

Co-Chairs Summary bullet points for OWG-7

Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport

- The world is rapidly urbanizing, and so cities are where “the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost”. Addressing the needs of the urban poor in informal settlements and slums is crucial for poverty eradication.
- Cities belong to larger regions with multiple ties to peri-urban and rural areas, and the SDGs should aim at balanced territorial development.
- The inclusion of an urbanization-related goal in SDGs framework was supported by many. The focus on urbanization should not detract from addressing the needs of rural populations.
- It was emphasized that urbanization should be seen as a process involving urban-rural flows of people, goods and services. Strong urban-rural linkages are essential for both rural development as well as the provision of essential goods to sustain urban life.
- The cross-cutting nature of sustainable cities and human settlements was stressed, necessitating an integrated approach addressing linkages with other sustainable development issues.
- Key factors contributing to sustainable cities and urban development are forward-looking, effective and inclusive urban design and land-use planning processes, including effective protection of public spaces; affordable housing and spatial planning to promote social inclusion; infrastructure development as means to serve planned urbanization and rural-urban integration; sound finances to support provision of affordable and accessible public services and to provide social protection; policies that promote economic dynamism, small-business formation and formal sector job creation, to name a few.
- Social inclusion was emphasized as an integral part of sustainable urbanization. Thus goals and targets should strive to overcome the social, economic and physical restrictions of the vulnerable marginalized groups and ensure their access to safe, affordable and sustainable forms of basic services.
- It was underlined that transportation is crucial for sustainable development addressing the mobility of people and goods. The importance of its inclusion in SDGs was well recognized, with many calling for it to be included at the level of targets under other goals.
- Many called for the SDGs to ensure access to safe, affordable and environmentally friendly forms of transportation for all. This entails avoiding unnecessary transport with smarter land use planning and improved access to ICT, shifting to public transportation systems, rail and waterway freight modes and safe convenient non-motorized transport where appropriate; improving environmental performance of existing forms of transport through innovation, the application of ICT, and improved engineering and design.

Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste)

- Changing consumption and production patterns is vital for sustainable development and poverty eradication, and also for protecting and managing the natural resource base and ecosystems.
- The cross-cutting nature of SCP was well recognized. Some delegations were therefore not convinced to have a stand-alone goal on SCP, favouring the incorporation of SCP under relevant goals in relevant areas such as energy, water and sanitation, food and agriculture, health.
- Many welcomed the Rio+20 decision to adopt the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP) and called for its implementation. A number of countries called for early and generous contributions to its trust fund.
- Several emphasized the importance of sustainable procurement, in particular public procurement, in generating sizeable demand for sustainably supplied goods and services, suggesting a target in this area would be useful. A mix of policies is needed to promote SCP, including fiscal instruments, education and awareness raising, voluntary certification schemes, and regulations, standards and legislation.
- It was recalled that existing agreements that address SCP call on developed countries to lead in shifting towards sustainable consumption and production; it was also noted that developing countries are already among the leaders in some areas like renewable energy.

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- Targets on decoupling resource use from economic growth were proposed, including for relative decoupling in developing countries and absolute decoupling in developed ones.
- Design of products is critical to life cycle management of impacts and encouraging recycling and reuse.
- SCP requires the involvement of all stakeholders, and the private sector would play an important role. Labelling schemes can be helpful in guiding and shaping consumer choices towards sustainable consumption, but care and capacity building are needed to avoid disadvantaging developing country producers, especially SMEs.
- The poor and the vulnerable are the first victims of harmful chemicals. It was highlighted that many developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, lack capacity to manage chemicals and waste sustainably.
- Reference was made to the need to reaffirm commitments to relevant Conventions relating to chemicals and waste; the SAICM 2020 target was proposed as a reference point for any possible SDG target relating to chemicals.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction

- Climate change poses a threat to sustainable development, putting at risk development gains and, among other things, threatening food security, intensifying water scarcity and flooding as well as worsening sea-level rise. The exposure of vulnerable countries was noted, including SIDS and LDCs. The poorest are most at risk from disasters and disasters intensify poverty.
- There was wide support for addressing climate change as a cross-cutting issue framed in terms of sustainable development, while respecting the role of and commitments under the UNFCCC.
- Several supported targets that reflect the challenges of addressing climate change in terms of building resilient infrastructure and human settlements, protecting forests, sustainable energy, food security, water management, SCP, and promoting low carbon and climate resilient development paths. Mention was made of including as a target the 2°C warming goal.
- Several called for the principle of CBDR to be reflected in the relevant targets; however, the view was also expressed that CBDR has evolved over time.
- The inter-connected nature of risks posed by climate change and disaster risks was recognized. Strong actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation are thus among the most effective means of reducing disaster risks. Without such actions, the frequency and intensity of, and the vulnerability to, disasters will only intensify in coming years and decades.
- Disaster losses have major impact, but the tools to address them are available, in particular the Hyogo Framework for Action. Mention was made of the need for an ambitious second Hyogo Framework for Action.
- Forced to think and act through managing systems to reduce disaster risks and build resilience. In this context, need to consider risk prevention through development pathways that minimise risk generation; risk reduction; and fostering resilience by improving the ability to deal with shocks of all kinds.
- Proposals were made for targets on disaster risk reduction including to reduce by a significant degree the severity of impacts as measured for example by loss of lives and economic losses.
- There is a need for a range of solutions, including access to technology and information systems for disaster management, and enhanced stakeholder capacities at all levels.
- Role of good governance and incorporation of lessons learned from indigenous knowledge was recognized.