Planning Regional Futures
Panel Session

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1. **Strengths of current approaches?**

- Ways of questioning the different forms of rescaling in spatial planning.
- Critical insights as per the effectiveness of spatial planning.
- Critical assessment of the different levels of governance and implications for planning at different scales.
- Understanding of spatial dynamics within metropolitan regions.
- Provided a comparative framework for policy and research across range of countries, contexts, administrative boundaries.
2 - Weaknesses of current approaches?

- Scales, boundaries and definition issues.
- Siloed approach
- Not very context-specific
- Doesn’t capture dynamic processes well, incl. temporalities and informality.
- Tension between local versus global.
- South/South learning?
- Limited focus on localised / citizens' approaches.
- Limited acknowledgement of planning as an under-resourced activity in the Global South.
3. Opportunities to move things forward?

- Embeddedness within a more complex and systemic framework of regional understanding of city-region functions and transformations.
- Linking both local and regional levels.
- Incorporate informal and temporary dynamics.
- Recognition of the need for capacity and capability building.
- Better connection to education and skills.
- Acknowledgement of further citizens’ roles.
4. Major challenges to overcome?

- Disciplinary knowledge.
- Training and skills.
- Power relationships and political agenda.
- Importance given to planning in contrast to other fields.
- Uncertainties/disturbances.
- Data availability.
5- Vision for planning regional futures?

- "Reading " cities as systems of systems (Bryson et al.).
- New ways to think about planning, with key attention given to citizens-led approaches.
- Need to cut across traditional boundaries and policy silos approaches.
- Development of integrated and inclusive place-based approaches.
- Re-interpreting the role of urban planners and giving more importance to the ‘profession’ as a key activator of change.
- Positioning temporary and adaptability as key drivers.
- Need for a new form of planning, both responsible and able to drive inclusive prosperity. It should be more inclusive of people and of the environment, resting upon a new relationship with citizens and moving away from a primary focus on land (use) management.