Global consensus: Cities as critical actors

Louise Scholtz
Programme Manager: Urban Futures
WWF-SA
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Roadmap

- Why Cities – context, opportunities and challenges
- Global consensus on role of cities
  - UNFCCC
  - SDGs and
  - New Urban Agenda
Cities Matter!

- Rapid urbanisation & emissions
- Cities as a problem space
  - Contributions to climate change
  - Consequences of climate change
- Cities as a solution space
  - Mitigation: GHG emission reduction strategies
  - Adaptation: preparatory strategies
  - Synergies
  - Scale

70% CO₂ FROM CITIES
‘Rise of a “New Localism” - reinventing the 21st Century City
• Over two-thirds of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) indicate specific urban content
  ➢ Clear relation between sustainable urbanization and climate action
  ➢ Focus on mitigation, adaptation or a balance of both

• NDCs from Asia and Africa indicate strongest urban content
  ➢ Most rapidly urbanizing areas, presenting a window of opportunity for future sustainable urban development
UPDATE: 7,518 cities, representing 707,674,157 people worldwide and 9.62% of the total global population, have committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.
ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE
By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

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.

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.
The new role of cities anticipated by SDG 11

Urban areas (and planning) will be expected to deal with ALL the key global issues. It is assumed cities are the major contributors to these, and offer the greatest potential to address them...
The New Urban Agenda was unanimously adopted by member states at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

Plan of action to effectively address the complex challenges of urbanization (particularly rising inequality and environmental degradation) that will help countries seize – and showcase – the opportunities of good urbanization, which make cities and human settlements more inclusive, resilient and safe and enable urbanisation to become the positive transformative force.

UN Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
Thank you

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