Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century:
A Multi-Stakeholder Approach
to Making the Transformation Happen

OUTCOMES REPORT

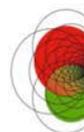**Facilitated by**

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I. Background

On 25th September 2015, the United Nations formally adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), including SDG11 to "Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." This new universal, integrated, and transformative framework, builds on the Millennium Development Goals and includes 17 SDGs and 169 targets aimed at eliminating poverty, fighting inequality, and addressing climate change over the next 15 years. In parallel, the urban development community is stepping up the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III, where the New Urban Agenda will be adopted in October 2016.

On 28th September 2015, the Communitas Coalition Secretariat and its core partners - ICLEI, nrg4SD, Tellus Institute and UN-Habitat – convened a **high-level multi-stakeholder gathering** of the Urban SDG Campaign and the World Urban Campaign, in collaboration with the Ford Foundation, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, Cities Alliance and the UN-Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

In this pivotal moment of unprecedented opportunity for social justice, poverty eradication and sustainable development, we invited participants to engage in a multi-stakeholder reflection on the key drivers and actions for a transformation that will empower, enable and operationalize our collective commitment to sustainable urban development in the 21st century. Urban development, with its power to trigger transformative change, can and must be at the forefront of human development. Cities are home to half of the world's people and three quarters of its economic output, and these figures will rise dramatically by 2050. We must therefore align goals, plans, finance, partnerships, governance models and monitoring and review systems with the scale of our ambition.

This high-level event celebrated the successful efforts over the past three years of Urban SDG Campaigners for achieving the recognition of sustainable urban development as a driver for human development in the horizon of 2030. More importantly, this gathering constituted a key turning point towards the challenges of successfully implementing SDG11 in an integrated approach with other SDGs, as well as of localizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In addition to initiating strategic discussion on implementation, the convening aimed at furthering the engagement of the urban development community in the **Habitat III** Conference.

This Outcomes Report describes the presentations and discussion at the meeting. A companion document, **Key Messages** from 28 September Event, provides a succinct summary of the "take-home messages" from the event that will inform advocacy efforts around SDG 11 implementation and ongoing preparations for the Habitat III conference.

II. Program

A. Objectives and Key Questions

The program was organized to examine the fundamental transformations required to make sustainable urban development happen, as well as the critical multi-stakeholder engagement in the preparatory process towards Habitat III. The following key questions framed the presentations and discussion:
● What will we be doing differently within the next 20 years if we are serious about encouraging and empowering sustainable urban development at the city-region scale?
● How will we align goals, plans, finance, partnerships, governance models and monitoring and review systems with the scale of our ambition?
● What will be the key solutions, drivers for policy coherence, and tools for implementation?
● What are the distinct yet complementary roles of different stakeholders in the implementation of this agenda?

The event unfolded in the following sequence: opening remarks, three keynote presentations, two roundtables with moderated discussions, an open discussion session among all participants, reports from each of the roundtables, and brief closing remarks.

Highlights of each of the program elements are provided below. The full program can be found at here. In addition, biographies of the speakers are provided, as well as a list of participants.

B. Opening Remarks

Mr. Don Chen, Director, Metropolitan Opportunity, Ford Foundation
− Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, including Goal 11, represents the first time the international community has agreed on a universal agenda (as opposed to the MGDs, which were focused on developing countries) to address poverty, equity, climate, urban challenges, etc.
− Collaboration between civil society, governments and others in the development of the SDGs reflects a new model of multi-stakeholder governance.
− Great to celebrate SDGs adoption, but the hard work of implementation lies ahead.
− But we are not starting from scratch; our task is to generate collaborative movement.
− Great to see many cities already moving forward – from mega cities to smaller ones.
− We need to address how we are going to do things differently over the next 15-20 years in terms of finance, partnerships and collaboration, etc.
− We need to figure out how best to embed a people-centered approach (rather than technology-focused), driven by inclusion and the urban environment is well suited to advance broad inclusion of all stakeholders.

- The next big opportunity to advance a new urban agenda and build on SDG 11 will be at Habitat III in Quito in October 2016.

C. Keynote Addresses

Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA
- It is encouraging that the communities of practice around urbanization are coming together and asking "what are we going to do?" so soon after adoption of the SDGs.
- The process of developing the SDGS has redefined sustainable development in two ways: (1) the concept that if anyone is left behind then development is not sustainable; and (2) civil society broke through and brought new energy and depth to processes that could've been just political.
- The COP21 and Habitat III conference are opportunities to solidify the 17 goals.
- Cities are engines of economic and social progress and can be used to mitigate climatic shocks; but cities also face many social, environmental and economic challenges - 6 out of every 10 people expected to live in cities by 2050; primarily in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.
- Interlinkage of Goal 11 with the other Goals is imperative; cities are where innovation for solutions can take place but also where issues can be exacerbated.
- Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in 2016 will adopt the New Urban Agenda to make cities the center of sustainable development and harness the power of sustainable urban development for achieving all the SDGs.
- High Level Political Forum (intergovernmental platform) will support advancements made in using cities to achieve the SDGs.
- SDGs are not a quick fix but provide a framework and a starting point.
- SDGs are a social contract between those who govern and those who are being governed.
- SDGs are more than the 17 goals, it's 169 targets; and we must understand how they are relevant to work at the city level (e.g., poverty is a multi-dimensional problem and addressing it requires an integrated approach across goals and targets).

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN Human Settlements Programme UN-Habitat and Secretary General, UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development-Habitat III
- We need to turn the political success of adopting the SDGs, including Goal 11, into action; for successful implementation we need to effectively communicate to governments and stakeholders the importance of cities for sustainable development.
- Upcoming opportunities to advance the sustainable urban development agenda include: COP21 in Paris in December 2015, World Humanitarian Summit in may 2016 and Habitat III in Quito in October 2016.
- Goal 11 has close interlinkages with many of the other SDGs.

- SDG 11 represents the first time the international community accepts urbanization as a pillar of sustainable development.
- We need to talk more about the future of employment and how it is very much related to the quality of urbanization; as we move towards a more knowledge-based economy, high value-added jobs will grow in cities.
- Beyond high-skilled jobs (e.g. in finance, insurance, etc.), housing and infrastructure construction offer low-skilled employment opportunities in cities as well.
- Suggests Habitat III address the role of urbanization in creating employment.
- Migration is a critical issue in many parts of the world; how urbanization occurs is critical to addressing the multiple issues associated with migration.
- Housing affordability is a critical issue for urbanization not just in rich countries but in poor countries as well, where the urban system has not been able to develop/offer affordable housing.
- Slum upgrading is a must, but we need to develop ways out of slums.
- MDG goal on slums – 700 million reduced by 200 million; but today slum dwellers equal 1 billion. What is our proposal/strategy to address this?
- Need to convince leaders that urbanization (if it's well done) is a tool for sustainable development, prosperity, jobs, etc.; must go beyond the challenges of urbanization.
- To garner support from political leaders we need to demonstrate that urban development is in alignment with a country's larger development strategy.
- Important to make the case that cities are designed by human culture – their quality is based on political and financial decisions on their design.
- Looking ahead to Habitat III, we need to consider the outcomes of Habitat II and offer a set of policies and ideas that can change the basic approach to urbanization.
- Biggest change since Habitat II is Chinese urbanization with hundreds of new cities. a huge success as a tool for increasing per capita incomes & economic development
- But the Chinese model combining urbanization with industrialization has not been a success in terms of environmental sustainability or social equity; it's not exportable.
- The next wave of rapid urbanization is already underway in India, which will build 100 more cities in the coming decades, and in Malaysia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, etc.
- Today's urban population of more than 3 billion is expected to double by 2050; what will be the implementable message of Habitat III?.
- The Habitat III Secretariat will be housed at the Ford Foundation.

Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey, President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments
- Urbanization started 12,000 years ago and now we are in an urban century.
- Cities are centers for commerce as well as technological and social innovation.
- Bad urbanization will have bad outcomes.
- Cities are not islands, but are linked to and impact surrounding regions and the world as a whole; we can't focus just on our local circumstances and have a responsibility to work together.

- Reflecting the process to develop the SDGs, all levels of government and sectors (including civil society and the private sector) need to be involved; we need to take common steps to address the challenges and opportunities of urban life.
- As an urban planner we need to make urbanization balanced and well managed; times are changing and the needs of city areas will continue to change.
- The 17 SDGs require concrete outcomes; they are not easily achievable because every country has its own legal context.
- If we can demonstrate sustainable urban development and models in democratic countries, people in other parts of the world will demand the same from their governments; we have the technological capacity to easily share these best practices.
- People can forgive anything except for being ignored; we all have to acknowledge everyone's right to survive (and the basic services that entails).
- It is easier for urban leaders in local governments to reach the people that development is trying to help than national governments, that's why cities are so important to the successful implementation of the SDGs.
- Members of UCLG seek to be solution partners in this; in his role on the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons for Post 2015, Dr. Topbas stressed that local governments must be actively engaged.
- The capacity of local governments to enact these goals requires transparency and accountability.
- Dr. Topbas has personally seen the importance of inclusion in Istanbul; citizens must be involved in all decision-making, even changing the location of a bus stop.
- Government itself started with city-states and now we're returning to this model; everything happens in cities.
- Central governments act politically, local governments don't have that luxury.
- For successful local governance we need to anticipate the needs of citizens; we can't wait for them to demand things.

D. Roundtable 1 – Partnerships and Financing

Framing Address

Dr. Eugenie L. Birch, Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Department of City and Regional Planning, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania; Founding Co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research; and Steering Committee Chair, World Urban Campaign
- Title of talk: "We have a lot of explaining to do" or "Houston, we have a problem."
- Large task to effectively communicate the importance of the SDG Agenda, and the various development philosophies behind them.
- With the urban SDG, there is a tangible product but because it intersects with other SDGs there needs to be much more collaboration with constituencies of other goals.
- Communitas Coalition Executive Coordinator Maruxa Cardama's recent article in CityScope explores the connections between SDG 11 and the other goals (see:

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- First priority is to reach out to colleagues working on the other SDGs to explain how sustainable urban development based on strong geospatial planning with the provision of good housing, transportation, energy and other basic services in urban areas will advance the other Goals.

- The idea of place/space is easily understood and explained, but it is harder to explain Target 11.3 on "participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning," which is at the heart of Goal 11.

- Suggests a three-pronged approach to implementing Goal 11, the 3 Ds: **Define, Direct, and Demonstrate.**

- **Define** what we are talking about – move planning from the abstract to the concrete; a Yale professor defines planning as systematic, strategic public actions that improves quality of life (e.g., investment, regulation, incentives)
  - Planning is integrated, system focused, deals with uncertainty.
  - Good planning is participatory, bringing in all voices/stakeholders, and reflects a mediated political consensus.
  - Not a project by project activity but a system by system activity.
  - Outcome of planning is a plan; cannot focus only on the process.
  - Plan offers predictability for future, protection and advancement of collective goods.
  - Plan provides (1) an agenda; (2) a vision; (3) a design; and (4) a strategy.
  - Plan must be strategic, systematic at appropriate institutional level: need national vision and local plans to implement involving critical partnerships among various levels of government (subsidiarity).

- **Direct** how we do it - The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning establish principles that address spatial, institutional and financial dimensions at different scales.

- **Demonstrate** how this can be done:
  - We must demonstrate effective planning in real ways on the ground.
  - The General Assembly of Partners (GAP) of the World Urban Campaign is an important platform for dissemination.
  - Local and subnational governments must deliver, going beyond sharing of best practices and testimonials, to providing hard evidence of what works and does not work.
  - We need to engage all stakeholders, including the private sector, which has not focused adequately on urbanization and the role of urban planning.
  - Our partners must work together to demonstrate what we mean by sustainable urban development.

- Good planning is critical before spending: Define, Direct and Demonstrate.

Panelist Presentations

Mr. William Cobbett, Director, Cities Alliance

- Three framing points regarding current conditions with important implications for SDG implementation
    1) Most national governments regard subnational as inferior forms of government.
    2) Most national governments do not care about the poor in practice.
    3) Most local governments currently have neither financial nor human/institutional capacity to implement the SDGs.
- Partnerships are essential but must be recalibrated:
    - The relationship between national and local governments must change in terms of the constitutional, legal and financial framework; need an institutional framework that supports shared governance.
    - At the city level, the relationship between city government and citizens (individual and corporate) must focus on the whole city (not part) and all its citizens.

Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG Asia Pacific, Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments

- Local officials recognize that finance is key for implementing SDGs but also that local governments have difficulty finding the necessary funding.
- Private-public partnerships are key, but the private companies' drive for profits is a concern.
- Given the weakness of many local governments, we need to strengthen associations of sub-national government in order to communicate/translate the SDGs to the thousands of local governments that need to engage in implementation.
- Effective engagement with local stakeholders is needed to go beyond aspirational goals and plans to implementation .
- Long-term financing strategies need to be established; in some cases existing regulations limit local governments in tax collection.
- In addition to lack of financial resources, there are many other institutional/ governance challenges on the ground that inhibit effective implementation.

Mr. Cornie Huizenga, Secretary General, Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)

- Transport does not have its own SDG, but has been mainstreamed across the Goals on cities and human sttlements, health, energy, etc.; this has advantages and disadvantages
- Between 1 and 2 trillion dollars a year is spent now on transport infrastructure; 2/3 in OECD countries; 60% of funding is from the public sector, 40% comes from the private sector.
- What are we going to do differently? We may not need additional funds for transport, but we need to reprogram the funds towards low carbon public transport; the International Energy Agency estimates that moving to a low carbon transport could save 70 trillion dollars through 2050.

- Four key changes are needed:
  1) Change the model for urban transport from car-centric to multi-modal based on public transit and walking (though we are not giving up on cars).
  2) Shift investment from OECD to non-OECD countries (reverse the 2/3 to 1/3 split).
  3) Break down silos between transportation and other sectors, such as energy, health (e.g., significant fraction of hospital beds now taken up by people who were in traffic accidents).
  4) Move towards blended financing by getting public, private, development and climate finance people at the same table (it is encouraging that Moody's is represented on this Roundtable).
      - There is ample liquidity in the market; the private sector has assets; they want to see return on investments and are risk averse.
      - The development community has less money ($28 billion spent annually on transport), is looking for lower returns, and can take more risk; how do we blend these two together to leverage the huge potential resources?.
      - In 2012 at Rio+20 we were looking at partnerships among the largest development banks; $175 billion was committed for sustainable transport., but that leveraging has not happened so far.
      - India, Mexico, Colombia and other countries have national urban renewal projects that are basically using public sector money; need to include climate and private finance in the mix.

Mr. Leonard Jones, Managing Director for Public Finance, Moody's

- Moody's is not a direct stakeholder in the SDGs, but important in terms of access to financial resources; their Public Finance group identifies local, subnational and national governments' creditworthiness.
- The Public Finance group's role is to come up with opinions and forecasts regarding the future creditworthiness of local governments and to assess risk to better understand the magnitude of potential default/recovery; they use a publically available ranking system for this.
- Environmental sustainability and governance are important because they could affect the creditworthiness of countries or subnational governments.
- They carry out research on an ongoing basis (e.g, a recent report on drought in California and how that is going to affect water agencies in the state).
- Environmental sustainability and governance risks are integrated into Moody's ratings in different ways, both quantitatively and qualitatively (e.g., for state level risk rankings they include a factor for governance; for utilities they look at environmental risk by % dollars spent on environmental risks).
- In terms of Moody's overall assessment of these issues, though environmental sustainability and governance risks are important ("material"), they have rarely been the main factors in determining risk rankings.

- Environmental and governance risks can often be mitigated by operational and financial capability; to date this has been the case even for risks associated with climate/sustainability before they become a credit negative.

Ms. Shelley Poticha, Director, Urban Solutions, Urban Program, Natural Resources Defense Council NRDC

- There is great urgency to address climate change and with 70% of carbon pollution coming from cities, successfully addressing urbanization is critical.
- We must tackle climate and inequality together; that is the secret to the vitality and potential of cities, bringing everyone in.
- But we need a whole new operating system: how we look at investments, plan our (urban) systems, incentivize and reward good actors; this will require us to identify the specific policy changes needed.
- We also need to figure out how to ensure sustainable urban planning gets factored into creditworthiness and bond ratings and how to monetize the benefits to communities.
- Subnational governments can benefit from concrete support by many urban advocates through sharing of draft policies and planning codes, bringing together public and private finance experts, etc.
- NRDC's Urban Program is working with 10 US mayors who have committed to reducing energy use in their buildings, providing technical expertise and capacity.
- The public and philanthropic sectors can play an important role in leading the marketplace to new solutions by demonstrating the benefits of sustainable urban development through pilot and proof-of-concept investments (e.g., in Prince George's County, Maryland, investment in green infrastructure is evaluated not only on the degree to which it improves stormwater management and water quality, but also in terms of the number of local jobs created, and the impact on local farmers).
- One example of a new operating system with new partners is the California carbon cap-and-trade program where the revenues from allowance auctions are funding a range of innovative housing, transportation, and other initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions.
- We need more of this kind of experimentation with bold new operating systems to advance the SDGs and sustainable urban development.

Respondents

Ms. Violet Shivutse, Founder and Coordinator Shibuye Community Health Workers of Shinyalu, Kenya; Huairou Commission

- While the aim of SDG11 is building resilient communities and the discussion of plans and programs – from infrastructure to ensuring safer cities – and is exciting; what is

missing is how to organize the role of the people living in poor urban settlements; this also did not happen with the MDGs.

- We cannot just view local people as recipients of programs but as designers/co-designers; they have innovations and strategies that help improve relationships between local governments and residents (e.g., in informal settlements of Nairobi, women caregivers convened dialogues that brought public and private stakeholders together for local mapping).
- While local residents may participate in various decision-making processes, what is missing is an institutionalized role.
- We need to ensure that the role of local people is institutionalized in SDG implementation, including in urban planning, and that we are investing in supporting this organizing work, which is critical for holding local and national governments accountable.
- A meaningful institutionalized role for local people in decision-making processes will lower the likelihood of protests and public outcry and build support.
- Another key issue not addressed adequately is the gap between rural and urban areas: women experience conditions in rural areas that make lead them to migrate to cities; these issues need to be addressed and rural opportunities enhanced.

Mr. Jeb Brugman, Founding Partner, The Next Practice

- As first Secretary General of ICLEI, Mr. Brugman was intimately involved in Local Agenda 21 that came out of the Earth Summit in 1992.
- In thinking about SDG implementation what can we learn from the Agenda 21 experience?.
- One of the shortcomings of Local Agenda 21 efforts was the failure to engage all stakeholders, particularly the private sector.
- Agrees that the institutional framework needs to be changed and there needs to be grassroots pressure and a demonstration of viable alternatives for this to happen.
- The climate change agenda needs to lead partnership strategy.
- Local Agenda 21 should be a platform for engaging stakeholders at a local and subnational level; the fundamental split over the past two decades between people that were interested in public vs. private sectors needs to be reconciled.
- Private sector was missing in the 1990s as it was mainly focused on finding new markets and were not included in the multi-stakeholder process.
- Civil society and local government did not work in alignment, as NGOs were fighting corruption in local government.
- We need a new multi-stakeholder alignment, but what is it?
- There are many urban sustainability agendas: climate cities, sustainable cities, smart cities, innovative cities, etc. and cities are great laboratories for testing real-world solutions that can lead to transformational change.
- Cities offer a common platform, as a high percentage of the global economy is in urban assets, more productive places, assets, infrastructure, etc. are needed; the driver at the macroeconomic level is how to get more out of our existing urban places.

- Approaching cities as isolated entities is problematic and creates institutional gaps; cities are embedded in metropolitan regions with strong interlinkages with peri-urban and rural areas.
- Today's partnerships are very different than in prior years; for example, private capital is now often included in local/sub-national decision-making processes, and local stakeholders (e.g., Slum Dwellers International) have often enhanced their role from advocates to designers/implementers.

Moderated Discussion - Selected Points

Dr. Eugenie L. Birch

- Local knowledge is essential; we need build a strong knowledge platform.
- Proposes Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Urbanization that would bring together the breadth of research (from Moody's government creditworthiness assessments and meta-analyses of urban land-use change to community group local asset mapping and local informal sector censuses) so that we can better understand and articulate the implications of various urbanization processes and policies.

Mr. William Cobbett

-What really causes change is pressure and holding governments to account in a constructive way; we have seen this time and time again (e.g., the urban transition in Latin America, the battle over apartheid in South Africa).
- As social movements change political systems, new solutions emerge.

Aromar Revi, Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements

- Having achieved this new sustainable development framework with the SDGs, there are enormous social, political, and economic challenges that must be addressed for effective implementation.
- Key challenges include the fact that there are thousands of subnational and local governments around the world, each with unique circumstances and capabilities; and there is a whole range of other constituencies (e.g., children, women, even the private sector) that need to go beyond voicing input and gain agency.
- A new institutional framework must be developed that effectively integrates top-down and bottom-up approaches to these challenges across the globe.

Cynthia Rosenzweig, SDSN, Senior Research Scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

- Climate is a key consideration for Goal 11 and all the SDGs: everything is going to be happening under climate change scenarios; we need to incorporate climate. resilience planning (infrastructure systems, social groups, economics, planning)
- Need to embed a changing climate into future transformation of the urban areas, building resilience and adaptation.

E. Roundtable 2: Governance, Monitoring and Review

Framing address

Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

- Adoption of SDG 11 reflects the fact that nations have embraced the concept of cities are drivers of sustainable development; quite an achievement.
- Goal 11 and the SDGs are about redesigning the relationship between levels of government, our governance framework; the SDGs are a new social contract for sustainability.
- Now that the Goal 11 and the other SDGs have been adopted, how are we bringing SDGs to the real world?.
- The SDGs are written in UN language, but is important for mayors to have a framework for decision-making processes; having a stand-alone urban goal is an ideal starting point.
- With the SDGs as a starting point we need to undertake a reality check in terms of moving forward with implementation in the face of unfathomable social, environmental and economic crises around the globe; and implementation efforts must be reliable, accountable, and transparent.
- Three key challenges characterize our current situation and SDG implementation:
  1) Crises are driving much the global agenda and it is very difficult to plan for the unpredictable.
  2) Globalization has driven inequality; need massive financial transfers to the poor.
  3) Climate change will severely impact many cities in the global north and south; there has been a woefully inadequate response at all levels.
- A recent example of a crisis impacting local governments can be found in Germany where municipalities have received massive numbers of new residents (Syrian refugees), which local governments have been ordered to accommodate; the coordination required across OECD countries to humanly manage the crisis is unprecedented.
- This is a wake-up call; in the near future people will migrate in waves because of climate change; and with temperature increases likely to exceed 2° C, many cities in the global north and south will be severely impacted.
- Crises are the first drivers of unsustainable development but also of opportunity.
- Urbanization will be beneficial if it is s planned well, but this is difficult, especially when urban populations are increasing so quickly.
- The negative impacts of globalization are evident in growing inequality.
- The banking sector has the assets that are needed, but there is a mismatch of financial resources and needs; we need financial transfers that will contribute to achievement of the sustainable urban development and the other SDGs.
- ICLEI has worked intensively with cities to mobilize them to adopt reduction targets, with more than 3,000 commitments from around the world; unfortunately national governments rarely build on these efforts or include subnational governments in the development of their climate strategies.

- 550 cities have made commitments in carbonn Climate Registry (cCR) to measurable, reportable, and verifiable climate action totaling 1 billion tons; this is as much as European countries have reduced from 1990 to 2012.
- Financing remains a key challenge: municipal budgets are $8-10 per capita in developing countries versus $1,000-2,000 per capita in developed countries; new mechanisms are needed to provide direct financing to subnational governments (e.g., France is offering direct loans to cities around the world for GHG reductions).
- ICLEI and others are working to highlight the critical role cities can play in addressing the climate crisis and more broadly in implementing the new sustainable development agenda, including by providing examples of transformative plans and results undertaken by cities around the world.

Panelist Presentations

Ashish Kullar, UN Major Group for Children and Youth

- The UN Major Group for Children and Youth is the official platform for the engagement of children and youth in UN intergovernmental processes.
- Concerning SDG 11 as well as the Habitat III process they have facilitated conversations with children in many contexts including refugee camps and informal settlements; they have engaged an extensive range of young people with all sorts of backgrounds and geographies.
- An overwhelming priority of children and youth is an increased call for agency: and by agency, they do not just mean being consulted but also joint planning, participatory budgeting, etc.
- Participatory planning without participatory budgeting is not meaningful engagement.
- Young people will demand their involvement whether there is a formal role in the urban SDG implementation or not.
- Joint agency and joint implementation needs to happen within the SDG framework, and this can still occur as indicators have not yet been finalized.
- Do we want to formally engage youth or have them going to the streets and demanding it?
- SDG 16 on accountable and inclusive institutions addresses the stakeholder engagement issue in cross-cutting ways and presents a clear interface with SDG11.
- The message from youth: We are working on this regardless but we would rather work on this together with other stakeholders.

Ms. Jessica Espey, Associate Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN), Head, New York office

- As Pope Francis recently stated regarding climate change, commitments are not enough, we need to think practically.
- Measuring the success of Goal 11 and the other SDGs requires a robust monitoring regime and policy-relevant indicators that are globally comparable.

- The indicators must be easy to compile, intuitive to understand, relevant to government and policy leaders, disaggregated geographically, and updatable on a frequent basis.
- We need a new data ecosystem, and cities and local government need to be at the forefront; Mistra Urban Futures study of five cities that piloted the draft SDGs has demonstrated the shortcomings of existing data systems.
- A recent SDSN report estimates that a robust monitoring regime will require an investment of approximately $1 billion per year; this goes well beyond harnessing existing administrative efforts as we have failed to invest in data collection and reporting systems.
- A new partnership is being launched with the US, France and many others centered around a new global monitoring system, including geospatial data, sensors, and other monitoring.
- We also need to think about the power of information and communications technology (ICT) with real time dashboards that extend to local systems for climate and other issues.
- Indicators and metrics are only useful if they are part of meaningful political process; at the global level we need to get the UN High Level Political Forum to recognize the role of local government and other stakeholders and they must have a seat at the table on an ongoing basis.
- We need to act on the monitoring regime and indicators immediately; 15 years will fly by and we need collect baseline information now.

Ms. Rose Molokoane, Coordinator, South African Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP); Deputy President, Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI); and Board Member, Council of the South African Social Housing Regulatory Authority

- We have been having the same discussion for 20 years but have not achieved meaningful results.
- For example, partnerships have been discussed everywhere – in Rio 92, in Habitat II in Rio+10 and Joburg and in World Urban Forum 7 - but we have not progressed with implementing partnership solutions.
- Many local organizations participated in the SDG process and other international processes aimed at promoting sustainable development, but as people from local communities we are not taken seriously.
- This is depressing for local representatives; meaningful participation is not just being invited to sit on a panel.
- We need to institutionalize meaningful participation to learn from what people are doing on the ground; institutionalizing local participation from NGOs will provide an ongoing voice and avoid the problem inherent in reliance solely on political appointees who change with local election cycles.

Mr. Bernard Soulage, Vice President for Europe and International Relations of the Regional Council of Rhone-Alpes, France; Member, Steering Committee Regional Network of Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD)

- To achieve coordinated, multi-level implementation of the SDGs it is important to reconnect subnational and local governments with the process, and especially through monitoring at the local level.
- Sub-national and local government role in monitoring needs to be institutionalized so there is consistent long-term data gathering and reporting.
- Effective monitoring and review includes making the data available to everyone (transparency); this enhances accountability.

Respondents

Mr. Tamer Mostafa, Counsellor, Egypt Permanent Mission to the United Nations

- For successfully implementing all the SDGs, Goal 4 on education - and particularly educating the youth is crucial.
- Issue of data is crucial. as well as is planning; the city of Cairo is challenged on these 2 fronts: we do not even know how many slum dwellers we have.
- The objectives of the SDG indicators need to be clarified.
- In addressing the challenge of financing, the existing high levels of urban debt must be considered.
- We need to ensure that the New Urban Agenda that will be adopted at Habitat III addresses issues related to urban-rural linkages.
- For monitoring and review there is not a developing country that does not need help from community-based NGOs.
- Flexible planning for the unpredictable is essential for successful SDG implementation.

Ms. Pam O'Connor, Vice Mayor, Santa Monica, USA; Member, ICLEI Council and North America Regional Executive

- The history of ICLEI has demonstrated that if things are not happening at the national government, then we can get things done at the local level.
- Santa Monica did a long-term plan 20 years ago that we have been monitoring in a way that regular citizens can access; regular reporting for the average person but also allows for deep analysis.
- Our planning approach has evolved from a plan for environment and infrastructure resilience to one focused on resilience of people, including a well-being index rooted in measurement.
- We have built that monitoring culture into the DNA of our community.
- Santa Monica relies on a range of data sources: administrative data, resident surveys, social media.
- Early monitoring results show that that half the population of Santa Monica is concerned that the next generation will not be able to afford living in the city; a third of youth experience loneliness; others are financially precarious and concerned about making the next rent payment.
- The monitoring and reporting process has helped ignite the city to engage a range of stakeholders, including the business community, schools, etc., to address the

concerns of the city; this is only happening because of the transparent data, which has helped to build credibility within government.

− With increased trust in local government, we can deploy resources where they are needed because it is data driven.

Moderated Discussion - Selected Points

Mr. Gino Van Begin

− Critical urban rural linkages are under-appreciated and must be addressed in Habitat III; cities are dependent on surrounding areas for food, water supply, etc.;
− Urbanization processes need to find ways to maintain rural ecosystems and ensure people have decent working opportunities in rural areas.

Ms. Jessica Espey

− A redefined social contract between citizens and local government is key to achieving sustainable development.
− We need to keep up the momentum from the recently 2030 Agenda and be provocative in the run-up to Habitat III; we have a political window that we have not had before.

Mr. Bernard Soulage

− Concerning urban-rural linkages, the key is to plan at the regional scale, beyond the jurisdictional boundaries of a city.

Ashwani Vasishth, Associate Professor of Environmental Planning, Ramapo College of New Jersey

− How do we highlight the important role of local governments beyond this conversation?.
− Santa Monica is but one of hundreds of many successful examples; we need a database of solutions.

Thomas Forester

− Urban-rural linkages critical especially Food security issues (Target 11.A).
− Sustainable Urban Development leadership needs to adopt a food systems framework from SDG 2.4.
− Multi-level governance is required; food councils are one mechanism to captures the various aspects of the food ecosystem and highlights the relationship between urban and rural.

Mr. Gino Van Begin

- Until now we have not had systematic dialogues between national governments and other levels of government with regard to review and monitoring.
- The urban SDG might be a mechanism for changing this and having such a dialogue.
- Countries that have developed mechanisms for local involvement, like campaigns for urban sustainability, have been the most successful; for example: Korea and China had Local Agenda 21 type of administration.

F. Take-Away Messages and Closing

Dr. Aromar Revi, Director, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS); Co-Chair Thematic Group on Cities, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network UN SDSN

- While this is a time to celebrate the adoption of the SDGs, we also must be mindful of the enormous challenges the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents; we have only 15 years to achieve the goals and we must get started immediately:
    - Moving 1.5 billion people out of poverty through housing, economic development, etc.
    - Expanding access to healthcare, education, and social services and reducing inequalities for 5 billion people.
- Climate change and growing inequalities have pushed the agenda
- If China can do it, so can we; we have the wealth across the world, the technological capacity, and the engagement of youth.
- Who will pay for the items on this agenda? (90 trillion dollar question).
- Highly unequal system between and within countries.
- Young people are not going to wait for the process to deliver in a conventional manner.
- Who are the key agents/institutions that will implement this agenda – national governments, the UN, cities?.
- There is no consensus yet on implementation, we must not t forget about the importance of place. Spatial imagination only sits within the urban development community.
- To advance the new agenda we will need to challenge conventional thinking of focusing only on the national level, and promote the importance of subnational activity and the need for coordinated multi-level governance.
- Member States are being held responsible for implementing the needed changes, but is that effective?
- Other movements and actors (communities, private sector) are now key stakeholders that must be meaningfully included.
- Partnerships can make implementation possible, but we have been ineffective in building them and reimagining their architectures.
- While globally adequate financial resources are available to address the new 2030 Agenda, we need to enable sharing of resources between different corners of the world; this will require new institutional arrangements.

Mr. Raf Tuts, Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Branch and Acting Coordinator, Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

- Governance remains an important challenge as there is a lack of trust between local, subnational, and central governments; transparency, accountability, and reliability are key to effective governance and SDG 16 deals with these issues.
- In terms of monitoring, the final SDG indicators are still being developed (expected by March 2016) and we still have a short window of opportunity to influence them.
- Indicators will define the roles of various actors and, as such, inform resource allocations.
- We need to advance a balanced set of indicators that can optimize every target and provide a monitoring framework so the goals and targets resonate at the local level.
- In reviewing progress we must avoid a fragmented approach where individual issues are considered in silos; beyond the quality of urbanization itself, we need to promote evaluation of other sectors in a way that reflects our values.

Farewell Messages:

Ms. Maruxa Cardama, Executive Coordinator and Founder, Communitas Coalition; Event convener

- Thanks all the partners that made this meeting possible; truly a collaborative effort.
- Videos recording of the event are memorialized on YouTube and have been streamed via the World Urban Campaign.
- An Outcomes Report will be made public for future consultation
- As we move towards SDG implementation and Habitat III, we all need to send suggestions to UN entities encouraging continued engagement of stakeholders in order to influence negotiations.
- YOU make these things possible; Communitas is a multi-stakeholder approach, so we hope the collaboration continues.

Ms. Ana Marie Argilagos, Senior Advisor, Just Cities Initiative - Metropolitan Opportunity Unit, Ford Foundation

- So many UN-related events today; we are honored to have everyone here.
- Cities are not able to be ignored; they have a lot of leverage in the new sustainable development agenda.
- Going forward the urban community's focus will be on implementation: indicators, monitoring, and review.
- Our efforts have to be broad and inclusive, including local resident' voices and reaching across sectors beyond our existing networks; success will depend on effective multi-sector partnerships.
- We all have to be actively engaged problem-solvers to realize these ambitious goals.