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### Abstract

The thesis discusses the concept of the city vision and analysis of how each city vision could create its own vision. The focus will be on Middle East Cities. Considering that Middle East residents call for Democracy, new rights, and quality of life during “the Arab Spring,”. A true opportunity for Governments and city leaders across the region to generate modern cities expressing the passionate aspirations of their nations. Each government has its own unique challenges; attending their growing urban populations, providing job opportunities, offering better life conditions, and collaborating with external competences are mutual issues across the Middle East cities. Even as Middle East cities modernize and become more international, cities’ leaders must still conserve respect for a rich, cultural heritage and enable national residents to accelerate sustainable development. Yet, Cities across the middle East are well on their way concerning creating some of the record notable development in the globe.

The present research tries to addresses the theoretical concepts and the analytical findings of the literature on what’s visioning and how it could be created. In fact, we tried to take a slightly different approach by focusing on the nature of the process itself that can be used to create a city vision. At First, some literature give specific counselling about visioning process , components parts of a vision, what makes a good vision or what pitfalls should be avoided . The purpose of such analysis is to ground the vision in realism and to provide an understanding of the ‘starting blocks’ when looking forward to the future. All dimensions that have been discussed tended to be elaborated in one analytical framework that can analyse any city vision regardless the differences of approaches that had been used. The extracted analytical framework is not a comprehensive framework and it is flexible enough to appeal changes that might be updated.it may consider as an initial trial to understand cities’ visions in more depth and empirical approach.

The thesis aims at analysing how cities create their own visions and addresses most creative and effective approaches including identifying some categories of visions of the future carried out by different case studies, and suggest a wider overview of how cities see themselves in the future, regardless of the method used, and to identify, where relevant, interesting challenges, visions or dys-visions. Through analysing selected case studies visions (AR Riyadh 2053 – Abu Dhabi 2030- Dubai 2020) and documenting these visions and discussing the main aims and issues addressed, the research will identify the common and special approaches used. The research ends with conclusions and recommendations of creative approaches that can be applied to create a good city vision.

## ملخص

يقوم البحث بدراسة مفهوم الرؤى المستقبلية لعمران المدن ويركز على فهم وتحليل منهجية صياغة تلك الرؤى ويناقش المداخل المختلفة المستخدمة لخلق الرؤى, بداية بالتعرض لأهمية الرؤى كأحد وسائل الدراسات المستقبلية التي تستخدم كمحفز لنجاح عملية التخطيط طويل المدى . ومن ثم ركز البحث على استخلاص اطار تحليلي لفهم منهجية الصياغة للرؤى المختلفة طبقا للأهداف المنتظر تحقيقها من تلك الرؤى المستقبلية , ولكي يضمن البحث مرونة وشمولية هذا الاطار التحليلي تم تطبيقه على 3 تجارب لرؤى مدن من الشرق الاوسط (الرياض , ابو ظبي , دبي).

يناقش هذا البحث المفاهيم النظرية السابقة المتعلقة بمجال الدراسات المستقبلية والرؤى. ومناقشة وتحليل تلك المفاهيم من منظور واسع حيث يركز على طبيعة عملية المداخل المختلفة المستخدمة لصياغة تلك الرؤى. والهدف من ذلك هو الوصول الى ركائز لاستيعاب مفهوم رؤى المدن كأحد وسائل الدراسات المستقبلية على المدى البعيد , وبلورة تلك المفاهيم في اطار تحليلي مجمع كأداة لفهم رؤى المدن وتحليلها.

## Introduction

“Century of Cities” is the term that has been launched to call this century .cities become hubs of trade, culture, information and industry, they will be vested with such power of globalization that at many levels they will act as city states that are independent of national and regional mediation. Urban settlements in both developed and new, powerful forces that require governments, urbanites and urban planners to reconsider how they manage urban futures are influencing developing countries. Many developing countries, in addition, will continue to experience rapid rates of urbanization. With over half of the world’s population currently living in urban areas, there is no doubt that the ‘urban agenda’ will increasingly become a priority for governments everywhere.

The first feature that emerges when looking at the various initiatives that cities undertake to plan or consider their future is the large amount and high diversity of cases. There is not a single city or urban agglomeration that does not think about its future, certainly when a threshold of 50 000 inhabitants is reached. The richness as well as the complexity of the picture increases when one also sees that regions, sub regions or even districts or neighbourhoods within cities sometimes develop their own plan, vision or program.

As a consequence of this diversity, one also sees a cleavage emerging in how existing challenges are being treated: short-term responses are developed in order to ensure action and movement towards a desired future, but there is a little evidence to show that the identified growing structural long-term challenges are being met with innovative policy responses and integrated in their systemic consequences. Whereas most urban processes generate interesting strategies and operational policies, one misses, in the review, daring visions, innovating plans, novel configurations or new-fangled discourses. This set of issues confirms the increasing complexity of the general policies environment in which cities compete and interact with each other.

Visioning is however, a dimension that allows for sorting between classical planning approaches, where one general goal or direction is set, then developed in strategic axes and actions, and more foresight that is genuine where the vision is built through the process of scenario exploration and / or the object of a robust participatory reflection. This vision is composed of four elements:

- Aims, i.e. general goals perceived as possible to achieve, which the territory will endeavour to achieve through processes, and as usual an ideal;
- Major projects that plot the future. These are the expected outcomes of the determining actions and projects that we will have successfully carried out, the concrete and major results of the path that we are going to take;
- A system of shared values, i.e. stating the values that are necessary and that the stakeholders are going to activate to achieve the vision;
- A collective desire to achieve the objectives, a desire without which nothing is possible, and which it must be possible to express symbolically in all foresight and strategic approaches.