Why the world needs an urban SDG?

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Urban transformation: Shanghai (1987)

Photo: REUTERS
Urban transformation: Shanghai (2012)

Photo: REUTERS
A stand-alone Urban Sustainable Development Goal

a 21st century idea whose time has come

www.urbanSDG.org
SDSN Proposal for 10 SDGs

1. End extreme poverty including hunger
2. Achieve development within planetary boundaries
3. Ensure effective learning for all children and youth for life and livelihood
4. Achieve gender equality, social inclusion, and human rights for all
5. Achieve health and wellbeing at all ages
6. Improve agriculture systems and raise rural prosperity
7. Empower inclusive, productive, and resilient cities
8. Curb human-induced climate change and ensure sustainable energy
9. Secure ecosystem services and biodiversity, and ensure good management of water and other natural resources
10. Transform governance for sustainable development
Partners: #urbanSDG Campaign
>170 Cities & regional Governments

SUPPORTS collected and promoted by United Cities and Local Governments, the major Global Network of Local and Regional Governments
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[www.urbansdg.uclg.org](http://www.urbansdg.uclg.org)
Supporting organisations: #urbanSDG
“..as a global mayor, and one whose city is who will forever be linked to the global sustainable development agenda, I cannot stress enough the fact that without an urban goal the SDGs will be incomplete”
Over 200 cities, regional governments, international organisations, people's movements & universities, support an stand alone

Urban Sustainable Development Goal

www.urbansdg.org
Campaign for an Urban Sustainable Development Goal

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by UN member states in 2000 have successfully focused world attention and action on ending extreme poverty in all its forms. The fifteen-year MDG period will be completed at the end of 2015. Participants at the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 resolved to finish the job of ending extreme poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency, and to place poverty reduction in the broader context of sustainable development.

Well-crafted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2015 to 2030 will help guide the public’s understanding of complex sustainable development challenges, inspire public and private action, promote integrated thinking, and foster accountability.

Urbanization will be the defining trend over the next several decades. Today, 50% of the world’s 7 billion people live in cities; and, by 2050, this will rise to 70%. Cities are home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation, with one billion people living in slums. At the same time, roughly 70% of global economic activity is urban, and as the urban population grows, so will the urban share of global GDP and investments.

The Campaign for an Urban SDG has been launched because the dynamism of cities represents a major sustainable development opportunity and we believe that a dedicated and stand-alone Urban SDG is essential to mobilize stakeholders, promote integrated, city-level approaches, and accelerate progress towards sustainable development, including the end of extreme poverty.
Why the world needs an urban SDG?
The world in 1900*

Population of Urban Agglomerations with 750,000 Inhabitants or more in 1900

Pop: 1.5 billion  Urban share: 13%  Gross World product: ~$2 trillion  Urban share: ~30%

The world in 1950

Population of Urban Agglomerations with 750,000 Inhabitants or more in 1950

Pop: 2.5 billion  Urban share: 29%  Gross World product: ~$7 trillion  Urban share: ~45%

Sources: UN (2011)
The world in 2013

Pop: 7 billion Urban share: ~50%  Gross World product: ~$70 trillion Urban share: ~70%

Sources: NASA, (2012), UN, (2011)
The world in 2025

Population of Urban Agglomerations with 750,000 Inhabitants or more in 2025

Pop: 8 billion Urban share:~58% Gross World product:~$85 trillion Urban share:~75%

Sources: UN (2011)
Cities as First Responders: Mitigation and Adaptation

NCAR CCSM 3.0 GCM A1b

Annual temperature change 2050s (°C)
Urbanisation is not just a ‘Megatrend’
it’s a ‘Gigatrend’
a millennial transformation of human culture, society, economy, polity & planetary systems
Did the MDGs (2000-2015) do ‘justice’ to urban areas?

1. No ‘urban’ MDG, but some progress
2. Slum MDG ‘achieved’
3. Questions:
   a. Goals for poor people in ‘poor’ countries
   b. Role of local & regional governments?
   c. Urban employment & economic development?
   d. Urban sustainability & Resilience?
   e. Urban social inclusion?
Why the World Needs an SDG on Cities

1. Given that urbanization is now a global-scale process, a sustainable planet depends on how cities grow, function, and respond to stress.

2. Leaders and citizens of urban areas need to be empowered to mobilize sustainability action.

3. An Urban SDG would motivate public-private partnerships for measurable implementation.

4. If urban issues are ‘mainstreamed’ across the other SDGs, the role of cities will disappear.

5. An Urban SDG would promote linkages and strengthen other SDGs.
21st century: a new governance architecture for Sustainable Development?

• A new set of 21st century SDGs that balance: intra-generational & inter-generational equity

• A new governance architecture balancing interests of:
  – Nation-states
  – Local & Regional governments
  – Firms
  – Rights of communities & citizens
1. The rural-urban dictomy
2. The too many goals challenge
3. The infrastructure opportunity
4. The ‘mainstreaming’ into other goals opportunity
5. The ‘localizing’ of other SDGs opportunity
The challenge of an #urbanSDG: mixing universal with regional & local indicators

1. Evidence that local & regional governments & partnerships can deliver around mixed universal with national/ regional / local indicators

2. Real issue: political & fiscal devolution
Why use 19\textsuperscript{th} century ideas & institutional frames to address a 21\textsuperscript{st} century challenge?
One (SDSN) articulation of an Urban Sustainable Development Goal
SDSN: Proposed Urban SDG (2015-2030)

Make all cities socially inclusive, economically productive, environmentally sustainable, secure, and resilient to climate change and other risks.

Develop participatory, accountable, and effective city* governance to support rapid and equitable urban transformation.

*and metropolitan region
SDSN: Three Proposed Urban SDG Targets

a. End extreme urban poverty, expand employment and productivity, and raise living standards, especially in slums.

b. Ensure universal access to a well-designed, secure, and affordable built environment and basic urban services including housing; water, sanitation and waste management; low-carbon energy and transport; and mobile and broadband communication.

c. Ensure safe air and water quality for all, and integrate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efficient land and resource use, and climate and disaster resilience into investments and standards.

*From these proposed targets, Urban Indicators are being developed via the Sustainable Cities Initiative in Accra, Bangalore, Durban, Rio de Janeiro & New York*
Operationalising an #urbanSDG: 
the case of Bangalore & New York City
Criteria for Successful SDGs

1. Guide public understanding of complex challenges
2. Mobilize key actors
3. Support effective public policies and private action
4. Be universal
5. Promote monitoring and accountability
Bangalore
New York City
End extreme urban poverty, expand employment and productivity, and raise living standards, especially in slums.
Urban SDG Target A - Eliminate extreme urban poverty, expand employment & productivity, & raise living standards, especially in slums & informal settlements

**BANGALORE**

Population with incomes above national poverty line

Population not living in slums and informal settlements

Households availing Banking Services

Gender Wage Disparity

Female Workforce Participation Gap

Workforce Participation Rate

1990
2000
2015
2030 BAU
SDG

Bangalore: indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
Urban SDG Target A - Eliminate extreme urban poverty, expand employment & productivity, & raise living standards, especially in slums & informal settlements

New York City: indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
Urban SDG Target A - Eliminate extreme urban poverty, expand employment & productivity, & raise living standards, especially in slums & informal settlements

BANGALORE

NEW YORK CITY

NOTE: Indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
SDSN: Urban SDG Target B

Ensure universal access to a well-designed, secure, and affordable built environment and basic urban services including housing; water, sanitation and waste management; low-carbon energy and transport; and mobile and broadband communication.
Urban SDG Target B - Ensure universal access to a secure and affordable built environment & basic services: housing, water, sanitation & waste management; low-carbon energy & transportation; & communication.

Bangalore: indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
Urban SDG Target B - Ensure universal access to a secure and affordable built environment & basic services: housing, water, sanitation & waste management; low-carbon energy & transportation; & communication.

NEW YORK CITY

- Households with access to safe, sufficient drinking water
- Households served by safe sanitation services
- Households and businesses with access to affordable and reliable low-carbon energy (approx.)
- Households with access to cell phones (approx.)
- Population living in adequate housing conditions (approx.)

New York City: indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
Urban SDG Target B - Ensure universal access to a secure and affordable built environment & basic services: housing, water, sanitation & waste management; low-carbon energy & transportation; & communication.

NOTE: Indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
Ensure safe air and water quality for all, and integrate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efficient land and resource use, and climate and disaster resilience into investments and standards.
Urban SDG Target C - Ensure safe air & water quality for all, & integrate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efficient land & resource use, & climate & disaster resilience into investments & standards

Bangalore: indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
Urban SDG Target C - Ensure safe air & water quality for all, & integrate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efficient land & resource use, & climate & disaster resilience into investments & standards

NEW YORK CITY

Quality of Disaster Risk Management

Urban Green Cover

Quality of Climate Change Action

Normal Difference Vegetation Index (approx.)

Water Quality Index

Air Quality Index (approx.)

New York City: indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
Urban SDG Target C - Ensure safe air & water quality for all, & integrate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efficient land & resource use, & climate & disaster resilience into investments & standards

NOTE: Indicative #urbanSDG set (work in progress, do not cite)
1. An urban Sustainable Development Goal is inspiration, aspirational and operationalisable
2. It can bring together multiple sectors, actors and processes in new ways that focus on the synergy between opportunities that overcome the many current systemic & structural challenges
3. This will not be easy, will require a re-imagined institutional and financial architecture, processes & metrics
4. It should be more equitable, politically and economically viable, cheaper and more efficient that ‘unstructured’ Business-as-Usual
5. The commitment of member-states, regional & local governments, communities, enterprises & the knowledge sector to transform governance could make this possible