

# What digital transformation can do for cities and communities?

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UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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Digital Transformation of  
Cities and Communities  
ITU-UN-Habitat



# UN-Habitat... United Nations agency for sustainable towns and cities.

We promote the development of socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and strive for adequate shelter with better living standards for all.



We facilitate the cooperation among UN agencies to advance **UN system-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization.**







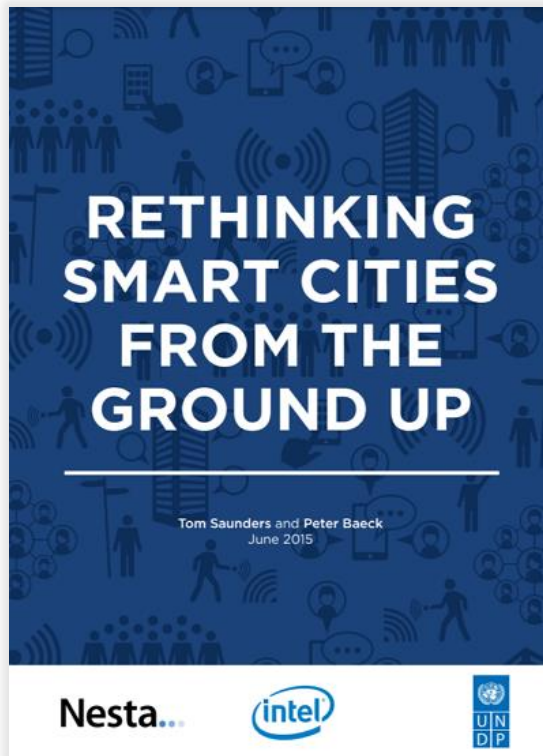
# Global Trends on Smart Cities

Towards a new paradigm...

## Rethinking Smart Cities

Four flaws with the smart city vision...

1. Starting with technology instead of urban challenges!
2. Insufficient use or generation of evidence!
3. Lack of awareness of how others are working to improve cities!
4. Little role for citizen and stakeholder engagement!



source: [https://media.nesta.org.uk/documents/rethinking\\_smart\\_cities\\_from\\_the\\_ground\\_up\\_2015.pdf](https://media.nesta.org.uk/documents/rethinking_smart_cities_from_the_ground_up_2015.pdf)

# Global Trends on Smart Cities

But are we really re-thinking smart cities?



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next  
generation ...?



# UN-Habitat's Flagship: People Centered Smart Cities

## 1. Policy Transformation

Increased focus and mainstreaming of people-centered sustainable and inclusive digital transition as a critical policy topic in high level political forums and global dialogues on smart cities.

## 2. Financing Digital Urban Innovation

Increased investment and financing for people-focused smart cities to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs with a specific focus on developing countries, small and medium size cities and grassroots urban communities

## 3. Digital Empowerment and Capacity Building

Enhanced capacity of governments at all levels to adopt a people-focused, privacy-enhancing, and rights-preserving approach to digital technologies for inclusion and sustainable urban development in the achievement of the SDGs.



*"Digital technologies have the potential to serve people, improve public services and working conditions. But persistent digital divides remain, and the digital revolution must be directed and governed in a democratic and inclusive way."*

*Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director*

Flagship programme on people-centered smart cities launched at World Urban Forum