



Date: 6 – 10 January 2014

### **Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport**

#### MNE–SI speaking points for 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of OWG SDGs

- Cities are an important engine for economic growth and socioeconomic development. By 2030, about 60 percent of the global population will live in cities, while the amount of land used for cities will be doubled. Yet the urban areas are already overcrowded and, particularly in developing countries, suffer from deficiencies of clean water, electricity, and other resources essential to the support of their populations and economies. The lack of access to basic services and livelihood leads to increasing risk of discrimination, social exclusion and, ultimately, violence and further roots people in poverty. In order to contribute to the eradication of poverty, access to decent employment opportunities and adequate social protection systems in cities should be provided. In designing appropriate policies, including on addressing inequalities and crime, emphasis should be put on the protection of women, children and youth, as well as stigmatized groups who face particular risks in this regard.
- We believe that urban development policies must be people-centered and holistic, addressing different and specific challenges of urban sustainable development.
- While planned urbanization invites positive change in the multidimensional society, namely maximizing human development and wellbeing and minimizing environmental impact, unplanned urbanization is rightly viewed as a negative trend that brings about atrocious consequences affecting every aspect of the society.
- Unplanned urbanization and settlements have negative effects on the health, access to sanitation, security, housing and migration, as well as vulnerable agricultural land and ecosystems. It can result in overconsumption and inefficiency when resources are limited and should be used effectively. A new agenda for urban planning is necessary in ensuring that cities not only become resource-efficient and low carbon-emitting, but go beyond that and positively enhance the ecosystems which provide them with goods and services. Urban areas should be transformed into regenerative cities that reduce their dependency on fossil fuels, boost the deployment of renewable energy, reintroduce water into the hydrological cycle and make sewage reprocessing and nutrient capture central to urban waste management.
- Transforming urban infrastructure into regenerative systems consequently requires an integrated approach, coordinated action and policy dialogue. Sustainable urban development requires cooperation of public, private and civil society spheres in a multi-stakeholder participatory process, a multi-sectoral approach among authorities, as well as regional and global networks of cities. Enabling businesses to invest in future-just and sustainable technology has critical role.

- Agglomeration requires that sustainable transportation systems be built. In our view, transport is, without doubt, a social, economic and environmental issue, which can make key contributions to the sustainable development. As such, it should be taken into consideration in elaborating the future UN post-2015 development agenda.
- Achieving sustainable urban and rural accessibility is a vital step in the overall improvement of the urban and rural environment and maintenance of the economic viability of cities and rural areas. Meeting environmental and transport objectives requires integrated approaches combining transport, environmental and spatial planning.
- Achieving sustainable urban and rural accessibility requires the development of sustainability goals and indicators, target setting and monitoring, along with policies aimed at improving accessibility and not simply movement. Interconnection of accessibility, economic development and environmental objectives should be the primary objective of transport policies.
- An integrated multi-modal transport system, with the inclusion of safe and attractive facilities for cycling and walking is required. This system needs to be safe, accessible and affordable to everyone, as well as energy efficient in order to reduce greenhouse gas emission and air pollution. In this endeavour, cooperation between governments with all relevant stakeholders, namely private sector and civil society is of crucial importance.
- Allow me to point out our position that SDGs should be formulated through human rights based approach. As we have stressed already at previous sessions, that respect for human rights is an important prerequisite for achieving sustainable development.
- Before I conclude, I would like to recall our general position towards the elaboration of SDGs that should be evidence-based and have measurable qualitative and quantitative indicators that will help to ensure full implementation of the visions we are certain we will create together in this process.