used when the planners decide to stop the growth of the city and work to plan dependent cities within a distance of several kilometers from the existing city. It is associated with highly efficient transportation.

**The process of developing urban areas is through exploiting the available capabilities within the basic design, the areas adjacent to the design, and areas located at a distance from the city, as follows:**

#### *First: The Available Capabilities Within the Basic Design:*

- Exploiting the blanks that were not exploited for the uses allocated to them during the period that passed since the design numbers.
- Re-planning the old neighborhoods, which are no longer habitable and inconsistent with the urban development in the city.
- Re-planning of random areas within the basic design.
- Reconsidering the distribution of urban land uses and working to raise uses that are inconsistent with the surrounding uses, such as an industrial area in the city center, an old camp in the city center, or within residential neighborhoods.
- Exploiting some agricultural areas, especially unproductive ones, and converting their characteristics from agricultural to urban.
- Changing some uses that belong to the private sector and which are no longer consistent with the situation of activities surrounding them.

#### *Second: The Available Capabilities Adjacent to the Basic Design of the City:*

The city continues to grow and needs annually thousands of hectares, especially large cities, so the planner must guarantee the areas that the city needs for a period of time for at least 50 years, and that is through preparing structural plans that include the city and its surroundings, where the areas that expand on it are determined city, and prepares plans for these areas and prevents their exploitation by fixed uses, where the reality of the state of those areas is signed and the uses they occupy are determined, and construction is not permitted in a manner that contradicts the designed design, and it is permissible to use them temporarily according to the surface law, i.e. leasing the land for a period of time according to what the municipal and planning agencies see, and that choosing the land to expand the city must It has several specifications, including:

- 1- That the new urban area be consistent with and complementary to the existing urban structure.
- 2- Close to the city center and work centers.
- 3- The absence of local obstacles that hinder the implementation of the plan prepared for that region, such as the variation of the topographic situation or the high levels of groundwater.

- 4- Not to be exposed to natural or industrial pollution.
- 5- Not to be exposed to natural hazards such as floods and hurricanes.
- 6- It should be close to the sources of infrastructure services, including water, electricity, sanitation and transportation.

The responsible planner can also make a comparison between the candidate areas for the city's expansion and by applying some quantitative methods and computer programs to evaluate the city's growth alternatives, through which the best regions can be identified in a sequence, where the spatial attraction model and the Hansen model can be applied for this purpose, and GIS programs that are used in the field of city planning and management can be used on a large scale, among other methods are the economic costs of each alternative, as well as the weighting method despite its inaccuracy because it includes numerical and descriptive values that are not homogeneous [10].

***Third: The Available Capabilities at a Distance from the City (Dependencies Cities):***

Exploiting the available capabilities at a distance from the city is used when it is intended to stop the growth of the city when it becomes sprawling and difficult to provide services to all residents equally, or sometimes the city's location does not allow expansion in most directions so the planner is forced to search for an axis of growth, and perhaps no land it is empty and is being planned. Rather, it may be existing small cities. New plans are prepared for the purpose of benefiting from it in accommodating the population increase in the big city.

The land may be empty so new plans are drawn up that include the latest methods and techniques and according to the latest planning theories, so they are distinguished in their planning, design and architecture, depending on the basic considerations that must be taken into account in city planning [8].

**IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY AND ITS JUSTIFICATIONS**

- Guidelines, the following goals embody the purposes of the draft guidelines:
  - Develop a universally accepted reference framework to guide urban policy reform processes.
  - Drawing global principles, from national and local experiences, that could support the development of diverse planning approaches adapted to different contexts and scopes.
  - Completion of other international guidelines aimed at promoting and linking to sustainable urban development.
  - Highlight the urban and regional dimensions of the development plans of national, regional and local governments.

- A framework for improving overall policies, plans, designs and implementation processes that lead to more inclusive cities and regions, more social inclusion for all, and better integration and interdependence, that encourages sustainable urban development and has the ability to tackle climate change.

**V. CONCLUSION**

The best way to reformulate the forms of cities, is to define their shape, composition and functions, in order to grow and develop a better urban city, and this must work at the local level of the city, so that we can properly clarify the city's image and confirm its identity, whether social, cultural and historical, and urban planning. And design as a process that has the ability to manufacture, such work through strong studies and decisions to achieve the economic, social, cultural and environmental urban goals.

The goal of studying the guidelines should be embodied, especially the city of Benghazi, which has a religious, historical and cultural nature, and the guidelines should be used to focus on redeveloping the affected places according to institutional, urban and planning requirements and needs, as the guidelines that must be focused on, both in attach and join the city's axes, (Streets and Fields) or the city's structure that is distinct in its composition, and within a framework that can improve the overall policies, plans, designs and implementation of the city so that it leads to the re-establishment and development of the city affected by war, and sustainable urban development must be encouraged, by studying the techniques for planning new cities and the extent, development and impact on the surrounding areas [1].

Attention must be given to preserving places that need to be redeveloped, such as narrow streets and places that lack fields and green fields, joined open areas to each other and allocating them to important activities, and preserving the city's landmarks because it is one of the main elements that contribute to generating the urban value of the city, and preserving the city style as much as possible.

**VI. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The main recommendations for urban planning for the city of Benghazi, are drawn up using and studying the development of what is new in urban design and planning for cities, to form the city while preserving its cultural, religious and historical status, and to improve the quality of life in areas that have been damaged by the war, provided that a stable system of rules and regulations that provide a legal framework for urban and long-term development, enforceable and under a strict legal framework for a proper urban planning and design in accordance with the design and planning standards for cities, among the most important recommendations that must be followed up and focus on according to the study are the following:

- Establish a universally accepted reference framework to guide urban policy reform processes.

- Achieving the private desires of humans within a legal framework.
- Help give a beautiful view to the city and improve it.
- Contribute to providing a base for human activity by preserving the land and investing it.
- Reaching appropriate and organized land use, and determine the places that suit different activities within the city.
- Contribute to reducing distances, so that people move within the city quickly.
- Handling various things in the city, such as transportation, housing, and other services.

**REFERENCES**

- [1] Armin Abbasian, 2016, "Importance of Urban Squares as Public Space in Social Life", A New Design of Fisktorget in Karlskrona City, Master Thesis in Sustainable Urban Planning FM 2585, Sweden, Pp 7,8,36.
- [2] Boundless Sociology, Urbanization and the Development of Cities (The Earliest Cities), <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-sociology/chapter/urbanization-and-the-development-of-cities/>, Population and Urbanization, [15/01/2020].
- [3] Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, "Urban Land Use and Transportation", The spatial organization of transportation and mobility, Chapter 8 – Urban.
- [4] Eugenie L Birch, 2010 "Public and Private Space in Urban Areas: House, Neighborhood, and City", DOI: 10.1007/978-0-387-32933-8\_8, Issn: 1389-6903.
- [5] Futuropa, A Council of Europe Magazine, 2012, "For a new vision of landscape and territory", No. 3, P 28.
- [6] Isenberg, Alison. 2004. "Downtown America: A history of the place and the people who made it", Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- [7] L.J. Duhl & A.K. Sanchez, "Healthy Cities and the City Planning Process", (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, SCHERFIGSVEJ 8, DK-2100 COPENHAGEN Ø, DENMARK, Pp 7, 8, 15.
- [8] Stéphane Tonnelat, 2010, "The sociology of urban public spaces", Associate Researcher CNRS, CRH-LAVUE, Research Center, Paris. Pp 2, 6.
- [9] Susan S. Fainstein, 2020, Urban Planning, "City Planning, Town Planning, Urban Design", ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA, [27/03/2020].
- [10] Yarzadeh, S.M., & Shamsollahi, B, 2018, "The Role of Public Spaces in the Realization of City Prosperity and Sustainable Development", Urban Economics and Management, 6(3) (23), 399-412.