EXPERTS GROUP MEETING





REVIEW ON

SDG 11 SYNTHESIS REPORT FOR THE 2018 HLPF

"TRACKING PROGRESS TOWARDS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS"

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

- **CPI** City Prosperity Initiative
- EGM Expert Group Meeting
- **GDP** Gross Domestic Product
- GIS Geographic Information System(s)
- HLPF -- High-level Political Forum
- LAU2 Local Administrative Unit Level 2
- LDCs Least Developed Countries
- MDGs Millennium Development Goals
- MoU Memorandum of Understanding
- NGO Non-Governmental Organization
- NSC National Sample of Cities
- NSO National Statistical Office
- NUA New Urban Agenda
- NUP National Urban Policy
- **ODA** Official Development Assistance
- **OECD** Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
- **OWG** Open Working Group
- **RCDB** Research and CapacityDevelopment Branch
- SDG Sustainable Development Goals
- UCCN UNESCO Creative Cities Network
- UCLG United Cities and Local Governments
- UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- **UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme
- **UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- **UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- **UNPFA** United Nations Population Fund
- UNISDR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- UPDB Urban Planning and Design Branch
- VNR Voluntary National Review
- WHO World Health Organization
- WUF World Urban Forum





1. BACKGROUND

Drawing from the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, Member States settled on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 global targets, and nearly 234 indicators that will be monitored for the period 2015-2030. The 2030 Agenda further seeks to realize the human rights of all, and to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an ambitious agenda that is supposed to be implemented universally by all countries in a collaborative partnership. Under Article 47 of the 2030 Agenda, "governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets¹". Regional bodies and international agencies were given the responsibility for regional and global follow-ups and reviews. As such, countries are expected to establish regular and inclusive review processes and develop new systems for ensuring high quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to measure progress at the national and sub-national levels.

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is organized every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council to provide a global space for all stakeholders (e.g. governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector, academia, the scientific and technological community, etc.) to share and exchange their experiences on implementing the 2030 Agenda ant national and global levels, identifying gaps and in fostering action, and every four years under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly. Member States present national reports, which are reviewed together with reports and contributions from other major stakeholders (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, etc). The 2018 HLPF will review the progress of several Goals including Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, with the overarching theme being "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

1.1. IMPORTANCE OF THE "**URBAN**" IN THE 2030 AGENDA

1.1.1. Introduction

Since 2007, half the world's population live in cities or urban centres. Estimates show that by 2030, cities will be home to 60% of the global population. By 2050, the share of the world's urban population will grow to about two-thirds, especially between 2010 and 2050 when it is expected that between 2.5 to 3 billion people will be added to the urban population worldwide. Urbanization is therefore an unstoppable trend, especially in less developed regions such as East Asia, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa². Indeed, 90% of urban growth in coming decades likely to occur in low- and middleincome countries by 2030.

The increasing urbanization features prominently in the new framework -"Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development" - that was adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit to guide development efforts between 2015 and 2030, through the endorsement of a stand-alone goal on cities (Goal 11), known as 'The urban SDG', - make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This first-ever international agreement on urban-specific development acknowledges sustainable urban development as a fundamental precondition for sustainable development, recognizing that beyond the development challenges brought about by urbanization, it offers formidable opportunities for development worldwide. Indeed, cities are often characterized by stark socio-economic inequalities, social exclusion, extreme poverty, high unemployment, poor environment conditions, and are drivers of climate change.

But they also drive innovation, consumption and investment worldwide, making them a positive and potent force for addressing sustainable economic growth, urban development and prosperity. Actually, cities contribute to 80 percent of global GDP, but 70 percent of global energy consumption and 70 percent





See Page 11 of: United Nations General Assembly (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. Seventieth session Agenda items 15 and 116

^{2 (}United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2016)

of global carbon emissions occur in cities³. Cities can certainly take the lead in addressing many of the global challenges of the 21st century, including poverty, inequality, unemployment, environmental degradation, and climate change. Cities' density and economies of agglomeration, link to economy to energy, environment, science, technology and social outcomes. These interrelations are important to formulate integrated policies needed to achieve sustainable development.

It is therefore recognized that achieving of SDG 11 – the urban SDG – will be key in driving progress towards sustainable development in the world. Urban areas will be increasingly critical for achieving all SDGs and integrating the social, economic and environmental goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda, thereby contributing to upholding the Agenda's principle of "leaving no one behind". "Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost", as clearly recognized by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, (http://www.post2015hlp. org/the- report/).

3 (Satterthwaite, 2008)

The main objective of this section is to highlight the importance of cities or "urban" for monitoring the 2030 Agenda, pointing out the specific linkages between SDG 11 and other SDG goals while demonstrating its linkages with other global agendas, frameworks or agreements.

1.1.2. Goal 11:

Targets and indicators

Goal 11 centers on a pledge to "make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" through eliminating slum-like conditions, reducing urban sprawl, and ensuring universal access to safe and sustainable urban transit. Like many other SDGs, it is based on specific targets and indicators. At present, Goal 11 consists of 10 targets and 15 indicators; 11 indicators are output indicators while the remaining four are process indicators (Table 1). Of all these indicators, seven are in Tier III, seven in Tier II and only one in Tier I. Out of the 240 indicators that are part of the Global Monitoring Framework adopted; about one third of these can be measured at the local level. As a result, most of these indicators have a direct connection to urban policies and a clear impact on cities and human settlements.





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Table 1. SDG 11 targets and indicators

Targets	Proposed Indicators
SDG Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
SDG Target 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
SDG Target 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.	11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
SDG Target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship).
SDG Target 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people.11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.
SDG Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	 11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities. 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted).
SDG Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities. 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.
SDG Target 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.	11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city
DG Target 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and uman settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans wards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate	11.b.1 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster- risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030a.
change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.	11.b.2 Number of countries with national and local disaster- risk reduction strategies.
SDG Target 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.	11. c.1 Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials.
SDG Target 1.4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.	
SDG Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	





As part of this process, a Goal 11 synthesis report will be produced under UN Habitat's coordination to provide an in-depth review of the efforts and issues surrounding the implementation of urban and human settlements indicators- at local, national and global levels, sharing challenges and opportunities, and providing key recommendations for governments, civil society and the UN on the next course of action in terms of partnerships, collaborations and resource mobilization for effective implementation of the urban-related SDGs.

The report will focus on elements related to implementation; including the support that UN-Habitat, other UN agencies and partners are providing to Member States and other stakeholders through development of the necessary tools and methodologies as well as the capacity building activities, ownership and involving stakeholders, institutional mechanisms, incorporation of the urban-SDGs into national frameworks, and means of implementation. Specifically, the report will:

• Create an interactive space for dialogue involving Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies, and civil society on the progress of Goal 11.

- Provide an update on the progress made in developing the methodology on all indicators
- Discuss strategies for building effective partnerships for addressing the monitoring needs of all indicators.
- Raise awareness on emerging critical urban issues, in addition to examining urban as a cross-cutting issue for accelerating the achievement of all other goals.

As part of the report development process, an Expert Group write-shop (EGW) was organized in Nairobi on 28th - 30th May 2018 to review, provide inputs, and help finalize the draft synthesis report prepared by UN Habitat, other UN agencies and partners. The three day workshop brought together 25 experts from UN agencies, regional commissions, academia and other stakeholders to critically review the draft synthesis report, identify gaps in the analysis, suggest ways of filling them, and help make recommendations to guide future work on SDG 11 monitoring. The workshop was funded by the Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development. This report summarizes the deliberations and key highlights from the workshop, which have been integrated into the final SDG synthesis report to be officially launched in New York in July 2018, during the HLPF meeting.







1.2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop objectives were;

- 1. Critically review SDG 11 draft synthesis report
- 2. Identify gaps in the of SDG 11 targets/indicators' analysis and suggest ways of filling such gaps.
- Make recommendations to guide future work in the SDG 11 monitoring.

1.3. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The EGW was a hybrid of a review meeting and a write-shop. Experts were engaged at varying levels through presentations, question and answer sessions, plenary and discursive sessions, and direct input into a draft report that had been developed by UN-Habitat in collaboration with other SDG 11 custodian agencies. Each session aimed to identify and address the following key issues in the draft report:

- Omissions and Errors;
- Missing data, new data and thematic issues;
- Structural improvements;
- Regional partners/ integration issues; and,
- Additional improvements to the reporting on SDG 11.

To address the above mentioned issues, the 3-day workshop deployed the following working strategy:

- a) Three presentation sessions on the highlights of the synthesis report followed by discursive plenary sessions;
- b) Sessions involving writing down of comments, recommendations and questions on each report chapter

 including identification of gaps and ways of filing them.
 The emerging comments were directly incorporated into the report revision during and after the meeting.
- c) Two working group sessions focused on direct improvement of the report content as per expert opinion and group discussions. The first session consisted of three groups working on content improvement per report chapter. The second session consisted of 14 smaller groups working on structural improvement of the report content per indicator;
- d) Group presentations and plenary sessions followed each working group session.

Annex 1 presents the detailed workshop agenda.



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