



HABITAT III CONFERENCE REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR EVENT HOSTS AT THE ONE UN PAVILION

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Name of Rapporteur:	Mr. Stefanos Fotiou
Event title:	Integrated Resource Management for Sustainable and Inclusive Cities: Policy Opportunities for the New Urban Agenda
Date:	Wednesday, 19 October 2016
Time:	17:30-19:00
Room:	Room A, One UN Pavilion
Name of leading organizing UN agency:	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand
Contact Person (<i>Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number</i>)	Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP / fotiou@un.org , T:+66 (0) 2288 1115 Mr. Kyungkoo Kang, Economic Affairs Officer Environment and Development Division/ kangk@un.org , T: +66 (0)2288 1372
Name of organizing partnering UN Agencies or Institution(s), with their respective bases (<i>City, Country</i>)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bangkok, Thailand ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Bonn, Germany
Contact Person from partnering UN Agencies/Institutions (<i>Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number</i>)	Ms. Ruth Erlbeck, GIZ Project Director, Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus, GIZ, Bangkok, Thailand / ruth.erlbeck@giz.de , T:+66 (0) 2288 2146 Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI World Secretariat and Regional Director, ICLEI South Asia Secretariat, New Delhi, India / emani.kumar@iclei.org , T: +91 11-41067220
Approximate number of attendees:	80
Number of female attendees:	30
Number of male attendees:	50





1. Background of the event (max: 300 words):

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. Underpinning the New Urban Agenda is the realization 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. The key challenge is how can we bring a fundamental paradigm shift in resource use to support current and future urban growth?

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.

2. Summary of the Discussion (key points only, max: total 500 words):

The event provided a forum for presenting and elaborating on opportunities for integrating the nexus approach into urban planning and development, as a tool for localizing the global agendas, and in making cities sustainable, resource-efficient and inclusive. Both local and national governments also highlighted how coherent policies could be developed by using the tools of, and integrating the methodology of the urban nexus approach.

The panelists in the session highlighted the following issues:

1) Mr. Stefanos Fotiou of ESCAP underpinned that cities are the drivers of local development and global agendas cannot be achieved without proactive engagement with cities. He emphasized that cities are responsible for a large share of resource utilization although they occupy just 2-3 per cent the world's landmass.

2) Mr. Franz Marre of BMZ explained the term "Nexus" introduced by Germany in the landmark 2011 Bonn Conference prior to the Rio + 20 Summit, promoting cooperation beyond sectorial departments in cities as well as at the national level. Breaking down the sectoral "silos" will strongly support resource efficiency and hence increase the sustainability of cities. He stated that the ESCAP-GIZ project on "Urban Nexus" has already shown positive results, closing cycles between water, energy, food security and land-use, aiming to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

3) Ms. Monika Zimmermann of ICLEI emphasized the necessity to empower the cities as main drivers of development, mainly focusing on integrated resource management in order to develop robust urban planning and strategies to cope with the SDGs and the NUA. In this regard, she highlighted that direct access to finance and capacity development to enhance accountability and transparency are essential.





4) Mayor John Bongat of Naga City emphasized the importance of realistic planning to maintain credibility. “Local governments should live with their means” and integrating the Nexus principle into their urban development plans, with certain level of flexibility, will support the implementation of SDGs.

5) Mr. Sando Verissimo, representing Ms. Flavia Mourao of Bello Horizonte in Brazil pointed out the importance of the global agendas for sustainable development of cities. However, localization of such agendas, by developing a common vision with a ‘participatory approach’ is of utmost importance. Within this context, priorities should be spelt out for ‘territorial planning’ and supportive policies, guidelines and regulations need to be developed.

6) Dr. Arifin Rudyanto of BAPPENAS explained the National Urban Development Policy (2015-2045) of Indonesia, which clasified cities into 3 types to promote a tailor-made development policy, for delivery of urban services, including water, waste water and solid waste management. He highlighted that integrated approaches would support coordination and synchronization of urban development planning, for monitoring and evaluation of policies, as well as in their implementation.

7) Ruth Erlbeck of GIZ recommended the establishments of cross sectoral Urban Nexus Task Forces - a best practice example from the ‘Urban Nexus Partner cities’, which now serve as the screening boards for the city council before infrastructure projects are approved. She also highlighted that national-local dialogues within the countries facilitate vertical as well as horizontal integration in the framework of resource efficiency.

3. Recommendations/ways forward from the discussions (key points only).

- “Do more with less” was a call made from a city with regard to resource management in the context of suitable use of natural resources and its limited availability as well as the need for cities to plan within their capacities and financial resource availability.
- To remain credible, it is important for local governments to have realistic planning as they have limited means and should exercise flexibility to address urgent upcoming problems.
- Municipalities should integrate the SDGs into their daily routine as “eco budgets” which may allow for regular reporting on how the budget is spent in relation to the SDGs.
- When localizing the SDGs, it is important to maintain a balance between what should and should not be regulated, including policies and guidelines, to avoid unnecessary burden.
- Public participation with a bottom-up approach will empower cities to allow stronger negotiating power to enhance decentralization of competencies and financial responsibilities for improving vertical and horizontal integration.

4. Synergies: Has any new partnerships, or other type of collaboration emerged during or after the event?

- Training for integrated resource planning and management is required for city employees, representatives of ministries and advisors on cross-sectoral management, concentrating on governance and innovative technologies. GIZ in collaboration with ESCAP is elaborating respective Nexus training modules to be rolled-out next year offering training to other institutions.
- A strong need was felt to disseminate the project experiences from the Asia Pacific region as a cascading effect to other regions of the globe, such as Africa and Latin America. Global and regional outreach events provide these opportunities. Also ESCAP is in the process of developing a knowledge platform that will be launched soon to provide in-depth information on ‘Urban Nexus framework’, diverse resources and key outcomes.





5. Detailed Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Mr. Stefanos Fotiou
Nationality:	Greek
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Mr. Sando Verissimo
Nationality:	Brazilian
UN Agency/ Organization/Institution:	Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Ms. Ruth Erlbeck
Nationality:	German
UN Agency/ Organization/Institution:	GIZ
Position:	Project Director, Urban Nexus Project

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