



communitas

**COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES & REGIONS  
IN THE NEW UN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

*Executive Summaries* | *from First Draft Issues Papers  
discussed at Experts' Workshop*

## OVERVIEW

Communitas is a coalition for sustainable cities & regions led by its core partners - Tellus Institute, ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability, nrg4SD- Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development and UN-Habitat - with the support of the Ford Foundation, the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, and the European Union. Our technical methodology is based on thematic work groups led by experts producing issues papers with proposals for urban targets in close consultation with a multi-stakeholder advisory committee.

## EXPERTS' WORKSHOP

On 5-6 December 2013, the Communitas Coalition held its first Experts' Workshop - in collaboration with UN DESA, Member States Friends of Cities, Major Groups & Stakeholders and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) - to enable governments to discuss informally with experts, Major Groups and stakeholders and the UN system the issue of sustainable urbanization in the future SDGs framework and UN development agenda. By building on the lessons learned and the results achieved by the MDGs, the workshop's vision was to advance just, prosperous and sustainable city-regions as a key element of the overall new UN Development Agenda; and therefore capitalize on the megatrend of urbanization in order to halt growing inequality and longstanding poverty at the city-region scale within the framework of sustainable development.

The agenda, first draft issues papers and presentations by experts have been made available online: <http://communitascoalition.org/activities.html#experts>

### ZERO DRAFT TARGETS

#### Fundamental Urban Patterns.

*By 2030,*

1. All city-regions have adopted policies aimed at enhancing urban den-

sity and halving the current rate of conversion of additional greenfield land for urban development.

2. Secure access to jobs, goods and services within 30 minutes by public



transport, walking and/or cycling for nearly all urban households.

3. Develop strategies that consolidate and reinforce existing urban assets in order to preserve and enhance the physical and social assets in cities and to integrate social and cultural infrastructure early in the planning and design of the physical environment.
4. Invest in green infrastructure at the city region scale for social cohesion and community resilience.
5. All city-regions have a tree canopy covering at least 20% of their area meeting the WHO's suggested minimum of 9 square meters open space per resident.
6. Collect cross-sectoral baseline data for all cities with population greater than one million, to understand resource consumption and monitor performance.

### **An Urban Life of Dignity for All within Planetary Boundaries**

*By 2030,*

1. Provide universal access to affordable shelter served by basic, urban public services for urban slum dwellers and public credit schemes for the urban poor to support shelter and livelihoods.

2. Guarantee safe affordable drinking water and basic sanitation to all urban households.
3. Invest in capacity building and skills with a focus on youth and women unemployed or locked into the urban informal economy.
4. At least halve air pollution from passenger and freight transport, to reach peak global transport GHG emissions by 2020 at the latest, with an ultimate vision of achieving 40-60% reductions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.
5. At least halve traffic-related deaths with an ultimate vision of near zero fatalities.
6. Double the total investment in green technologies and ICT applications to adopt community-based data collection systems in order to guide planning and program development for universal access to services, in particular for the urban poor and informal workers.
7. By 2030 increase by 50% the number of countries with social inclusion policies, following multi-level governance and multi-actor approaches and contributing to the decentralization process, mainly fiscal.

## Enabling Policies

*By 2030,*

1. All city-regions have develop pre-emptive and resilient urban design strategies to compensate for known and unknown crises.
2. At least 50% of subnational and local authorities have developed, broadly disseminated and established institutional mechanisms for disaster response plans aimed at minimizing human suffering and rapidly restoring lifeline services.
3. Redirect subsidies to fossil fuel and resource-based industries by 10% per annum towards sustainable economic sectors relevant to each country in order to foster its internal social and territorial cohesion.
4. Promote and empower monitoring systems and peer-reviews among

city-region partners revolving around the achievement of the SDGs at the local level, harnessing the work of networks of cities and sub-national and local authorities.

## Territorial Dimension of other Sustainable Development Policies

*By 2030,*

1. Increase by x% city-regions that have identified, inventoried and completed condition assessments of major ecosystems within their region.
2. All city-regions undertake vulnerability assessments of current and future climate and other disaster risks, and 50% of city-regions in both developed and developing countries adopt adaptation strategies informed by rigorous vulnerability assessments, that prioritize vulnerable populations and major ecosystem integrity.

3. Integrate non-food and food ecosystem planning at the city-region level in disaster risk management and climate action plans.
4. Adopt multi-level inclusive and transparent governance mechanisms to link urban-rural planning and implementation, empowering fair and inclusive trade for city-region food systems and expanding employment opportunities in the food chain from farm-to-table, for markets of all kinds.

### **Governance & Accountability**

*By 2030,*

1. Incorporate participatory mechanisms - such as spaces of deliberation, citizen audits, participatory budgeting, community-based data collection - in the strategic planning of cities, ensuring the involvement of the most disadvantaged groups, including slum dwellers.
2. Hold all levels of government and governmental agencies accountable against sustainability performance outcomes vis-a-vis the triple bottom line – environmental protection, economic development, and social equity - and achieve greater coordination between all levels of government and agencies responsible for key public services.
3. Across all levels of government, monitor and end discrimination and inequalities - based on gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, and social or other status - in public service delivery, the respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and participation in political and economic life.
4. Guarantee the participation of subnational and local authorities in the decision-making spaces of the Global Governance Framework for the the post-2015 Development Agenda.

## MOVING FORWARD

- By the year's end, Communitas Lead Experts and Secretariat will have completed their **review of draft issues papers**, drawing on input from Advisory Committee members and on the high quality input provided by you all at the workshop.
- By the year's end, an **Outcomes Report** will provide a précis of the multi-stakeholder discussions around urban targets for the SDGs held at the workshop.
- In order to inform the UN intergovernmental SDGs Open Working Group session in January, which is dedicated to sustainable cities and related topics, the Communitas Secretariat will submit two documents: (a) a **Synthesis Report** presenting the refined Communitas proposals for a standalone urban SDG and other urban targets. We will do this in consultation with the other groupings currently working in this area; (b) An accompanying **booklet of real-world experiences** drawing from the questionnaires we have collected from local & regional authorities via ICLEI and nrg4SD and from our Advisory Committee members.
- Also in January, Communitas will pursue a **side event** during the SDGs Open Working Group session. We are also organising **informal consultations with UN agencies** and will seek to convene a meeting with the other groupings carrying out work on urban targets in order to contribute to collaborative approaches and joint strategising.
- For mid/end February we will engage in **multi-stakeholder exercises** advocating for an urban SDG to feed into the very early stages of the preparation of the report of the SDGs Open Working Group.
- Communitas will also be participating in the **World Urban Forum** takes further shape; we will continue to host future experts' workshops and similar events are confirmed with our core partners and collaborators.



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# INTRODUCTION

Communitas is a coalition for sustainable cities & regions led by its core partners - Tellus Institute, ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability, nrg4SD- Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development and UN-Habitat - with the support of the Ford Foundation, the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, and the European Union. Our technical methodology is based on thematic work groups led by experts producing issues papers with proposals for urban targets in close consultation with a multi-stakeholder advisory committee.

Drawing on a participatory process, the Communitas Coalition seeks to:

- (1) Advance **sustainable urbanization** as a key component of the future UN Development Agenda, its Goals, tools, means of implementation and partnerships;
- (2) Contribute to the technical development of an **urban Goal with targets** related to the economic, social, environmental, spatial and cultural dimensions of sustainable development and a basket of relevant indicators;
- (3) Ensure the presence, as appropriate, of an **urban dimension** in the final set of SDGs to be agreed upon.

In September 2013 the Communitas Coalition launched, assembling six **expert- and practitioner-led work groups** to set the overall targets for just, prosperous and sustainable urbanization.

## THEMATIC WORK GROUPS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Integrated urban planning & design for city-region connectivity & efficiency and inclusive public space | 4) Universal access to affordable & quality social services & public utilities incl. shelter, water & sanitation, transport & energy |
| 2) Participatory democracy, poverty & inequalities reduction   | 5) Linkages with rural development, including food security & resources provision  |
| 3) Prosperity & jobs for all within planetary boundaries with a focus on youth & women                     | 6) Resilience through risk prevention & management & environmental sustainability  |

## LEAD EXPERTS

Each work group is spearheaded by a Lead Expert in his/her respective field, charged with the elaboration of an issues paper proposing technical targets for the SDGs

1. Mr. Arun Jain, *Chair, "Another Urban Future" and Board Member, International Federation of Housing and Planning (IFHP)*
2. Ms. Andrea Costafreda, *Associate Researcher & Consultant, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs and Lecturer on Development Policies & Programmes, Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI)*
3. Dr. Mark Roseland, *Director, Centre for Sustainable Community Development and Professor, Simon Fraser University*
4. Dr. Anjali Mahendra, *Strategy Head, Research & Practice, EMBARQ India, World Resources Institute (WRI)*
5. Mr. Thomas Forster, *Senior Government Affairs Advisor, School Food FOCUS; Adjunct Faculty, New School for Public Engagement, Food Studies Program; Co-Director, International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA)*
6. Mr. James Goldstein, *Senior Fellow, Tellus Institute*

Each of these six lead experts has produced first draft issues papers (<http://communitascoalition.org/communitas.html>) with contributions from the Communitas Advisory Committee.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Communitas Advisory Committee helps coordinate the thematic work groups drawn from a wide spectrum of stakeholder organizations in the social, human rights and environmental fields, as well as from within the UN system. The Advisory Committee ensures that Communitas lives up to its identity as a cross-sectoral technical group, led by organizations of

subnational and local authorities, working in a multi-stakeholder approach, along with the UN system and its Member States.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Children & Youth Major Group (MGCY)

EMBARQ, World Resources Institute (WRI) - Mr. Holger Dalkmann

Habitat for Humanity International - Mr. Dan Petrie

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) - Ms. Lorena Zárate

The Huairou Commission - Ms. Janice Peterson

Institute for Transportation & Development Policy (ITDP) - Mr. Michael Replogle

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - Mr. Zak Bleicher

International Housing Coalition (IHC) - Mr. Bob Dubinsky

Millennium Institute - Ms. Mayumi Sakoh

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) - Mr. John Romano

Oxfam Great Britain - Mr. Alan Brouder

Regional Studies Association (UK) - Mr. Gordon E. Dabinett

Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture & Food Security (RUAF) - Ms. Marielle Dubbeling

Shack / Slum Dwellers International (SDI) - Mr. Benjamin Bradlow

Swiss Re - Mr. Mark Way

Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) - Ms. Eleanor Blomstrom

Mr. Arthur Getz Escudero, Fmr. Director, Global Policy Change & Food Systems Advocacy,

Heifer International

Dr. Arthur MacEwan, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston

Dr. Ashwani Vasishth, School of Social Science & Human Services (SSHS), Ramapo College

*This list reflects the latest membership of the Advisory Committee, which is currently ongoing.*

# WORK GROUP 1: INTEGRATED URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN FOR CITY-REGION CONNECTIVITY & EFFICIENCY AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE

**Author:** Mr. Arun Jain, *Chair, "Another Urban Future" and Board Member, International Federation of Housing and Planning (IFHP)*

A number of discussions precede this issues paper, which proposes three targets on how spatially oriented planning and design thinking and action can improve our urban condition. These targets seek to influence the urban agenda that will be established in Habitat III. The roots of this discussion build upon Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals.

There are a number of prevailing social, environmental and economic challenges that impact the quality of life in cities. They include: rapid urbanization, concerns of sprawl, our urban and ecological footprints, land tenure, institutional capacity, climate change adaptability, social and community infrastructure, governance, and our ability to remain context sensitive.

Our biggest policy challenge related to spatial planning is countering the widespread assumption that social gain is best obtained as a consequence of economic growth and urban development. To the contrary, desired social outcomes should lead and define the degree and direction of action. In parallel, established governance, regulatory and financial structures continue to limit the viability of new and innovative urban policies.

Given the immense pressure of expected urbanization, (over 60% of the area expected to be urban remains to be built) our foreseeable challenge will be to plan new areas to establish and integrate sustainable environmental, social and economic frameworks faster than people can arrive. This, together with the imperative to retrofit and upgrade our existing urban shortcomings, elevates the need for a coherent global urban agenda. Despite these difficult realities there

are many examples of success. They demonstrate that innovative urban management planning and design strategies can be introduced and maintained, but they require ongoing political will and resources to do so.

In response to these challenges three targets are proposed:

1. The first urges governments to develop strategies that consolidate and reinforce existing urban assets. This target is based upon the idea is that the need for growth can be tempered by managing and re-purposing existing assets in our urban environments. This means preserving and enhancing the physical and social assets in cities. It also has implications on the potential for material recovery within cities or “urban mining”.
2. The second target urges cities to develop pre-emptive and resilient urban design strategies to compensate for known and unknown crises. This need is predicated on growing evidence that many cities will be in increasingly persistent crisis management mode preventing any substantial upgrades to more aspirational goals.
3. The final target focuses on integrating social and cultural infrastructure early in the planning and design of the physical environment. Social sustainability (even resilience) is directly related to the mature community based institutions that develop over time.

Each of these targets will need new metrics and indicators to monitor, evaluate and innovate. An urban SDG reflects the fact that urbanization is a "megatrend" shaping the 21st Century - socially, economically, environmentally - and appropriately elevates cities regions as key focal points in the future Development Agenda. As with the MDGs, establishing an urban SDG will raise awareness throughout the globe and provide a continual spotlight on city-regions as critical for attaining sustainable human development, poverty eradication, universal provision of public services, and place-based integrated strategies to enhance resilience and environmental sustainability through risk prevention and management.

## WORK GROUP 2: PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY, POVERTY & INEQUALITIES REDUCTION

**Author:** Ms. Andrea Costafreda, *Associate Researcher & Consultant, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs and Lecturer on Development Policies & Programmes, Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI)*

Globalization and decentralization phenomena, along with the on-going urbanisation process have placed subnational and local governments at the centre of the sustainable development agenda over the past decades, and this has been clearly highlighted in the Report of the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 Development Agenda and in 'The Future We Want' Outcome Document of the UN Sustainable Development Conference of June 2012, Rio+20.

Cities, at the city-region scale,<sup>1</sup> can be sources of welfare and opportunities, but in a global context of increasingly domestic inequalities, these opportunities are not well distributed. Indeed, although resources exist, the poor lack the political power to claim their entitlements and they are deprived of the basic rights of citizenship: civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental. Furthermore, inequalities have a clear expression in spatial and urban segregation, so that the bulk of poor urban people are concentrated mainly in slums, where it is estimated that a third of the population in developing countries lives. At the local level, reversing this situation requires a democratic and effective subnational and local government leadership, in coordination with other levels of government and in close collaboration with civil society and the private sector.

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<sup>1</sup> In this paper we use the terms "cities," "city-regions," "urban areas," and "urban regions" interchangeably to denote metropolitan areas that are centers of population and economic activity. Our use of these terms is also intended to include the important links to surrounding ecosystems and rural areas. The term "regions" or "subnational governments" when used alone reflects the intermediate level of government between the local municipal level and the national one, which can take the shape of regions, states, or provinces.

At the international global level, the Global Governance Framework for the post-2015 development agenda needs to guaranty a formal recognition of the crucial role that subnational and local governments are playing. In this regard, the Report of the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 development agenda proposes the creation of a “New Global Partnership” that “should engage national governments of all countries, local authorities, International organisations, businesses, civil society, foundations and other philanthropists, and people all sitting at the table to go beyond aid to discuss a truly International framework of policies to achieve sustainable development.”

These challenges require new models of “collaborative governance” characterized by interdependence, multilevel and multi-stakeholder approaches, where the public interacts with the private and where less hierarchical decision-making structures should be incorporated. However, it must be noticed that an effective subnational and local government leadership in a scheme of multilevel governance is only possible within a framework of effective political, fiscal and administrative decentralization. Besides, the quality of subnational and local governance will be measured in the ability to incorporate mechanisms to ensure the political voice and the democratic political control to all citizens, especially to traditionally excluded groups. In fact, an effective and legitimate public action relies not only on the quality of institutions but also on the real involvement of the community and its citizens in the decision-making and accountability processes.

There are some outstanding policy approaches and instruments used to date to confront urban poverty and inequalities that come from both subnational and local governments leadership and civil society initiatives.

One of the most used has been social inclusion policies. Though the reality of urban inequality and poverty can be understood from the standpoint of social exclusion; these social inclusion policies have put particular emphasis on a rights-based approach. This has entailed seeking universal access to basic public services; ability to exercise human rights as well as participatory democracy for all. This policy approach emphasizes the importance of multilevel govern-

ance as a tool in order to achieve coordination between all levels of government. Indeed, many social inclusion strategies, such as employment, tax policy or civil registration, require national support.

The Rights approach stands out as a creation from civil society that has led to advocacy instruments such as the Right to the City. This is an approach that connects with the agenda of social inclusion policies. Some have seen it is rather as an instrument of advocacy and political incidence. However its power lies in the fact that it is a political, community-empowering instrument that puts at the centre of political action the construction of citizenship. Besides, in Brazil, and to a lesser extent, in Colombia and Equator, the Right to the City has been translated into legislation, urban policies and new democratic institutions.

A second policy approach has been the technical tool of local/urban strategic planning, used as a mechanism to identify needs and to set priorities for policy action, especially in the field of spatial organisation and urban planning. It has emerged as a useful human development tool since it has incorporated mechanisms to include grassroots voices and since it has evolved towards a more comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach.

Another approach that is being supported is that of social inclusion policies. From this perspective, the reality of urban inequality and poverty should be approached from the standpoint of social exclusion. This policy approach emphasizes the importance of multilevel governance as it requires coordination between all levels of government. Indeed, many social inclusion strategies, such as employment, tax policy or civil registration, require national support.

The Rights approach stands out as a creation from civil society that has led to advocacy instruments such as the Right to the City. This is an approach that connects with the agenda of social inclusion policies. And although so far it is rather an instrument of advocacy and political incidence, its power lies in the fact that it is a political, community-empowering instrument that puts at the centre of political action the construction of citizenship.

This Issues Paper proposes a double approach to operationalize the importance of subnational and local democratic governance to empower sustainable development in city-regions and hence provide political tools for the urgent challenge of urban poverty and exclusion. The double approach consists of three targets to be included under a stand-alone urban SDG, and three specific urban targets to be placed under other relevant SDGs.

Concerning the **targets for a stand-alone urban SDG** this paper proposes:

4. By 2030 increase in 50% the number of countries with social inclusion policies led by subnational and local governments, based on multi-level governance and multi-actor approaches for participatory democracy and oriented to deepening the decentralization process, mainly fiscal decentralization.
5. By 2013 increase in 100% the participation of slum dwellers in local elections.
6. Incorporate participatory mechanisms (spaces of deliberation, citizen audits, participatory budgeting, community collection systems information, popular initiatives, referenda) in the instruments of strategic planning of cities, ensuring the involvement of the most disadvantaged groups are involved.

In relation to the proposal of **urban targets linked to other SDGs**, this paper suggests:

7. Monitor (at all levels of government) and end discrimination and inequalities and non-respect of human rights in public service delivery, the rule of law, access to justice, and participation in political and economic life on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, and social or other status.
8. Guarantee the participation of subnational and local authorities in the decision-making spaces of the Global Governance Framework for the the post-2015 development agenda
9. Promote monitoring systems and peer-reviews among city-region partners revolving around the achievement of the SDGs at local level, harnessing the work of networks of cities and subnational and local authorities.

## WORK GROUP 3: PROSPERITY & JOBS FOR ALL WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES WITH A FOCUS ON YOUTH & WOMEN

**Author:** Dr. Mark Roseland, *Director, Centre for Sustainable Community Development and Professor, Simon Fraser University*

Two huge and potentially conflicting challenges face humanity in the post-2015 period. One is to bring the “bottom billion” out of the misery and despair of abject poverty. The other is to bring the biosphere, particularly the climate, within planetary boundaries by, in particular, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Conventionally, poverty alleviation is understood to require increasing economic growth. Yet increasing economic growth is also widely recognized as a key driver for increased resource depletion and pollution and, in particular, greenhouse gas emissions. How are we to address each of these challenges without worsening the other?

This dilemma is further complicated now by the changing role of cities. The earth’s population has now reached 7 billion and is still growing rapidly, the majority of people for the first time now live in urban areas, the largest and poorest of those urban areas are themselves growing rapidly, and there is increasing recognition that one key to advancing sustainable development is to better enable cities and regions to address global as well as local development challenges.

As part of the *Communitas* process, several subnational and local governments as well as practitioner organizations completed questionnaires regarding challenges and obstacles, successes, key actors and roles, targets and data gaps. While these responses come from varied kinds of organizations and cities and regions in different parts of the world, a review of their responses illustrates common themes, which are reflected in the proposed targets. These practitioner responses confirm the need for a clearly supported urban Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to help align the various decision-makers and stakeholders involved in implemen-

tation and achieve a sustainable pattern of urban prosperity in the urban areas in which 70% of humankind is expected to live by 2050.

Given the need to address the ecological, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development not only at the international and national levels but also at the city-region scale in an integrated manner, the following targets related to growth, prosperity and jobs for all within planetary boundaries (with a focus on youth and women) are proposed:

1. Bring global, national and city region production and consumption within planetary boundaries. The city region scale offers potential for resource inventories such as ecological footprint analyses, and sustainable consumption and production patterns, including via green and ethical public procurement.
2. Redirect subsidies to fossil fuel and resource-based industries by 10% per annum towards sustainable economic sectors relevant to each country in order to foster its social and territorial cohesion.
3. Build the Urban Green Economy.
4. Invest in Green Infrastructure also at the city region scale for social cohesion and community resilience.
5. Invest in capacity building and skills with a focus on youth and women unemployed or locked into the urban informal economy.

Much of the momentum for sustainable urbanization is coming from cities and regions themselves. There is increasing recognition that one key to advancing sustainable development is to better enable cities and regions to address global as well as local development challenges. To manage this growing wave in a way that reconciles the potentially conflicting objectives of poverty reduction and climate action, this paper supports the case for an urban SDG. In particular, it shows how green growth can become a mutually beneficial and cohesive new approach to human development and that it will be crucial to operationalize this at the city region level.

Our review of proposed targets demonstrates that the global community still lacks a shared understanding of the integration of objectives required for sustainable development. This underscores the need to develop frameworks, indicators, methods and tools to ensure that we are not making decisions about economic, social and environmental aspects of society in isolation. For the SDGs to be successful, we need to create a widely accepted development framework that is grounded in sustainable development theory and addresses all aspects of sustainability (at least ecological, economic, and social); integrates competing interests; includes all levels of government and stakeholders; measures progress; and provides a common language to talk about sustainable development.

For the growth and prosperity-related SDGs and their targets and indicators to be globally relevant they must be relevant to city-dwellers. Policymakers need to adopt a wider view of cities' use of space and resource footprints and to connect local development with global impact to achieve long-term urban sustainability as a key component of sustainable human development.

## WORK GROUP 4: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE & QUALITY SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC UTILITIES INCL. SHELTER, WATER & SANITATION, TRANSPORT & ENERGY

**Author:** Dr. Anjali Mahendra, *Strategy Head, Research & Practice, EMBARQ India, World Resources Institute (WRI)*

Over half of the world's population now lives in cities, a share likely to reach 70 percent in 2050. 90 percent of the growth in urbanization comes from developing countries as a result of rapid economic growth and increasing migration from rural to urban areas. This unprecedented pace of urbanization is a major shift since the Millennium Development Goals were adopted, and this is placing heavy demands on urban services for transport, energy, water and sanitation, housing, and solid waste management. It is also creating severe challenges of inadequate and unequal access to these services across urban populations, particularly the urban poor. Although cities are engines of economic growth, their institutional and financial capacity to handle this growing demand is often limited. A post-2015 sustainable development goal (SDG) that focuses on these urban challenges is therefore, essential to mobilize all urban stakeholders from the public, private, and civil society sectors to take action towards improving universal access to high quality and affordable public services in urban areas.

Key trends across sectors show worsening outcomes with respect to universal access. The number of urban slum dwellers lacking access to affordable housing and basic urban services has increased by over 100 million since 2000. Projections indicate that the over one billion motor vehicles in the world and 1.2 million traffic fatalities will double by 2030, worsening the negative economic and public health impacts disproportionately borne by the urban poor. In 2012, an estimated 780 million people lacked access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion people lacked access to basic sanitation services worldwide, with diarrhea resulting from poor sanitation causing 800,000 deaths of children under five each year. Among urban populations,

700 million lacked access to clean fuels in 2005, with 279 million lacking electricity. The amount of municipal solid waste generated worldwide will increase by almost 70 percent by 2025, requiring enhanced financing and capacity to manage it.

Evidence shows that common challenges in universal access to affordable urban services relate to financing, limited capacity, lack of data, few integrated policies, and governance issues. Policy approaches to enable and improve universal access must include international, national, local, and community-driven actions. Access to international financing, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing for cities is important, along with national policies that empower subnational and local institutions, create infrastructure and financing programs for universal access. Local sectoral policies and integrated city level planning must be guided by data, including community-collected data on informality and poverty.

Five key points emerge to guide policies and programs – (i) urban land use and spatial planning has significant long term impacts on access to urban services; (ii) universal access to services in cities determines economic, health, inclusion and environmental outcomes; (iii) localized or distributed models for urban service delivery, involving local communities partnering with governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector, enhance universal access, save costs, and are often more resource efficient; (iv) achieving universal access to urban services requires strong institutional support and empowerment of subnational and local authorities; and (v) an agenda for inclusive urban services will depend on the ability to collect and mainstream data inform planning decisions.

Given the critical issues related to universal access to these services in urban areas, several quantitative targets are proposed for an urban SDG, on these themes.

## QUANTATATIVE TARGETS

1. Safe affordable drinking water and basic sanitation available to ALL urban households by 2030.

2. Doubling of investment in green technologies (e.g. renewable energy, smart energy meters, etc.) and ICT applications to improve universal access to urban services by 2030.
3. Per capita consumption of fossil fuel-based energy and water is halved in the Global North by 2030.
3. By 2030, nearly all urban households are able to access jobs, goods and services within 30 minutes by public transport and/or walking and cycling.
4. Air pollution from passenger and freight transport is halved by 2025 and GHG emissions from transport peak globally latest by 2020 with an ultimate vision of 40-60% reductions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.
5. Traffic related deaths are cut in half by 2025 with an ultimate vision of near zero fatalities.
6. 100 percent of urban slum dwellers have access to affordable housing served by basic, urban public services.
7. Public credit schemes are available to 100 percent of urban poor to support housing and livelihoods by 2030.
8. By 2030, metropolitan density is increased and conversion of additional greenfield land for urban development is limited in cities worldwide to less than half of current rates.

## TARGETS TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE

9. By 2030, city-level baseline data across sectors is produced for all cities with population greater than one million, to understand resource consumption and monitor performance.

10. Greater coordination is achieved across all levels of government and agencies responsible for key services such housing, transport, water & sanitation, and energy to deliver integrated low carbon solutions (e.g. renewable energy in low-cost housing).
11. National, subnational, and local agencies are accountable against performance outcomes related to sustainability (measured by how well they are achieving the triple bottom line – environmental protection, economic development, and social equity).
12. Enhanced community level data on the urban poor and informal workers is available to guide policy, planning, and program development for universal access to services.

Whether urban issues are considered as a standalone SDG or as a key component of the other SDG themes, these issues merit urgent attention in the post-2015 development agenda.

# WORK GROUP 5: LINKAGES WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING FOOD SECURITY & RESOURCES PROVISION

**Author:** Thomas Forster, *Senior Government Affairs Advisor, School Food FOCUS; Adjunct Faculty, New School for Public Engagement, Food Studies Program; Co-Director, International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA)*

The following key messages are outlined in the paper:

- Rural areas are where the majority of poverty and hunger are found, and yet urban areas have great inequity in access to food, water, land and other resources, most affecting women, youth and small scale farmers and businesses.
- An increasingly urban world will only be sustainable and resilient through ecosystem-based approaches to sustainable intensification of food systems from rural to peri-urban and urban food systems.
- Cities in regions around the world are taking the lead on innovations for city region food and nutrition security in ecosystem approaches.
- The urban rural continuum provides vital and reciprocal benefits to the sustainable development of both rural and urban communities.
- The character of urban growth in many parts of the world has increased demands upon the natural resource base of rural areas, exposing both to greater risks to impacts of climate change upon food and nutrition security.
- Transformative planning and new governance models are essential to manage the multiple dimensions of ecosystem resources including food and nutrition security going forward.

- The UN and major groups of civil society have called for strengthening of urban rural linkages and local government planning for a holistic and ecosystem-based approach to enhancing city region food systems.
- Policy frameworks that promote an ecosystem approach for city region food systems in the context of urban rural linkages are needed to encourage multi-agency collaboration across the urban rural continuum.
- Subnational and local authorities from urban and rural communities can promulgate policy that incentivizes foods produced in the urban, peri-urban or rural areas, but such policy must be supported by national and international policy.

Therefore, the following targets that relate to sustainable urban and rural development are needed:

1. Integrate non-food and food ecosystem planning at the city region level in disaster risk management and climate action plans.
2. Multi-level inclusive and transparent governance mechanisms should link urban and rural planning and implementation.
3. Integration of biodiversity protection and waste reduction with food and water flows needed for food and nutrition security.
4. Commit to expand employment opportunity in the food chain from producers to supply chain actors including markets of all types.
5. Recognise fair and inclusive trade dimensions of city region food systems.

# WORK GROUP 6: RESILIENCE THROUGH RISK PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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The following key messages are outlined in the paper:

This Issue Paper is one of six developed by the Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions in the New UN Development Agenda to address key themes concerning the critical role of city and regions<sup>2</sup> in advancing sustainable development. In the Communitas Coalition, subnational and local practitioners are core partners and a multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee ensures that our efforts reflect real-world experience. Each paper identifies a set of potential targets for consideration within an urban Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and provides a brief discussion of the rationale for the targets and links with other potential SDGs.

The following **key messages** are outlined in the paper:

- ▶ As dense population centers often located in environmentally fragile areas, and as hubs of infrastructure and economic activity, cities are particularly vulnerable to shocks such as extreme weather, earthquakes, and resource shortages.
- ▶ Poverty and inequality greatly amplify risk so the urban poor and marginalized are especially vulnerable to natural hazards, climate change, food insecurity, and economic downturn.
- ▶ Resilience is the ability to absorb, or quickly bounce back from, an external shock.

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<sup>2</sup> In this paper we use the terms “cities,” “city-regions,” “urban areas,” and “urban regions” interchangeably to denote metropolitan areas that are centers of population and economic activity. Our use of these terms is also intended to include the important links to surrounding ecosystems and rural areas. The term “regions” or “subnational governments” when used alone reflects the intermediate level of government between the local municipal level and the national one, which can take the shape of regions, states, or provinces.

- ▶ Resilient communities are characterized by redundancy for vital systems, flexibility, systems to contain the rippling effects of failures, rapid rebound capacity, and constant learning with robust feedback loops.
- ▶ Enhancing community resilience involves assessing existing environmental, economic, and social conditions; identifying the populations and assets most at risk; developing robust adaptation strategies and disaster response plans; and mobilizing the necessary financial and other resources.
- ▶ Resilience needs to be recognized as a core target of an urban SDG.
- ▶ Subnational and local authorities need to be empowered and funded to enhance the resilience of their communities.
- ▶ In addition to technical approaches, reducing vulnerability for the urban poor must address inequality and power.
- ▶ Resilience should be integrated with broader local, subnational, and national development planning, as well as international aid and relief efforts.

Based on these insights, it is clear that **building community resilience, including minimizing climate change impacts, while trying to effectively manage rapid population growth and alleviate poverty is a critical challenge to sustainable development.** This Issue Paper explores resilience through risk reduction and management and environmental sustainability. Drawing on the experience of cities and regions in both developed and developing countries, it suggests the following targets for consideration within a stand-alone urban SDG and as part of sector-based SDGs.

## PROPOSED TARGETS

- (1) By 2020 all cities and regions have adopted policies aimed at limiting urban sprawl by reducing the rate of land conversion to less than the rate of growth of their urban population.

- (2) By 2030 at least 50% of cities and regions in both developed and developing countries have identified, inventoried and completed condition assessments of major ecosystems within their region.
- (3) By 2030 all cities and regions have undertaken local vulnerability assessments of current and future climate and other disaster risks to determine exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of human and natural systems.
- (4) By 2030, at least 50% of cities and regions in both developed and developing countries have adopted adaptation or resilience strategies, informed by rigorous vulnerability assessments that prioritize vulnerable populations and address major ecosystem integrity.
- (5) By 2030 all subnational and local authorities have developed and broadly disseminated disaster response plans, including early warning systems and communications protocols, aimed at minimizing human suffering and rapidly restoring lifeline services.
- (6) By 2030, all cities and regions have incorporated climate and disaster risk considerations in their zoning, building codes, and infrastructure investment decisions.
- (7) By 2030, at least 50% of city and regions in both developed and developing countries have established institutional mechanisms to direct investment towards those populations and “lifeline” assets determined to be most at risk.<sup>3</sup>
- (8) By 2030, all cities and regions have established systems that track and report their average per capita ecological footprint.
- (9) By 2030 all cities and regions have a tree canopy covering at least 20% of their land area and meet the World Health Organization’s suggested minimum of 9 square meters of open space per resident.

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<sup>3</sup> Lifeline assets include those vital to the safety and health of residents including hospitals and health centers, public transportation, water and sanitation services, energy systems, and food distribution networks.