



**Beijing Declaration on Urban
Governance Modernization**
(2024)

**BEIJING FORUM ON
SWIFT RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMPLAINTS**

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Beijing Declaration on Modernizing Urban Governance (2024)

Dear friends, we gather here today in Beijing, the capital of China, a beautiful city known for its time-honored history, rich culture, and flourishing modern civilization. Guided by the vision of “People’s City, Better Future”, we are committed to building consensus on urban governance modernization with all our colleagues who are devoted to the development of modern cities, all our partners who bear witness to the Chinese modernization process, and all our friends who care about the progress and advancement of human civilization.

A city belongs to its people, and people are at the heart of a city. Today, global urban governance faces many emerging challenges. A city should not only embrace the rapid advancement in the economy, society, science and technology, ecological conservation and other fields, but also coordinate the diverse objectives such as stability, harmony, security, openness, and inclusiveness, so as to ensure a happy life for the people.

People aspire for better cities, and the times call for common progress. To better address global challenges, put into practice the idea that cities are built by the people and for the people, and modernize the system and capacity for urban governance, we

propose the following:

1. People-Centered Development, Making Cities Better

The ultimate goal of modern urban governance is to realize free and well-rounded development of people. We always regard “people” as the core of the city, give play to the principal role of the people, implement the whole-process people’s democracy, and actively respond to residents’ various demands and multi-level needs, to create a better urban life for them.

2. Rule of Law, Making Cities More Just

The rule of law is an important guarantee for modern urban governance. We will commit to law-based governance, apply the rule of law in both thinking and practice, continuously strengthen the regulatory and institutional framework for urban governance, improve the urban legal environment, and help address urban governance challenges, to provide fair, just and orderly urban services for the public.

3. Diversity and Inclusiveness, Making Cities More Friendly

Diversity and inclusiveness is the path to a desirable world. We respect and protect urban diversity, promote the integration of different urban communities, build age-friendly, child-friendly and barrier-free cities, pay attention to the disadvantaged, and promote gender equality, to make urban development beneficial to all.

4. Demand-Driven Governance, Making Cities More Responsive

Acting proactively to tackle the root of problems is an effective way to address urban governance challenges. We will continue to take residents' demands as the driving force, improve the response, resolution and evaluation mechanisms of public concern, strengthen demand analysis, focus on frequently-raised, common issues, and carry out targeted campaigns, to make urban governance more agile and efficient.

5. Digital-Intelligence Empowerment, Making Cities Smarter

Digitalization and smart technologies are shaping the future of cities. We work to accelerate the development of new quality productive forces, leverage new technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain, explore more application scenarios for collaborative innovation in smart cities, promote the digital transformation and high-quality development of cities, to create new paradigms of digital and intelligent governance.

6. Resilience Building, Making Cities Safer

Security and resilience are key indicators of effective urban governance. We coordinate emergency management for natural disasters, accidents, and public emergencies, improve emergency

response systems, strengthen urban infrastructure, and enhance the capabilities of urban disaster prevention and mitigation, emergency rescue, medical treatment, shelter and resettlement, and material supply, to support development of cities with a safe environment.

7. Multi-Party Collaboration, Making Cities More Harmonious

The importance of building an urban community with a shared future is increasingly prominent. We are committed to consensus building and the principle of addressing issues that matter to all through consultation, and seek to coordinate efforts across the government, society, and the market, expand channels for diverse stakeholders to participate in governance, and promote coordinated development between urban and rural areas and among regions, to create an urban governance pattern featuring coordinated governance, joint contribution and shared benefits.

8. Ecological Conservation, Making Cities More Beautiful

Ecological conservation concerns the long-term welfare of the people. We prioritize ecological protection, resources conservation and their efficient use as well as green and low-carbon development, make effort to build garden cities, and enhance the carrying capacity of the environment, to create a livable urban environment with blue skies, lush greenery, clean waters, and verdant mountains that people

aspire and promote sustainable urban development.

9. Cultural Exchanges and Mutual Learning, Making Cities More Open

Openness is a key driving force behind the progress of human civilization. We preserve the historical essence of urban heritage, enrich the urban culture, cultivate the spirit of cities, foster new forms of urban civilization, promote dialogue of cities around the globe, and strengthen cultural exchanges and mutual learning, so as to contribute to a flourishing “garden of world civilizations”.

Let us stay committed to putting people first and join hands to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, and the Pact for the Future, enhance urban governance modernization, and fulfill people’s aspirations for a better life!