



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN CHILE

Name of national urban policy	<i>National Urban Development Policy (Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano)</i>
Date of national urban policy	2013
Explicit or partial	Explicit
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Approved national policy
Previous/secondary policies	Previous urban policy enacted in 1979, amended in 1985 and repealed in 2000
Stage of development	Implementation and monitoring/evaluation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Drafted by an advisory committee of 28 people representing civil society, labour unions, academia, members of parliament, current and former ministers, and professional experts
Implementing body	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo)
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	Specialised national urban agency
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	Through the National Council for Urban Development (<i>Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano</i>)

Current national urban policy

Chile approved its first-ever explicit national urban policy, the *National Urban Development Policy (Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano)* in 2013. Its overarching goals are to improve quality of life by addressing urban development, to decentralise decision making, to foster institutional co-ordination, to provide a reference for policy reform, and to create certainty for social development and public and private investment (MINVU and UNDP, 2014). The policy is organised around five core themes:

1. **social integration**, including guaranteeing access to urban services, reducing social segregation and reducing the housing deficit;
2. **economic development**, including integrating urban planning with investment programmes, strengthening cities' competitiveness, and reducing the cost of transporting people and goods;
3. **environmental balance**, including incorporating the value of natural systems into planning, identifying hazards, efficiently managing resources, and promoting sustainable urban land-use and urban mobility;
4. **cultural identity and heritage**, including valuing the environments that contribute to community identity and protecting and managing cultural heritage; and

5. **institutional and governance reforms**, including decentralising urban decision making, increasing citizen participation, and creating a process to swiftly approve public and private initiatives (MINVU and UNDP, 2014).

The *National Urban Development Policy* was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (*Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo*) (MINVU) and drafted by an advisory committee mandated by the President of Chile (MINVU and UNDP, 2014; OECD, 2013). The committee was composed of 28 people representing civil society, labour unions, academia, members of parliament, current and former ministers, and professional experts. It was supported by academic working groups, regional authorities, and representatives from eleven ministries (MINVU and UNDP, 2014).

To implement the policy, the national government approved the creation of the National Council for Urban Development (*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*). The Council's main tasks are to propose changes to sectoral policies that affect urban development, propose reforms to national legislation, and set up regional working groups to ensure that the national urban policy takes into account regional realities (Government of Chile, 2016). In 2015, the Council issued a document of recommendations for a Land Policy for Urban and Social Integration and is working on proposals for integrated urban planning and governance at the subnational level (OECD, 2015).

Other policies relating to urban development include the General Law of Urban Development and Construction (*Ley General de Urbanismo y Construcciones*) and its related ordinance (*Ordenanza General de Urbanismo y Construcciones*) which set the rules for urban planning and construction. The General Law contains the principles, attributes, responsibilities, rights, sanctions and other statutes governing the institutions, individuals or professionals involved in urban planning, urbanisation and construction. The General Ordinance establishes different regulations regarding administrative procedures, planning processes and relevant technical design standards for urbanisation and building (OECD, 2015).

Previous national urban policy and developments

Before the 2014 national urban policy, Chile had not had a general urban development policy since the last policy was repealed in 2000. Aware of the challenges facing urbanism due to the lack of a national-level policy, Chile's President established in 2012 a Presidential Advisory Commission on National Urban Development Policy (*Comisión Asesora Presidencial, Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) to launch the current national urban policy's development (OECD, 2013).

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the <i>National Urban Development Policy</i>
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Extensive
Human development	Extensive
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Low*

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The National Urban Development Policy (*Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	X
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	X
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	X

NOTES

- * Even though it is not part of the *National Urban Development Policy*, a draft of the *Second National Climate Change Action Plan* is in a citizen consultation stage. This process is being led by the Ministry of the Environment. The first plan led to the development of a *National Climate Change Adaptation Plan*. The latter established the need for sectoral climate adaptation plans. The *Climate Adaptation Plan for Cities* is currently being drafted and should be published in 2017.

Bibliography

- Dodson, J. et al. (2017, forthcoming), *The Global State of National Urban Policy*, prepared for UN-Habitat, April 2016, draft.
- Gastelbondo A.J. (2015), *Evaluation of the National Urban Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean*, prepared for UN-Habitat, November 2015, draft.
- Government of Chile (2016), *¿Qué es el CNDU?*[What is the CNDU?], National Council on Urban Development (*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) Government of Chile, <http://cndu.gob.cl/en-que-estamos/> (accessed 1 June 2016).
- MINVU (Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Development/*Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo*) and UNDP (United National Development Program) (2014), *National Urban Development Policy: Sustainable Cities and Quality of Life*, MINVU and UNDP, Santiago, Chile, www.patrimoniourbano.cl/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/L4-Politica-Urbana-ingles_baja.pdf.
- OECD (2015), "Regional Outlook Survey Results: Chile", unpublished.
- OECD (2013), *OECD Urban Policy Reviews: Chile 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264191808-en>.