



Berlin High-level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Urban Transport

**Gasometer
EUREF Campus
Berlin-Schöneberg**

Berlin, Germany

19-21 June 2013

Co-organized by:

**Innovation Center for Mobility and Societal Change (InnoZ),
German Federal Agency for the Environment (UBA)
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
and Global Forum for Human Settlements (GFHS)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)
in cooperation with
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Local Authorities for Sustainability (ICLEI)
EUREF Campus
European Institute for Sustainable Transport (EURIST)
Partnership for Sustainable Low-Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)
and Foundation for Social Change**

Aide-Mémoire

A. Background: Rio+20 global policy decisions on sustainable cities and urban transport

We live in an era of unprecedented, rapid and irreversible urbanization, in particular in the developing world. Rapid private motorization poses growing challenges and problems, including urban congestion, inefficient fuel use and air pollution. Many cities around the world face similar challenges. Making cities and urban transportation systems more sustainable will be a prerequisite for poverty eradication, a “greener” economy and sustainable development.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), colloquially better known as “Rio+20”, was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 13-22 June 2012. The Conference was attended by more than 100 Heads of State and Government, and more than 50,000 participants took part in one or more of the many events associated with the Conference. Rio+20 adopted by consensus a comprehensive outcome document under the title “*The future we want*”, which was subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/66/288).

Rio+20 noted “that transportation and mobility are central to sustainable development”, and recognized “the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods, and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and productivity of rural areas” (§132).

Rio+20 called upon governments to “support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles, as well as improved transportation systems in rural areas” (§133).

The Conference emphasized “the important role of municipal governments in setting a vision for sustainable cities, from the initiation of city planning through to revitalization of older cities and neighbourhoods, including by adopting energy efficiency programmes in building management and developing sustainable, locally appropriate transport systems” (§136).

Rio +20 also “recognized that partnerships among cities and communities play an important role in promoting sustainable development”, and stressed “the need to strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and platforms, partnership arrangements and other implementation tools” (§137).

One of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post 2015 development agenda. It was decided to establish an “inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly”. The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals has recently commenced its work.

With regard to the institutional framework on sustainable development, the Rio+20 Conference decided to replace the UN Commission on Sustainable Development by a High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, which is expected to hold its first session at the beginning of the 68th session of the General Assembly (September 2013).

B. Objectives of the Rio+20 Follow-up High-level Dialogue

Whereas the Rio+20 Conference laid the foundation and charted the overall course for the desirable and needed policy action towards “the future we want”, the challenges ahead lie in *rapidly and effectively implementing the above mentioned decisions*.

The *Berlin High-level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Urban Transport* will coincide with the first anniversary of the Rio+20 Conference. The *Berlin High-level Dialogue* will also coincide with the *2013 Global Forum on Human Settlements and Awards Ceremony (GFHS)*.¹

The main objectives of the dialogue are to (a) highlight proven sustainable urban planning and transport policies and measures, (b) identify good and best practices in this regard, and (c) facilitate capacity building through national and international exchanges of information and experiences among relevant practitioners, experts and policy makers, in particular from developing countries. Whereas the *High-level Dialogue* is not a formal inter-governmental meeting, it provides a forum for national, regional and global information exchange and consultations among stakeholders, experts and decision makers.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon recently announced a Five Year Action Plan for his second term in office (2012-2016). Transport was identified as one of the six main building blocks for achieving sustainable development. The Secretary-General announced his intention to “*convene aviation, marine, ferry, rail, road and urban public transport providers, along with Governments and investors, to develop and take action on recommendations for more sustainable transport systems that can address rising congestion and pollution worldwide, particularly in urban areas.*”² The *Berlin High-level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Urban Transport* will provide an important contribution to this process.

C. Berlin: A future capital city of sustainability

On 23 November 2011, the leadership of the Social Democratic and Christian Democratic Parties (SPD and CDU) adopted a Coalition Agreement for governing the State of Berlin for the period 2011-2016 to become a **future “Capital City of Sustainability”**.³ In this declaration, the Government of the State of Berlin, *inter alia*, committed to

¹ The Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS) is a non-governmental organization accredited with the Rio+20 Conference and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) [for additional info, please see <http://www.gfhsforum.org/english/>]

² For a copy of the complete action plan lease see http://www.un.org/sg/priorities/sg_agenda_2012.pdf

³ For details please see Coalition Agreement “*Berliner Perspektiven für starke Wirtschaft, gute Arbeit and Sozialen Zusammenhalt*” (Berlin perspectives for a strong economy, decent employment and social solidarity). http://www.berlin.de/imperia/md/content/rbmskzl/koalitionsvereinbarung/koalitionsvereinbarung_2011.pdf?start&ts=1323092158&file=koalitionsvereinbarung_2011.pdf

- (a) scale up the use renewable energy (incl. through energy storage and smarter grids),
- (b) improve energy conservation in retrofitted and “greener” buildings,
- (c) re-develop and modernize urban “brownfields”,
- (d) establish clean technology business parks,
- (e) invest in infrastructure and public transport services, and to facilitate the use of car and bike sharing systems, with a view to attain the following milestones and goals,
- (f) by 2020, 10 per cent of vehicles to be electric (including electric bikes),
- (g) by 2030, 60 per cent of local electricity (2500 MW) to come from renewable sources,
- (h) by 2050, to become a carbon-neutral “Capital of Sustainability”.

During recent years, many of the public institutions in Berlin and many private companies have made significant investments in local sustainability initiatives, including various pilot projects providing public transport services in a sustainable way. An inner city clean air zone has been established since 2008, progressively restricting access for motor vehicles with diesel engines that emit more than maximum permissible emissions of fine dust (pm) or nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Expansion of pedestrian-only walking zones has made inner-city commercial zones easily accessible to shoppers. Berlin has also succeeded to expand quality public transportation services enabling residents to travel from nearly any location within the perimeter of the city to any other location by public transport and walking, to reach the destination within a reasonable period of time, in a safe, comfortable and affordable manner. Bicycle and car sharing, as well as electric bikes and vehicles have quickly become popular in recent years. The City of Berlin offers many innovations and best practices for study, information exchange and potential adaptation and replication in other cities.

D. Venue(s) and sustainability of the conference

The EUREF Campus with the iconic “Gasometer” is the main venue of the High-Level Dialogue. The EUREF Campus is in itself an outstanding example and a model for urban modernization and re-development. Most facilities on the EUREF Campus are powered exclusively by renewable sources of energy. For further information on the Conference venue, please see <http://www.eurefcampus.de/de/vision>.

The Innovation Center for Mobility and Societal Change (InnoZ), also located on the EUREF Campus, is hosting an independent large-scale electric mobility demonstration. Electric vehicles and electric bicycles are available and can be tested and used by conference participants.

A special evening reception will be held at “Old City Hall” (“Altes Stadthaus”), also used by the Senate of Berlin, in the evening of the arrival day (19 June 2013).

The Conference organizers will give particular attention to organizing the procurement for the conference and the related services in a sustainable way. Participants are encouraged to use public transport, wherever available.

In order to minimize the use of paper, the proceedings are intended to be disseminated in electronic format. Participants are encouraged to support projects that can contribute to the offset of travel-related carbon emissions.

E. Outline of provisional programme

Wednesday, 19 June 2013

Venue: “Gasometer”

Arrival of visiting participants and on-site registration (13:30)

Official welcome and briefing session (14:00 – 18:30)

Welcome address by Mayor and Senators of the City of Berlin

Mr. Michael Müller, Mayor and Senator for Urban Development and Environment,

Ms. Almuth Hartwig-Tiedt, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection, State of Brandenburg

Keynote addresses:

Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, Chair, Global Forum for Human Settlements,

Ms. Kathrin Schneider, Secretary-of-State, Ministry of Infrastructure and Agriculture of the State of Brandenburg

Introduction of participants and **visiting mayors and senior representatives of local authorities**

Technical briefing session on Sustainability Model Projects and Initiatives of Berlin City

Organizer: InnoZ, eMo, NOW other partners

Synopsis: During recent years, many model projects on sustainable urban planning, energy-efficient buildings and public transport systems have been designed and implemented and have made Berlin to become a demonstration zone or model city of sustainability. Visiting participants will have the opportunity to share information on the initial achievements of selected sustainable transport pilot projects, in particular in the area of electric mobility and hydrogen utilization.

Special briefing session on Model projects in international cooperation

Organizers: China Power International, InfraWind EurAsia, Technical University Berlin

Synopsis: The briefing will illustrate the special features and advantages of international cooperation in sustainable development of new (eco)cities and urban transport systems.

Guest speaker: Ms. Li Xiaolin, Chairman of China Power International, Hong Kong, China

Welcome cocktail reception - Venue: “Altes Stadthaus” – Berlin (19:00 – 20:30)

Thursday, 20 June 2013
Venue: Gasometer / EUREF Campus,
Berlin Schöneberg

Opening session (10:00 – 11:10)

Welcome address(es) by representatives of co-organizers

Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, President, German Federal Environment Agency

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), New York

Keynote statements

Mr. Peter Ramsauer, Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (invited)

Mr. Peter Altmaier, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Coffee break and networking 11:10 – 11:30

Moderated High-level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20: Multi-stakeholder cooperation and win-win-win scenarios in urban development and transport planning 11:30 – 13:00

(Co)-Moderator(s): Mr. Kurt Bodewig, Former Federal Minister of Transport, Germany, and Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development

Panelists: High-level participants – Distinguished personalities (8-10 VIP persons)

Synopsis: The High-level dialogue will provide invited VIPs and other participants an opportunity to express viewpoints and to articulate their opinion on how best urban development and urban transport can be addressed under the post-2015 UN development agenda currently under discussion at the United Nations.

Lunch break: 13:00 – 14:00

Viewing of exhibits / Poster Session / Networking participants & exhibitors (13:00 – 14:00)

Afternoon Parallel Dialogue sessions 14:00 – 18:00

Dialogue I: Global Forum on Human Settlements 2013: Best Practices in Urban Development and Eco-Cities

Organizer: GFHS, in cooperation with UNEP, ICLEI and other interested partners

Venue: Gasometer; simultaneous interpretation in English, German and Chinese provided

Synopsis: This session provides an international forum for presentation, information exchange and discussion of selected recent or on-going urban model or demonstration projects, in

particular from China and other Asian developing countries, aimed at improving quality of life at lower levels of emissions and environmental footprints. The session will be followed by a special GFHS awards ceremony in the evening.

Dialogue II: Linking Urban Development and Mobility _ Approaches and Success Stories in International Cooperation

Organizer: German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), in consultation with German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and German Bank for Reconstruction and Development (KfW) (in cooperation with Sustainable Low-Carbon Transport Partnership – SLoCAT)

Synopsis: In particular in the developing countries megacities are facing ever increasing challenges. The objectives of Dialogue II are to highlight the importance, showcase proven models and discuss practical experiences of international cooperation with a view to facilitate and promote policy options and projects that can make urban transport systems economically, socially and environmentally more sustainable.

Dialogue III: Multi-Modal Transport Concepts for Cities

Organizer: InnoZ, UN DESA, in cooperation with interested partners

Synopsis: Urban public transport systems that offer reliable and frequent connections can be expected to increase both numbers of users as well as revenues. In some cities, public transport is better and more popular than in others. In many cities, public transport operates at maximum occupancy and capacity during peak travel times and rush hours. Privately operated buses and vans also provide essential mobility services. In a growing number of cities, residents are also rediscovering the advantages of travel by bicycle. Bike-sharing and car-sharing systems are rapidly gaining popularity. Multimodal synergies and inter-connections can greatly contribute to a more sustainable urban transport future. In more and more cities, operators of public transport form local alliances with bus and vehicle manufacturers and car- and bike-sharing companies in order to offer new integrated mobility products and services, including integrated mobility cards and mobility and billing systems. Dialogue III seeks to involve concerned stakeholders in a review and a discussion of successful collaborative multi-modal transport business models.

Dialogue IV: Exchange on Urban Planning for Sustainable Transport

Organizer: London School of Economics, UN-Habitat and interested partners

Synopsis: Urban development and transport planning and the related regulatory framework can have significant impact on future transport demand, choice of transport modes and ecological footprints. The participants attending Dialogue IV are invited to present, discuss and exchange information on relevant practical tools and policy options that can make urban development and transport more sustainable. Such options may include (a) management, regulation and restrictions on parking of private vehicles, (b) congestion charges or similar (temporary) access restrictions, (c) design and implementation of inner city environmental zones, (d) planning and

design of urban transport infrastructure, including pedestrian-only zones, separate bicycle lanes, and (e) other measures. The discussion is expected to include a review of best practices in urban planning and related plan implementation. The discussion is also expected to identify challenges, potential risks, and effective strategies to overcome them.

Dialogue V: Sustainable Energy for Sustainable Transport

Organizer: Vattenfall Europe GmbH

Synopsis: The transition to more sustainable urban transport systems can only succeed in close association with an accelerated transition to new and more efficient transport energy technologies and a greater reliance on renewable sources of energy. Issuing such a call seems easy. However, decision makers and investors want to make prudent decisions that ensure not only genuine sustainability, but also long-term competitiveness and affordable cost. Dialogue V, therefore, intends to provide a forum to present and discuss innovations as well as trends and issues with regard to the various transport energy technology options, the different energy carriers, storage technologies, as well as alternative charging systems and power train technologies.

Viewing of exhibits / Poster Session / Networking participants & exhibitors and guided introduction to EUREF Campus Model Projects

Plenary Session: Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations 18:00 – 19:00

Synopsis: The rapporteurs of the parallel sessions will make brief oral summary reports to the plenary highlighting the main points presented and discussion during the parallel sessions.

Special Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS)

– Award ceremony -

19:30 – 20:00

Buffet Dinner – Cocktails 20:00

Friday, 21 June 2013
Venue: InnoZ / EUREF Campus
Berlin-Schöneberg

Working Group Meetings

Working Group Meeting: Global Consultation on Sustainable Transport in the post-2015 Development Framework

Organizer: UN DESA, in cooperation with GIZ and EurIST, and will include a panel of representatives from developing countries and an international financing agency

Contact: Thomas Hamlin, hamlin@un.org

Synopsis: Sustainable transport was recognized in the Rio+20 outcome document as an important sector, as transport is providing access to goods and services is essential to sustainable development. At the same time the adverse effects of congestion, pollution, noise, road accidents and unaffordable transport need to be reduced or avoided, particularly in urban areas of developing countries. As follow-up to Rio+20 an Open Working Group was struck for the purpose of identifying a set of Sustainable Development Goals to supersede the Millennium Development Goals which come to term in 2015. Consultations are taking place on a variety of the themes from the Rio+20 outcome. The purpose of consultation is to build a common understanding of an appropriate overarching goal with possible targets and indicators covering environmental, economic and social aspects of transport. Equity and inclusiveness is a key aspect. “Equitable access to goods and services through safe, clean, affordable and reliable transport systems including land use planning” is a formulation that attempts to integrate aspects supporting sustainable development generally. The consultation will inform national representatives and further common understanding amongst participants that will be reflected in a chairman’s summary that will be communicated to the Secretary General for consideration in setting the post-2015 Development Agenda and possible Sustainable Development Goals. Support for sustainable transport can be responded to by the multi-lateral development banks, UN agencies, bilateral aid agencies and technical assistance agencies as evidenced in their Voluntary Commitments made at Rio+20 (>\$175 billion).

Other Working Group Meetings or Briefing Sessions can be arrange upon request.

Optional sustainable transport study tour & site visit programme: 12:00 – 17:00

(Bus transfers and/or guided group rides on e-bikes)

Visits to (provisional programme, additional details to be announced):

- Berlin Traffic Management Center (VMZ Berlin)
- e-Car-Sharing and e-Bike-sharing services downtown Berlin (Potsdamer Platz)
- German Parliament
- Berlin Energy Efficiency Model Home (including e vehicles)

F. Co-Organizers and Supporters

The Berlin High-level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Urban Transport is co-organized by the German Innovation Center for Mobility and Societal Change (InnoZ) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS), in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Foundation for Social Change.

Additional partners are welcome and invited to join and support the envisaged collaborative efforts. Interested partners may contact the co-organizers listed on the last page.

G. Sponsorship opportunities

Some sponsorship opportunities are still available. Inquiries from Germany may be addressed to InnoZ in Berlin at the contact address provided below. Inquiries from China and/or other Asian countries may be addressed to the Shenzhen Office of GFHS at the contact address provided below. Inquiries from United States or other countries may be addressed to the United Nations Office for Partnerships in New York.

H. Participants and target audiences

Participation in the High-Level Dialogue and the associated meetings on enhancing sustainability in cities, urban transport and energy is by invitation only. Interested institutions, experts and the media are invited to contact any of the co-organizers listed on the last page with a view to pre-register their interest in attending some or all the planned sessions and events.

Some 200 - 250 experts from Germany and from countries around the world are expected to attend this event, including:

- Leading policy and decision makers from national and local governments,
- Representatives and experts of city administrations,
- Experts of urban transport public and private companies,
- Representatives and experts of civil society and academia;
- Representatives of national and international professional associations;
- Experts and representatives of relevant UN and international organizations, including international financial institutions.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations is in general free of charge, but participants are expected to cover their own travel costs. Participation in associated events may be subject to registration fees. A limited number of travel cost sponsorships are available for invited representatives and experts from developing countries.

I. Submission of papers and presentations

Invited speakers are requested to submit advance copies of their presentations in electronic format to the Secretariat (*please see contact information below*). All invited presentations should be limited to the specified agreed presentation time.

The proceedings of the High-level Dialogue will be published electronically on the UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>.

J. Exhibitions and Pre- and Post-Conference Workshops

The Innovation Center on Mobility and Societal Change (InnoZ) and its offices located on the EUREF Campus offer ample opportunities for exhibitions of products, information booths or display of information panels. Pre- and/or Post-Conference meetings can be arranged upon request. Interested exhibitors are invited to contact InnoZ at the address provided here below for further information.

K. Languages

The *Berlin High-level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Urban Transport* will be conducted mostly in English. Simultaneous interpretation in English, German and Chinese languages will be available during all plenaries and during the dialogue 1 group session.

L. Logistics

Detailed information on accommodation options and registration procedures will be circulated separately.

Contact Persons for Further Information:

German Innovation Center for Mobility and Societal Change (InnoZ)

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat)

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Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS)

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United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)

United Nations, New York, NY, 10017, USA Website: <http://www.un.org/partnerships/>

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Foundation for Social Change, Inc

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