

CONCEPT NOTE

“Integrated resource management for sustainable and inclusive cities: Policy opportunities for the New Urban Agenda”

Wednesday 19 October 2016, 17:30-19:00

**United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)
Room A, One UN Pavilion, Quito, Ecuador**

Co-organizers: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

Background:

Habitat III is expected to result in a new and transformative agenda for cities. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda will require innovative, multi-sectoral and multidimensional approaches. Therefore, managing rapidly growing cities and their urban regions is one of the most critical challenges facing national policy makers and local governments, especially with regard to the relationship between sustainable urban development and natural resources. Of all the natural resources, energy, water and land/food are most essential and fundamental to sustain urban development efforts. The 2012 report of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability, for example, has warned that by 2030 the world will need at least 50 per cent more food, 45 per cent more energy and 30 per cent more water. Much of this demand is being driven by cities, and their urbanizing regions.

The key challenge is how can we bring a fundamental paradigm shift in resource use to support current and future urban growth?

Underpinning the New Urban Agenda is the realisation that cities can no longer deal with resources as independent, sectoral issues, but a much broader understanding of their interdependence is needed. Optimization of resource efficiency through a nexus paradigm can therefore support sustainable urban development. However, the majority of cities/municipal administrations continue to plan and manage along sectoral lines and within municipal boundaries, and rarely in a coordinated and integrative manner. Consequently they are not able to fully maximize the synergies between water, energy, food or land and the potential co-benefits arising from integrated resource management. Therefore, the nexus approach intends to integrate planning and management processes of the key sectors of energy, water and food/land considering reuse and recycling of resources contributing to long-term sustainable development of rapidly growing cities and their regions.

This event is based on the project on “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus” which is assisting cities and countries in Asia-Pacific to adopt a nexus approach, developing pilot projects and integrating the nexus approach into urban planning. The project is implemented by GIZ in partnership

with ESCAP and ICLEI and with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project supports twelve cities in seven countries, namely: China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Modality of event:

The event will be organized in the form of a roundtable discussion on effective institutional arrangements between national and local governments across Asia and Latin America to support integrated resource management for sustainable and inclusive cities. Roundtable panelists will consist of high-level representatives from local municipalities (mayor/governor), national governments, international organizations and a bilateral donor. Each partner will share knowledge and experience in integrated urban resource management and how such policies can more effectively support both the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

This session will be led by ESCAP and supported by project partners GIZ and ICLEI, who are all committed to the New Urban Agenda, and with experience in city-level implementation in Asia and Latin America. Through representation of city officials, the session will be enriched through inter-regional exchange and lessons learned through urban resource integration. The session will result in several key messages from key stakeholders, local and national governments on how more integrated and sustainable planning and management of natural resources can support the sustainable development of cities and urbanizing regions.

Expected outcomes:

This event aims to identify critical challenges in closing resource loops and in bridging resource gaps in support of sustainable urban futures. It will identify mechanisms that deliver multiple benefits within the context of efficient resource use and thereby contribute to the achievement of several SDGs, and the New Urban Agenda. Below are expected outcomes for the event:

1. A discussion on how reconfigured institutional arrangements and strengthened capacities can effectively implement and coordinate integrated resource use for cities and their urbanizing regions;
2. Address data gaps on resource use and develop a stronger quantitative evidence base for integrated policies and strategies; and
3. Illustrate innovative municipal financing and budgeting to support local governments to enhance revenue streams to support new governance modalities.

Speakers/Panelists:

- Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
- Mr. Gino van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
- Mr. Franz Marre, Head of Division Water, Urban Development and Transport, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Dr. Arifin Rudyanto, Deputy for Regional Development, BAPPENAS
- Mayor John Bongat, Naga, Philippines
- Ms. Flávia Mourão, Director of the Development Agency of the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte

Tentative Programme

Time (90 min)	Agenda	Presenter
5 min	Introduction	MC and Moderator
30 min	Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP • Mr. Franz Marre, Head of Division Water, Urban Development and Transport, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development • Mr. Gino van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
10 min	Questions from the floor	
15 min	1 st round of questions to the national and local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Arifin Rudyanto, Deputy for Regional Development, BAPPENAS • Mayor John Bongat, Naga, Philippines • Ms. Flávia Mourão, Director of the Development Agency of the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte
10 min	Reflections	
10 min	2 nd round of questions to all the panelists	
10 min	Questions from the floor and the final remarks	

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