



UN HABITAT

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THE STATE OF ASIAN CITIES 2010/11

UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme

UCLG ASPAC
United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific

CASE STUDIES

URBAN GOVERNANCE

GOOD PARTICIPATORY PRACTICE FROM KARACHI

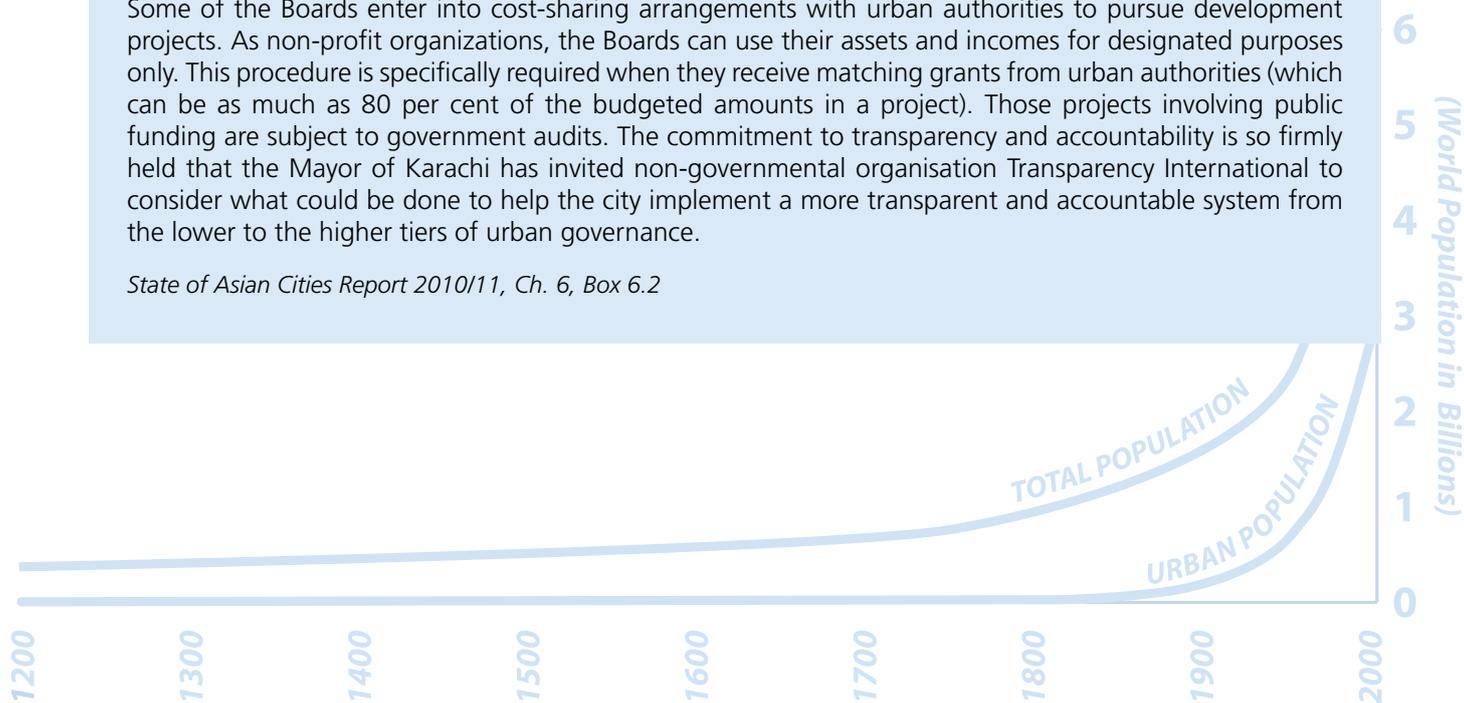
Being host to 14 million, Karachi is the largest city in Pakistan. Over the past few years its federated governance system has come to include a city district council, 18 'town' councils and 178 'union' or neighbourhood councils, with the specific aim of encouraging greater participation in governance.

The towns are governed by elected municipal administrations responsible for infrastructure and spatial planning, development facilitation and municipal services. The Union Councils are each composed of 13 directly elected members including a 'nazim' (Urdu for mayor) and a 'naib nazim' (deputy mayor). The 'nazim' heads the union administration, links with the City District Government and keeps higher authorities updated on citizen concerns.

The core of the participatory system is the Union Council where all the members are elected from residents in the neighbourhoods. Specified numbers of seats on the district, town and union councils are reserved for civil society groups such as the urban poor, women and underprivileged groups. These representatives emanate from the Citizen Community Boards (CCBs) which local communities have set up to develop and improve service delivery to the needy through voluntary, proactive and self-help initiatives. The Boards raise funds through voluntary contributions, gifts, donations, grants and endowments, and generally fund their own activities.

Some of the Boards enter into cost-sharing arrangements with urban authorities to pursue development projects. As non-profit organizations, the Boards can use their assets and incomes for designated purposes only. This procedure is specifically required when they receive matching grants from urban authorities (which can be as much as 80 per cent of the budgeted amounts in a project). Those projects involving public funding are subject to government audits. The commitment to transparency and accountability is so firmly held that the Mayor of Karachi has invited non-governmental organisation Transparency International to consider what could be done to help the city implement a more transparent and accountable system from the lower to the higher tiers of urban governance.

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This first-ever State of Asian Cities Report 2010/11 is a collaborative effort between UN-HABITAT and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Cities and Local Governments – Asia-Pacific Regional Section (UCLG-ASPAC)

