in this presentation, I would like to go through a few principles that are very relevant and needed to be considered if you make cities.

So normally I would talk to urban planners. But all of us, we have some kind of urban planning inside our profession side, in our ways –

how we work in cities, how we act in cities. So these are principles that are very relevant if we think about how cities are made. These principles will also illustrate why collaboration partnerships are so important. Allow me to go quickly through the panelist who (you generally refer even to a person as that, I corrected this) spoke before me, because we had an international (01:29) corporation (or was it co-operation) where international organizations come together.

We had a collaboration in planning where the act of planning (shortened your repetitions) the city is very highlighted in terms of participatory planning approaches. We had a very impressive presentation on how important it is to have assessments, to have an understanding of what has been there in the past, how the climate changes and what will be there in the future.

**making of cities**

So that is the first thing we have to learn if we say we need collaboration because these processes are not depending on the municipality alone, not on the urban planner or the plan

.So these things are very important and relevant for the ways we plan cities. We have to know our past to plan our future which has been very nicely illustrated by the research you are doing.

And then of course - activism, activism for me is anything that any active citizen should be aware of how important it is to engage in your community, how important it is to be a part of this. (02:21 – 02:25)(I cut off quite a bit of your non connecting self-talk)

I would like to bring a few lessons learnt from other continents.

Coming to these principles,

one first important point to make is that we have to understand that a city is not a product. So, if we plan or make cities, we have to see it as a process.

Cities are mainly processes: you have dynamics, you have transformations, you have continuous change in cities.

It is depending on how these processes are taken up, who is the stakeholder in the process, how people can use and make the city in a different way. So that’s the first principle.

(03:42) - (3/16)

Then we have to understand ourselves as the solvers of problems. We are not there to create beautiful city or the perfect city. We can be brave but we cannot be perfect. There is no perfect city. There is no perfect city in the West or (you said none, but I think or is more suitable) in the East or in the South or in the North. Don’t believe that we have a standard good city. We have cities that are beautiful, we have cities that are marvelous and welcoming. But that is because that is the identity of the people and the city is the people in itself. So, all those cities that work well for the people is because the people made it work well for them. So, that’s another point where you have to think about collaboration, integration of other people.

(04:30) - (4/16)

So, we have not to solve one problem if we talk about city making. For example, if we have a mobility issue if we want to connect an airport to the city we have to think about this as one big thing – a complex. (04:44) I would like to know the difference in Arabic between complex city and two different words….. (confused). But it is a complex challenge, it is not just connecting one point, a point A with point B. But it is an impact on the city that we will have to face that we have to analyze and understand and also to put it into the context of maybe we can solve more than one problem with \_\_\_\_\_\_. ((05:10), unclear word) May be we can also consider other kinds of mobilities, we can think of urban greening along the road, we can think about the drainage use – the potential for overflooding in other countries then I guess Arabia, you have flood issues even here. So, there is much more than you can factor into one specific infrastructure. So, think about the problems other stakeholders would have such as road safety. Don’t simplify. Problems are no simple. Problems are complex. So, the more understanding we have about the complex problems, the better we can solve it.

(05:51) - (5, 6/16)

And this already brings us to the next point. If we want to comprehend complexity, we do have to speak to other disciplines. City makers, urban planners, municipalities, it was really highlighted again by how important it is to have a technical understanding of problems, have a social understanding of problems and having an environmental understanding of it. That means we need to collaborate with other disciplines. There is no urban planner born in this world that would be ailed to understand the complexity of geographic and social challenges in this particular city. If you want to work in a city, if you want to change, if you want to improve a neighborhood, you have to talk to the people who (you say ‘that’ but I think people should be who) live there. They are the experts. If you want to build a city for the next or future generation, you have a problem because you cannot consult with the future generation. But you can definitely consult with the youth, you can look into other examples. So, you have ways of understanding better by talking to different stakeholders. I (What does this mean?) was also mentioned by the participatory planning approach how important it is to recognize conflict. Conflicts will be there, conflicts are human. The way how we solve them, how we deal with them and how we incorporate them in our planning is the way how we can turn the complexity into something that is more harmonious. So, if we focus on this complexity, inter-disciplinarity of our approaches we will come to what is now to a famous word ((07:33, 07:38) a lot of self-talk, cut short) which is ‘co-production of knowledge’. I particularly like this word because co-production of knowledge means in fact that nobody knows all of it, it’s only the community as in everybody, all the stake holders together. They will co-create the knowledge and they will be able to use it.

(07:59) - (7, 8 /16)

Another important point which I tell my student or want to be urban planners or who are urban planners and want to excel at their profession: ‘Plan the policies’. A masterplan is a very powerful tool. But policies are far more powerful. If you change the policy for example land administration, you have a very big impact on your peripheries, you have a very big impact on how the morphology of the city will develop, just by a policy not by a masterplan. If you change the building heights, the permits, the building regulations, you have a big impact because this is where people collaborate, investors collaborate, owners collaborate, land markers collaborate, they all collaborate for the city making. So, if you understand this power of all the different stakeholders and people in your city, you will be able to use this and make the city in the way you want it. But you are facilitator, you are manager of the city and your tool is the policy. Not that much the masterplan, nothing against master plans - beautiful, very important, but they are just one aspect of a bigger picture where you can influence the city making itself. ((09:19, 09:26) confusing self-talk) It was also mentioned this morning while talking about finance how important it is also to look into different levels and their influence. The national government has a lot of influence on the city making so you have to factor this in, you have to collaborate the national and the provincial government if you want to be efficient.

(09:49) - (9, 10/16)

Another important thing that justifies and even demands collaboration is you have to focus on the impact. It’s not that we build a road for having a road. We have to think about what kind of use is this road giving, what kind of possibility has this square. If we as urban planners, as urban designers, if we do a square, we want to make this square in a way that it is used and appropriately modified and transformed by the people when they use it. (Modified) So, if you have a vivid, lively square where a lot of things are happening on the square, you will have a self-appropriation of the square and that is something that you will need. As it was pointed out by \_\_\_(10:39)\_\_ (I didn’t get the word) our colleague from \_\_(10.40)\_\_, (I didn’t get the word) you will not always have as many resources as you have now. So it is important also to tap into the potential resources other constituencies, other stakeholders have. And one of the biggest resources is not financial but it is social. The social capital in a city is enormous, very powerful and very important to maintain, to develop your city. If the people – the citizens like their city, they will invest in it. They will put special effort to take care of the greening in front of their house. If the municipality is doing that all the time, they will be pampered and they will not be caring for it. They might even destroy the urban greening because they think the municipality comes and prepares it. So, what you need to understand is the socio-capital, the citizens can bring to this game of city making is one of the most powerful and is also a way to share responsibilities, to collaborate in a way that people are content and they are satisfied with what is done.

(11:57) - (11, 12/16)

That brings us to the other thing that was mentioned this morning. We will not have resources forever. We should not think of the city as something that consumes all the resources that is put into. A city is a system. So, if you put something into it, something else will come out. There is circularity of resources. Land is a circular resource, you can reuse it and make money out of the reuse. (Some self-talk, cut off) There is a huge amount of new, innovative ways to look into the economy. Circular economy is one way also to apply in cities in urban context.

(12:49) - (13/16)

I have said that before and that is our guarantee for sustainability. If we plan for future generations it doesn’t mean you have to preserve the city or we have to build a city that it would last for a hundred years. What we need to do is we have to build a city in a way that we know, OK, whatever technical or social innovation, whatever transformation will happen, this city will still work. And if we do this, we will automatically have a sustainable city because then we consider better building materials, we consider the openness and the welcoming qualities of space, of squares of everything that a city provides because even if it is transformed, it will still be there. This is not just some vision or futuristic talk but you can see cities that have survived a thousand years, five hundred years, three hundred years with this concept, to be in a way, sustainable. May be a thousand years ago they didn’t think about this in cities like Damascus. But they built a very very mamaluke empire, built very sustainable cities. (14:03) These cities are still in widely layout and how they have been evolved and they still are there in some way or the other. ( not sure how to organize this bit) This is the way how we have to build cities and if we are too dependent on one single idea, one single approach, like for example, the car mobility, we will not be able to sustain our cities of the next hundred years because we will have to face changes in mobility, we will have to face changes in extension of morphology of cities, etc.

(14:35) - (14/16)

Plan with nature: ((14:36, 14:49), not sure how to organize this) I think that the old inhabitants reprocess, I went to the prepcoms, we discussed a lot, how do we talk about cities in the future etc. I think that the one convincing concept that is at the moment coming out is: ‘Plan with nature’, understand that nature-based solutions are the better way to plan cities. We don’t have to go against nature as we did with our artificially built environment a lot. We don’t need to build always environments that are just for our service. We have to also let the nature in. And I believe if we build against nature, we also build against god because this is the world its sustainability (not quite sure what you mean here(15:21)), we have to preserve it. Nature is much more powerful entity than human beings are. So, we have to understand also how to balance.

(15:35) - (15/16)

With this, I will finish and I would like to conclude one thing that is, I was talking about what we need. So that means we need to build capacities, to do it. ((15:48) So the capacities can be, or we can develop them…. Your soliloquy it seems) If we want to build this kind of capacities, if we want to develop ourselves in that way, you have to understand that what I was just saying is a lot of it is common sense – we know it. We have to make it a common practice. Thank you!