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The importance of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for cities and communities

The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize that global development issues, including poverty and hunger, will not be solved without leadership. A dedicated goal (SDG 11) focused on cities and human settlements, calls for the leadership of local governments, yet the role of local actors extends beyond achieving the SDG 11. This briefing sheet aims to describe the importance of cities and human settlements in attaining all 17 goals by 2030. It is divided into 17 separate briefs, providing the major cross-cutting links between sustainable development, urbanization and local governance.

Key messages

- The Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN Member States are 17 thematic areas that outline a roadmap for sustainable development until 2030. All are a result of long-term negotiations and apply to all countries, while recognizing different priorities and different levels of development.

- The impact of these goals on global sustainable development will largely depend on the world's ability to transition to new governance for sustainability that recognizes the roles and responsibilities of local and subnational governments.

- Local governments – in urban, peri-urban and rural areas – are best-placed to link all global goals within their areas of work, to benefit their local communities.

- As the global population is becoming increasingly urban, cities will eventually determine countries' successes and failures. Equally critical is how urban communities interact with peri-urban and rural neighbours to address the effective resource and service provision needed to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- Local governments' proximity to citizens means they have the transformative power to understand and influence people's attitudes and behavior. To become catalysts of change – whether in addressing poverty, gender equality or sustainable infrastructure – local governments require additional political and financial powers to implement new changes.

Background

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 objectives that all 193 UN Member States have agreed to achieve by the year 2030. After its adoption in September 2015, the outcome document "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", commits world leaders to fight poverty and attain sustainable development within the next 15 years. A new set of goals assures not only the urgency of development, but the fact that this development must be sustainable and boost equality. While taking into account

different national realities, development will have to be universally applicable to all countries and cannot leave anyone behind.

While most of the Goals specifically acknowledge the responsibility of national governments for localization and implementation, local and subnational governments will eventually bear the task of providing most of the needed progress. Not only is the specific SDG 11 built around urban sustainability, but sustainability action at the local level has to be better mainstreamed across all the Goals.

More clarity will arise with the selection of indicators for monitoring progress on the Goals and their targets (a final proposal is expected in March 2016) and with decisions and information from the Nations about how the goals will be achieved, by whom, and with what funding.

Spotlight on cities

Urbanization – an opportunity for the SDGs?

Eight years before the adoption of the SDGs, an existing global trend – urbanization – reached a historic threshold. In 2007, the number of urban dwellers globally exceeded the number of their rural counterparts. Up to now, cities remain centers of activity attracting billions of new dwellers: the world's urban population is expected to grow by 3 billion additional citizens by 2050. One can imagine the immense demands this will put on existing and new infrastructure, as 60 percent of the area expected to be urban by 2030 has not yet been built.

Cities not only concentrate wealth and contribute to two-thirds of global economic development, but they often have the highest rates of personal income inequality. Finally, another aspect that makes cities important is their density, which emphasizes connections between people, physical and social infrastructure, education, science and cultural diversity. Sound management of these proximities is becoming more crucial than ever for the ability of countries to advance on the path towards sustainable development.

Unlocking local capacities

When it comes to unlocking capacities and potential, cities are the places where development happens. They unlock and empower human, economic and societal changes. The most important change and challenge for local governments will be to plan and service new areas, establishing and integrating sustainable environmental, social and economic conditions before 3 billion additional people can arrive to cities by 2050. Therefore, the SDGs are most likely to be met if and where local governments have the competence, resources and capacity to fulfill their responsibilities. And while local governments' responsibilities vary across the world and also often within single states, they can nevertheless be frontrunners for transformative development.

The individual briefing sheets that follow in this document describe how the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs is interlinked with urbanization and the role of local governments. Each brief indicates some of the key global networks, partnerships and initiatives underway within the given topics, which are also summarized in an annex on

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the last pages. This is to provide an introductory base, but does not assume to be an exhaustive or comprehensive list of all the important work taking place internationally and regionally.

The SDGs are happening, in cities and regions around the world

The good news is that ambitious local and subnational governments have for years been working on urban sustainability initiatives, thanks to the spirit, vision and experience gained through the "Local Agenda 21" movement enshrined in Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21 that was adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992.

For each of the 17 SDGs, this document highlights two of the numerous examples that exist of inspiring local actions, one from the Global North and another from the Global South. We encourage everyone to be inspired by these pioneers!

Achieving the SDGs must be considered as the floor, not the ceiling; and it will be possible if today's innovative and ambitious solutions are mainstreamed to become the norms of tomorrow - in every community and jurisdiction around the world.

More ICLEI Briefing Sheets from this series on cities and the SDGs:

01: From MDGs to SDGs

02: Cities and the SDGs

03: Introducing the Urban SDG - Goal 11

05: Implementing the SDGs in Cities

06: Measuring, Monitoring & Evaluating the SDGs

07: Towards a New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)

Available at: www.iclei.org/briefingsheets

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Supported by:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

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These ICLEI Briefing Sheets are a joint service of the City of Bonn and the ICLEI World Secretariat to provide background information on current themes and debates regarding local and urban sustainability: www.iclei.org/briefingsheets

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Goal #1 - No poverty

Key facts

Poverty remains one of the core issues of the 21st century. While the Millennium Development Goals (UN targets for 2000-2015) have succeeded in halving the number of people living on less than $1.25 per day some 836 million people still live in extreme poverty. The most poverty-stricken regions remain in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, primarily in small and politically unstable countries.

Relevance for cities

Many poverty affected regions of the world will soon be home to growing urban populations, as over 60 percent of the area expected to be urban by 2050 remains to be built – mostly in the Global South. The urban setting can offer new dwellers a greater scope of job opportunities, increased living standards and empower them to make decisions about their lives. However, while poverty is an old issue, urban poverty is the new challenge for the international development agenda. This is often exacerbated by inefficient, unequal land use and housing markets, lack of

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1 NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

access to basic services and existing socio-economic traps in both urban and rural areas.

Relevance of local governments

Because of the variety of matters affecting poverty, the roles and responsibilities of local governments differ significantly across the world. Generally, they include:

- Good governance to inclusively meet the needs of the urban poor, promote accountability and transparency
- Targeting urban housing, planning and architectural design that impact the creation and distribution of wealth both in newly built and already existing high-risk urban neighborhoods
- Enhancing a system of equal opportunities by providing information on how to recover from disasters and escape poverty traps
- Boosting inclusive education to enhance employability (e.g. workforce integration programs)
- Fostering business ethics of local business communities, whose operations have direct impact on poor and rural communities

Pioneering examples

Edmonton, Canada
The role of cities in ending poverty

More than 100,000 Edmontonians live in poverty, which costs Edmonton up to $7.1 billion each year in healthcare and social services. The EndPovertyEdmonton initiative seeks to eliminate poverty in Edmonton within a generation, based on economic arguments, the human rights case and a public opinion approach. Through strong public participation, multiple stakeholders are engaged in development of a long-term plan against poverty.

Tshwane, South Africa
Poverty reduction and community development conference, Tshwane Vision 2055 'Remaking South Africa's Capital City'

In Tshwane, approximately 27.9 percent of the population live in poverty. Since 2008, the local government has been developing an integrated poverty reduction and community development strategy. Based on community-driven approaches, over ten poverty alleviation programs are being delivered in the city, targeting housing facilities, grants-in-aid and support for the orphans.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): Cities Alliance; Global Call to Action against Poverty; Global fund for cities development; Partnership for Economic Policy; The Hunger Project; UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative; World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty

Goal #2 - Zero hunger

Key facts

Nutrition is one of the basic human needs. Since 1990, the number of undernourished people in developing countries has decreased by nearly half; accounting now for 13 percent of their total population. While some developed countries suffer from overconsumption-related malnutrition, most developing countries still experience the burden of extreme hunger. One in nine people globally (795 million) is undernourished. Poor nutrition of children adversely affects their education and therefore creates a vicious cycle of poverty and hunger for future generations.

Relevance for cities

Most of the world's hungry people still live in rural areas of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, where agriculture is a main rural employer. Therefore, the expected urbanization trends will have direct impacts on the lives of these people.

Consequently, the rural farms that produce food, and urban areas and systems that manage its distribution and access, carry a shared responsibility to end hunger, as the solutions to hunger depend on both food production and its management (transfport, refrigeration). Management of access to food is especially relevant in cities as they also have capabilities to ensure that food chains and infrastructure are resilient to disasters.

Furthermore, the problem of nutritional quality is an even greater challenge. Many urban areas already experience the double burden of malnutrition – high rates of both poorly nourished people and people with obesity living side by side.

2 ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

Relevance of local governments

Because of the larger amount of people living in dense spaces in cities, local governments' role to end hunger is crucial in many aspects (varying, however, from country to country):

- Strengthening governance related to food production-distribution-consumption cycles (city-based governance approaches similar to Urban Food Policy Councils in e.g. New York, Toronto, Birmingham)
- Supporting local, efficient and sustainable agricultural production, and promoting new sustainable methods of acquiring, preparing and eating food (e.g. urban gardening, cooperatives, food sharing concepts)
- Strengthening disaster resilience and cross-boundary partnerships, urban-rural linkages
- Implementing integrated educational programs on healthy nutrition, and food knowledge distribution campaigns

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Pioneering examples

Almada, Portugal
Promoting local food production

Agriculture in Almada has strong cultural traditions, as about 23% of land is used agriculturally. With the goal to become self-sufficient in its horticulture needs, the City of Almada promotes agriculture activity in local urban and peri-urban areas. The initiative enhances green infrastructure and the agricultural parks network, wastewater recycling for horticulture, are targets, master plans and information activities.

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Demonstrating the Urban NEXUS approach to link water, energy and food resources in schools

Through cross-institutional collaboration, two schools in Dar es Salaam operationalized the Urban NEXUS approach as a new design process towards resource-efficient and productive service delivery. The project serves as an example of integrated solutions for optimizing energy, water and food to be scaled up throughout the metropolitan region.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): ICLEI Cityfood Network; Urban Agriculture Summit; The Hunger Project (THP); Sustainable Food Cities Network; Urban and Regional Food Network; Milan Urban Food Policy Pact; Association for Vertical Farming; and FAO's Food for the Cities network.

Goal #3 - Good health and well-being

Key facts

Physical and mental health has an impact on so many aspects of a human life that it is hard to address sustainable development without taking it into consideration. In the last decade, significant progress has been made in improving child and maternal health and reducing HIV infections (i.e. the Millenium Development Goals 4-6). Maternal mortality has decreased by almost half since 1990, while new HIV infections decreased by 38 percent between 2001 and 2013. Still, each year over six million children die before reaching their fifth birthday. Furthermore, newer health-related issues such as substance abuse, traffic accidents, and air- and water-borne pollution and diseases are becoming more widespread.

Relevance for cities

In many ways, spatial/urban planning determines how healthy people are. The health of people is affected by proper housing and sanitation, access to food, health and medical facilities, as well as the air quality and availability of green spaces. These factors differ when exploring the urban versus rural context.

Because of the high population density in urban areas, epidemics of HIV, malaria/dengue fever, tuberculosis, air- and water-borne and other infectious diseases can spread much faster. Access to addictive substances (tobacco, alcohol, drugs) is also easier in urban areas and substance abuse is, as a result, more common. Concentration of people means greater demand for services, with dense areas also typically leading to more pollution – such as waste and air pollution. Cities also tend to have higher concentrations of people with fewer family and social bonds than rural areas, which has implications on mental health and individual

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

resilience. Finally, aging populations in many regions mean that human settlements increasingly need to be adapted and designed to meet the needs of older people.

Relevance of local governments

The roles and responsibilities of local governments to ensure healthy lives differ from country to country, but generally include:

- Improving health governance related to inclusion, affordability and accessibility of basic sanitary facilities (clean drinking water, sanitation), hospitals and medication/vaccinations
- Overseeing and controlling environmental pollution (air, water and soil quality, noise, waste) and animal control
- Disseminating information about the dangers of substance abuse and withdrawal treatment (alcohol, tobacco, drug use)
- Providing recreation facilities (parks, sports fields and stadiums, swimming pools, camping grounds)
- Supporting healthy forms of urban mobility (walking, cycling and reliable, accessible and safe public transit)

Pioneering examples

Santa Monica, USA
Define, measure and actively improve wellbeing

Santa Monica's Wellbeing Project followed the city's 2013 success in the Bloomberg Philanthropies' inaugural Mayors Challenge, which encouraged the city to develop a local measure of well-being. A new wellbeing index brought together a global consortium of experts to develop a framework, which can be practically applied for local policy-making based on developmental progress beyond GDP measures.

Thimpu, Bhutan
Toward a new development paradigm

In March 2014, the city of Thimphu hosted local forums on the concept of a New Development Paradigm (NDP), a holistic and sustainable approach to development which prioritizes the happiness and well-being of humans and all life. The NDP draws on the Gross National Happiness Index and guides institutions to create policies that can deliver the conditions for sustainability and dynamic contributions to people's health and happiness.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): ICLEI's Agenda on Happy, Healthy and Inclusive Communities; WHO European Healthy Cities Network; Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC); City Health International; and Big Cities Health Coalition (USA).

Goal #4 - Quality Education

Key facts

Quality education is necessary to tackle poverty and achieve progress in all aspects of sustainable development. Since the 2000, significant advancements have been made towards literacy rates and enrollment in primary education in developing countries. Despite continuous population growth, the number of out-of-school children decreased by 42 percent globally between 2000 and 2012 (primary school). Still, 57 million children remain out of school, the majority of them living in sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, education is still severely affected by a number of existing and partially growing socio-economic inequalities (gender, race, income).

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Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

education, as many of the socio-economic inequalities in urban areas – as in rural – are widening, such as poverty, nutrition, age and gender gaps making them among the biggest challenges for local governments.

Relevance of local governments

Primary level education is a direct responsibility of local governments in the majority of countries across the world. There are multiple things local authorities can do to foster educational attainment, including:

- Improving education governance related to the public education facilities that promotes inclusion, account-ability and quality

- Integrating technical and vocational training programs into local economic development strategies, making sure training is valuable and corresponds to labour market opportunities

- Foster cooperation between different schools, re-search institutions and local businesses

- Reach out to high risk and vulnerable citizens and neighbourhoods and ensure they have access to ed-ucation and training, fulfilling UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) initiative

Relevance for cities

Urbanisation and quality education are closely linked. Historically, cities have been hubs of knowledge creation and centers of innovation. The overall national education systems, literacy and culture often depend on progress made in cities to show the way in attaining literacy rates and developing cutting edge science. At the same time, many of today's cities do not provide inclusive and equitable

Pioneering examples

Helsinborg, Sweden:

Environmental education and participation for local sustainable development

The city of Helsinborg established the Environment Workshop and Sustainable School Campus as long-term educational projects in a collaboration between the municipal departments for School and Youth Services, and City Planning and Technical Services. By engaging young students, the city is promoting quality education and a long-term behavioral change towards sustainability.

Bejing, China

An experienced learning city in a new phase of development

Beijing officially launched its "learning city" agenda in 1999 in order to promote innovation, sustainability and inclusiveness in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games. The strong leadership of the Beijing Municipal Government has led to strengthened community education and the creation of websites that serve as lifelong learning platforms for citizens. The Learning Beijing initiative has grown rapidly over the last fifteen years.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): Global Cities Education Network (GCEN); Global Partnership for Education (GPE); Higher Education Sustainability Initiative

Goal #5 - Gender equality

Key facts

The new goal clearly recognizes that gender equality is a critical element in achieving sustainable development. Until now, major progress has been made under the MDG #3 towards gender empowerment, resulting in equal access to primary education in many regions. Still, women and girls are often more acutely affected than men and boys by poverty, food insecurity and environmental pollution. Their voices and leadership are crucial to finding solutions. Therefore, SDG 5 aims at ending discrimination and violence against women and girls and ensuring that they have equal opportunities in life that boys and men have.

Relevance for cities

Cities offer opportunities for social, economic, cultural and political participation that facilitate gender empowerment. Indeed, global urbanization trends go hand in hand with the "feminization" of the global labour force. Yet, due to the prevalence of gender inequalities, women and girls often benefit less from urbanization and urban spaces than men and boys – often based on discriminatory grounds over which they have no or little control. Such attributes are often not only gender, race, ethnicity or age, but also inherited income and status. These inequalities are especially manifested in illegal settlements where levels of vulnerability disproportionately affect women, youth and children. Addressing such cross-cutting issues in cities has a direct impact on breaking vicious circles of social exclusion.

Relevance of local governments

Local governments have both direct and indirect powers and responsibilities to influence gender-specific living patterns. Local governments can:

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

- Implement and monitor programs to address inequality and discrimination
- Act as a model for gender equality through non-discriminatory service provision to citizens and fair employment practices, e.g. gender equality on local councils
- Ensure that relevant financial support and business services are gender-responsive (e.g. micro-credit for women)
- Target maternity and childcare benefits, as well as workforce integration trainings
- Enhance responsive urban planning, smart and mixed use of land and public places that are geared equally towards both genders and young children
- Involve women's organizations in stakeholder dialogues

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Pioneering examples

Växjö, Sweden

Women leaders transforming cities

Under the lead of the Mayor of Växjö, a discussion on how local governments can foster women's leadership and participation at all levels - from the citizen on the street to the mayor's office is underway. The example of Sweden helps to explore the opportunities for the entire political engagement process, which is necessary if governments are to better foster effective women leaders for climate and sustainability.

Rosario, Argentina

Gender inclusive cities program

The Equal Opportunities Plan is the most important policy developed by the municipality of Rosario to achieve gender equity. Its formulation and implementation, including gender mainstreaming, interventions directed at women's strategic interests, not only their basic needs and transformative gender policies. It intends to act upon the causes that create inequalities between men and women.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): UN Women; UCLG Women; UN-Habitat Gender Equality Network; Every Woman Every Child; Cities Alliance

Goal #6 - Clean water and sanitation

Key facts

Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, better management of water and sanitation is needed to sustain human wellbeing, while preserving the resilience of the ecosystem. Significant progress has been attained between 1990 and 2015, as the proportion of global population with access to improved drinking water sources has increased from 76 to 91 percent. Nevertheless, over 2.5 billion people still do not have access to basic sanitation facilities globally, and the access to water supply is unevenly distributed across the world. Especially in the developing world, this adversely affects economic and gender development, food security and water-borne diseases.

Relevance for cities

Poor sanitation, combined with irregular water supply, hinders development and claims the lives of countless of people, especially those living in informal settlements, often also refered to as "slums" in urban areas. These challenges are likely to magnify in the future due to an ever growing city population needing to share already inadequate and often badly managed resources. Being the primary factor that increases water, air, soil and food contamination, lack of proper access to water in dense urban areas exponentially increases local pollution problems. While existing urban water distribution and sanitation systems are all too often run down and unable to cope with the growing urban expansion – where growth demand is difficult to foresee and plan for – newly built systems often also lack inclusion and resilience, as the urban poor tend to be excluded from these services.

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6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

Relevance of local governments

In most countries, local government are providers of water and sanitation facilities. In some, they serve as the supervisor of private provision. However, their responsibilities go beyond simple provision of clean water and sanitation services and include:

- Maintaining existing and designing new water supply systems with a long-term perspective and dealing with cross-cutting regional problems, such as industrial development or resource scarcity impact urban water supply

- Supervising water quality and implementing regulations regarding pollution, discharge of waste water and spread of hazardous substances

- Monitoring and ensuring that water resources are accessible and shared fairly

- Setting incentives to the private sector for collecting, recycling, reuse, as well as desalination technologies for water (where water provision is privately owned)

- Supporting horizontal cooperation in planning and environmental policy between municipalities and regions across borders

- Adapting to new challenges, such as European cities adapting to the demands that heavy rains pose to sanitation systems and infrastructural planning

Pioneering examples

Melbourne, Australia

Total watermark program invests in stormwater harvesting

In the decade known as the Millennium Drought, the State of Victoria experienced rainfall 14 per cent below average. This drought, combined with severe water restrictions affected the health of Melbourne's urban forest sending many trees into decline. The City implemented several large stormwater harvesting schemes across the city, invested $20 million in their stormwater harvesting network, which is now delivering 25% of the city's annual landscape water requirements and is reducing the reliance on potable water.

Nashik, India

An Urban NEXUS approach to optimize water, energy and land resources in peri-urban agriculture

The Nashik Municipal Corporation adopted an Urban NEXUS approach to improve resource productivity at the local and regional level in India, and to avoid consequences of narrow sectoral approaches causing unsustainable water management. The Urban NEXUS pilot project introduced a collaborative design and implementation of innovative solutions and programs for optimizing water, energy and land resources in peri-urban agricultural practices in Nashik.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): Water Campaign Resources; African Water and Sanitation network for Local Authorities (AWASLA); The Global Water Operators Partnerships (GWOPA), UNESCO.

Goal #7 – Affordable and clean energy

Key facts

SDG 7 calls on leaders to accelerate sustainable energy solutions, central to almost every major issue the world faces today. While significant improvements in energy supply have been made in many developing regions in the last decades, one fifth of the global population (1.3 billion people) still lacks access to electricity. The quality of energy supply is another issue. As the global energy supply still consists of widespread use of fossil fuels (81.3 percent), the transition to renewable energy is at the heart of this SDG, using the diversity of resources, combined with modern energy efficient technologies that address climate change mitigation, efficient energy generation and demand, and resilient energy infrastructure.

Relevance for cities

Every person needs energy – for cooking, heating or cooling, mobility. In cities, most energy is consumed in the building, transport, waster and waste sectors, with greenhouse gas emissions released due to burning of fossil fuels. Rural areas, on the other hand, often have available renewable resources that could be used to establish a win-win circular economy in a region. The geographical conditions of urban areas as well as their design and planning will determine their energy demand, the mix of energy sources and the distances needed to be covered by distribution grids – moving towards more decentralized and smart systems.

Relevance of local governments

Local governments are often well placed to identify needs and accelerate the local sustainable energy transition, also in support of vulnerable groups. Energy is often provided by private sector or national agencies, but local governments can usually:

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

- Provide leadership, guidance and regulations to support the energy transition to increase the share of renewable sources (e.g. 100% RE targets), forming an energy service company (ESCO) to reduce energy consumption and costs, raise awareness on sustainable energy

- Develop, design and redesign neighborhoods to reduce energy demand (zero-net buildings) or even generate excess energy (energy plus buildings)

- Invest in own government operations – from green buildings (government offices, schools, public museums) to eco-mobility that reduces energy in the municipal fleet (switch to clean fuels, encourage bicycle use, buy smaller more efficient vehicles)

- Introduce energy savings criteria and encourage the use of renewables in procurement practices and in regulations for use by homeowners, public services, and (where possible) private businesses

- Adopt regulations, urban planning approaches, and educational strategies to minimize fossil fuel-based means of transportation

- Promote 'smart' systems – connecting mini-grids to building and transport that can be used as "batteries", enhancing energy efficiency and distribution

- Provide finanance and regularory incentives and disincentives to encourage change (e.g. congestion charge or tax rebates for use of green energy)

- Support different financing schemes to provide marginal neighborhoods and slums with accessible, affordable clean energy sources

Pioneering examples

Vancouver, Canada

100% Renewable Energy Target

ICLEI Member Vancouver recently took a huge step towards becoming a fully sustainable city, with its City Council voting for the long-term goal of deriving 100 percent of the city's energy from renewable sources. Vancouver joins a number of other cities, including San Francisco, Copenhagen and Sydney, in making this ambitious target a part of its urban planning.

Balikpapan, Indonesia

Multi-faceted stakeholder approaches for a low-carbon city

Urban-LEDS Model City Balikpapan used its first GHG inventory, to define emission reduction targets for the community by 2020 with 15.6% based on 2010 levels. Among other areas, the city works on protection and expansion of a protected city forest area, energy-efficient lighting, a waste-to-energy landfill methane capture facility, and is involved in the Corporate Social Responsibility forum working with businesses.

Partnerships, Programs and Networks (examples): Global 100% RE Campaign; 100% Renewable Energy Cities and Regions Network, Energy Cities, ICLEI's GreenClimateCities® program and Urban-LEDS project; Compact of Mayors; Compact of States and Regions; Covenant of Mayors; IRENA, and more.

Goal #8 - Decent work and economic development

Key facts

A sustainable economy has an impact on practically on all aspects of human life and well-being. While many positive steps have been made to overcome different financial crises, global unemployment has increased from 170 million people in 2007 to nearly 202 million in 2012. Nearly 2.2 billion people still live below the US$2/day poverty line, and stable and well-paid jobs are needed to tackle poverty traps. Sustainable economic growth requires societies to create the conditions that stimulate sustainable business development and job creation, while safeguarding environmental sustainability. The creation of such employment will remain a major challenge for the whole development agenda.

Relevance for cities

Cities today generate nearly 80 percent of global GDP. They are the world's major powerhouses of global economic growth and local centers of economic production and consumption activities, commerce and money distribution. Until now, no country has achieved sustained economic and social development without urbanization. Countries with the highest per capita income are usually more urbanized, while low-income countries are predominantly rural. The growth and prosperity of whole nations thus

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8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

critically depends on the way urban areas evolve and the development of new, inclusive economic models in cities.

Relevance of local governments

The level of economic development and employment is largely determined by how the private sector is embedded in local communities. A key role of local governments is to stimulate this embeddedness and to:

- Support responsible local businesses, which keep money circulating in the community and provide jobs
- Promote equitable labor practices at the global scale through sustainable, fair trade procurement
- Attract businesses and workforce through transparent and accountable practice and proper management of city budgets
- Enhance high-quality education to develop a skilled workforce and fight poverty
- Address youth unemployment challenges
- Endorse accessible and efficient transportation networks that stimulate freedom of movement
- Encourage greater citizen participation in local economic planning, attracting and retaining families and residents in the community

Pioneering examples

Bristol, United Kingdom

UK's first city-wide local currency

The Bristol Pound is a form of community currency with a goal to support local businesses and employment in Bristol. It emerged as a not-for-profit partnership between Bristol Pound Community Interest Company (CIC) and Bristol Credit Union and is governed in line with the model of a stakeholder cooperative, thereby giving Bristol Pound account holders a say in the development of the company and representation on the board.

Ehlanzeni, South Africa

The Integrated Water Harvesting Project for food security and income generation

Ehlanzeni district has a high unemployment rate of 76%, with four out of five people living below the government's official poverty line on less than $US 60 cents per day. The Ehlanzeni district Integrated Water Harvesting Project targets four of the poorest communities in Mpumalanga Province, sustainably improving local livelihoods through a water-food-health NEXUS that aims to boost agricultural production and community income.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): The World Economic Forum; UNEP Green Economy Initiative; Dubai Green Economy Partnership (Dubai GEP); Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

Goal #9 – Infrastructure, industry and innovation

Key facts

Since the industrial revolution, built infrastructure and manufacturing has determined employment, economic development and well-being. Despite incredible progress in this area, about 2.6 billion people in the developing world are still facing difficulties in accessing electricity, while 2.5 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation. For many African countries, particularly the lower-income ones, lack of infrastructure affects business productivity by around 40 percent. The problem, however, is not only the lack of widespread infrastructure and industrialization, but rather also about closing the gaps between different regions that have to develop industrially to meet their local needs.

Relevance for cities

City or spatial planning and design defines the conditions for infrastructure and can trigger technological and social innovation. High urban densities usually reduce transaction costs, make public investments more economically feasible, while facilitating education and diffusion of knowledge. At the same time, infrastructure and industrialization gaps are growing between and within cities. Flourishing areas with ample green spaces coexist beside severely deprived neighborhoods with inadequate housing, scarce services, and deficient mobility and logistical networks. Cities show interesting exaples of mixing conventional concrete ("gray") infrastructure, with "green" and "blue-green" infrastructure and water management which uses a nature-based approach.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

Relevance of local governments

Responsibilities of local governments in local economic development are crucial for the provision of resilient infrastructure and generally include:

- Overseeng complex, interconnected urban systems, services and flows related to local production and, consumption (e.g. waste management, energy supply, water and sanitation, transportation)
- Integrating small-scale industries and start-ups into local economic development strategies, considering local resources, needs and markets
- Increasing resilience through optimal mix of green, blue and gray infrastructure and adaptable design that anticipates potential shocks and stresses
- Increasing sustainability of infrastructure, buildings and industry through cradle-to-cradle construction (full life cycle planning)
- Planning and implementing local policies for disaster risk prevention
- Promoting education, knowledge-sharing and scientific research for sustainable business practices

Pioneering examples

Tokyo, Japan

Urban Cap-and-Trade Programme and Reducing emissions through green building

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) launched the Cap and Trade Program in 2000 to establish total emission reduction obligations for existing commercial buildings (those that use over 1,500 kiloliters of crude oil annually). Together with the Green Building Programs, the Cap and Trade concept contributes to TMG's policy goal to reduce CO2 emissions by 25 percent below 2000 levels by 2020.

Dezhou, China

Green economic development with renewable energy industries

In 1997, the municipality and local government of Dezhou elaborated a Development Plan for the Dezhou Economic Development Zone to bring together solar technology research, manufacturing, education and capacity building. Dezhou now hosts over 120 solar energy businesses generating an annual turnover of USD 3.46 billion. The plan showed how local governments are essential to stimulate renewable energy industry and can catalyze economic development in the region.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): World Economic Forum SlimCity; CIFAL Global Network; United Smart Cities (USC), EcoMobility Alliance (of cities); WBCSD; Smart city solutions for an active citizenship Uraia (FMDV & UN-Habitat); ICLEI Annual Global Forum on Resilience and Adaptation (Resilient Cities); Deutsche Messe AG / Metropolitan Solutions; Global District Energy in Cities Initiative (UNEP); GIB's SuRe Standard (for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure projects); and more.

Goal #10 - Reduced inequalities

Key facts

High levels of inequality do not just create poverty traps – they impact all aspects of human development. Between 1990 and 2010, the global community has made significant strides towards social protection systems in most regions of the world; yet in the same period, income inequality increased by 11 percent in developing countries. Not only is the economic gap between countries striking, inequality within countries has risen as well. A growing consensus suggests that economic growth alone is not enough to tackle poverty. Inclusiveness, universality and sustainability of economic development will have to address this problem.

Relevance for cities

While the world's cities today generate nearly 80 percent of the global GDP, they usually have the highest economic gaps between people. Historical and physical distribution of cities and rural areas has had impact on income distribution between regions. However, most of today's inequalities appear as a result of multiple factors, among which are a combination of weak economic development and planning and rapid uncontrolled urbanization processes. Poorly managed, urban processes can widen economic gaps between people and create even more inequality and social fragmentation, rather than significantly reducing poverty.

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10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

Relevance of local governments

Local governments affect the conditions for the poor, migrants and refugees – in many cases even before these potential residents arrive in cities and peri-urban municipalities. Although their roles vary significantly from country to country, local governments can:

- Provide equal access to urban services, and secure land/property tenure for marginalized populations (incl. formal land title registration where necessary)
- Strengthen governance by promoting accountability and fighting corruption
- Channel institutional and financial resources to the most deprived areas
- Boost inclusive education to enhance employability, as well as workforce integration programs and a system of equal employment opportunities for marginalized dwellers
- Target human settlement planning that distributes new arriving dwellers, while maintaining social cohesion
- Prepare information on how to recover from disasters and poverty traps
- Foster business ethics of local companies, whose operations have direct impact on poor and rural communities – both locally and globally

Pioneering examples

Paris, France
A plan to stop housing displacement

In December 2014, the city of Paris announced a housing plan to stop displacement in central, predominantly gentrified, neighborhoods. With its plan to support rental options to lower- and middle-income residents, the city published a list of over 200 addresses with over 8,000 apartments that the city would have a 'right of first-refusal' to buy as subsidized housing for poor and marginalized dwellers.

Bogotá, Colombia
Bogotá Humana

In June 12, 2012, the city of Bogota officially introduced the Human Development Plan Bogota, a city project that is the roadmap for the four year administration period. The core idea of the plan is to combat social segregation and build an inclusive, dignified and equitable city, while tackling corruption and insecurity. One of the actions is the creation of an environmental district (57 km) around the rivers Fucha, Salitre, Tunjuelo, and Torca with a strong community involvement.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative; Global fund for cities development; Partnership for Economic Policy; The Hunger Project; World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty; and more.

Goal #11 - Sustainable cities and communities

Key facts

Over 3.5 billion people live in cities today, while by 2030, almost 75 percent of the world's population will be urban dwellers. The total area of cities is just 2 percent of the Earth's land cover; however, substantial activities and processes take place in this area, which are responsible for up to 80 percent of overall energy use and 75 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. The future achievements of the SDGs therefore largely depend on how cities and urban dwellers are able to transform their lifestyles towards sustainable practices.

Relevance for cities

SDG 11 directly addresses the relevance of cities and local governments in fighting poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030. It is of considerable political importance that the profile, responsibilities and opportunities of local and regional governments are raised in this way. This shall also help them to access financial means to implement transformative projects and infrastructure, much needed to make cities resilient and sustainable.

Relevance of local governments

Local governments are closely connected to people, as they are responsible for urban planning and the provision of public services. They can set in motion a series of practices, including actions to:

- Foster inclusive governance and participatory, integrated and sustainable urban planning and management

- Ensure that housing services are affordable, adequate and safe

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

- Improve resilience to disasters and climate change, especially of the most vulnerable neighborhoods and population groups

- Reduce environmental impacts and resource foot-prints of cities through low carbon development strategies, sustainable waste management and closed material cycles

- Transition towards sustainable urban mobility and inclusive public transport systems

- Provide access to green and public spaces and enhance cultural and natural heritage (incl. biodiversity) for quality of urban life

- Engage in city-region cooperation to support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas

- Foster vibrant, sustainable local economies and technological development through strategic partnerships with businesses and green public procurement

- Learn from one another to leapfrog outdated development and growth models proven to be resource exploitative, carbon intensive, and risk-prone

- Cultivate city-to-city cooperation through partnership agreements and thematic networks, the outcomes and of which can be scaled up for global reach by local and subnational government organizations

Pioneering examples

New York City, USA

#OneNYC for a strong and just city

In 2007, the city of New York introduced The Plan for a Strong and Just City "#OneNYC" (originally called 'PlaNYC') as a groundbreaking concept to address the city's long-term challenges: 9 million citizens by 2040, changing climate and economy, and aging infrastructure. The #OneNYC plan sets a number of goals and targets, including elevating 800,000 people out of poverty by 2025, and introducing a zero-waste concept.

Mexico City, Mexico

Plan Verde

Also in 2007, the Mexico City embarked on a 15-year Green Plan (Plan Verde). The plan, which is supported by the United Nations and the World Bank aims to invest approximately 8% of the city's annual budget into a wide range of sustainability initiatives, with particular emphasis on reducing traffic and improving air quality.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and its thematic Committees; C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group; Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD); R20 Regions of Climate Action; as well as many national and regional organizations.

Goal #12 - Sustainable consumption and production

Key facts

If human society continues to develop at its current pace, it is estimated that global resource use will quadruple within the next two decades. Taking urgent action today is crucial, as there is an enormous potential for integrated solutions to improve efficiency in terms of resource extraction, energy use, and waste management. Addressing, for instance, the 1.3 billion tons of food being wasted annually would both improve resource use and eliminate hunger (SDG #2); while switching to energy-efficient lightbulbs all over the world could save over US $120 billion annually.

Relevance for cities

Continuing and increasingly rapid urbanization is likely to cause significant increases in the consumption of energy, land and water, putting a large strain on natural resources in cities. However, these trends also have transformative powers to encourage a change in consumer attitudes and behavior. As public authorities are such large buyers, they have considerable market power. The purchasing decisions they make can help overcome these difficulties by influencing the development of new, more sustainable products and services. Smart urbanization and planning can also help to decouple growth from negative environmental impacts and increased resource use.

Relevance of local governments

There are different ways local governments can foster implementation of SDG 12:

- Ensuring sustainable public procurement that takes resource use and emissions into account
- Encouraging short supply chains to help reduce transport and carbon emissions, increase transparency along the supply chain and encourage the participation of SMEs
- Strengthening waste management systems, encouraging recycling, reduction and recovery of waste helping promote a circular economy
- Provide citizens with the knowledge, tools and infrastructure to choose products and services with a lower resource
- Joining up with other local governments, consumers, businesses, academia and NGOs to learn from each other and create a strong voice advocating for sustainable procurement

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

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Pioneering examples

Helsinki, Finland

The Global Lead Cities Network

In 2015, the City of Helsinki set a goal to achieve 100 percent sustainable public procurement by 2020. To attain this goal, Helsinki implements policies to support the transition to sustainable procurement, including medium-term and long-term environment policies. Currently, the city aims at reducing the volume of communal waste by 10% compared to 2013 levels, and increasing the amount of materials reused from communal waste by 10%.

Cape Town, South Africa

The Global Lead Cities Network

The City of Cape Town will be undertaking a review of its spending to assess where the greatest environmental impact can be achieved, including the role that sustainable public procurement (SPP) can play. With changes in procurement, the city's green procurement efforts can contribute to a total saving of approximately R120 million is expected by 2018.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): ICLEI's Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement; World Economic Forum; International Green Purchasing Network.

Goal #13 - Climate action

Key facts

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities continue to rise and accelerate climate change. Global carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions have increased by almost 50 percent since 1990 and are now at their highest levels in history. Continuing with "business as usual" is not a feasible option, as the world's average surface temperature is projected to rise by more than 3 degrees Celsius in the 21st century. People in all parts of the world are already experiencing significant harmful impacts of climate change, which include changing weather patterns, more extreme weather events, rising sea levels. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most. Affordable, scalable solutions are available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies based on renewable energy and energy efficiency, as are a host of measures that can reduce emissions, adapt to climate change and enhance resilience.

Relevance for cities

Humans have a responsibility to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and plan low emission development pathways. Cities consume 78 per cent of the world's energy sources and generating more than 70 percent of energy-related carbon dioxide, largely through energy production and transportation based on fossil fuels, but also industry, and biomass consumption.

At the same time, the IPCC reports that global risks from climate change such as rising sea levels, more frequent and stronger storms, floods and droughts etc. are concentrated in urban areas and will continue to increase unless cities are prepared to mitigate and adapt to their impacts. Coastal

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

cities and disadvantaged urban populations are particularly vulnerable.

Relevance of local governments

Some local government responsibilities are directly reflected in targets, requiring them to:

- Build inclusive approaches to achieve political, economic, environmental and societal objectives related to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Develop comprehensive low emission development strategies, including plans for carbon neutral transportation systems, fostering smart grid networks, and exploring green growth in this context
- Measure and monitor progress and impacts of regularly conducted community-level greenhouse gas emission inventories according to the latest standards
- Amend building codes and zoning bylaws and adopt standards governing construction of buildings, and infrastructure that are more resilient to climate change risks
- Develop creative financing tools for mobilizing investments that help to overcome climate risks derived from a lack of basic infrastructure and environmental amenities for all, especially the poorest urban residents in cities

Pioneering examples

Seoul, Republic of Korea

The Promise of Seoul - Taking Actions against Climate Change

Recognizing the need to engage the public, Seoul Metropolitan Government decided to engage with its citizens to create an action plan to tackle climate change. This pland marks a promise from Seoul Metropolitan Government to change lifestyles of the 10 million Seoul citizens, while living up to and enhancing the city's reputation as environmental, cultural and global leader.

Mexico

Municipal Climate Action Planning and Implementation for Mexican Cities

In Mexico, the Municipal Climate Action Plan (Plan de Acción Climática Municipal, short PACMUN) strengthens local capacity by training local government officials to develop and implement municipal climate change policies and development plans. To increase multi-level government action, the PACMUN program supports with GHG emissions inventories, mitigation and adaptation guidance, and raising climate change vulnerability awareness.
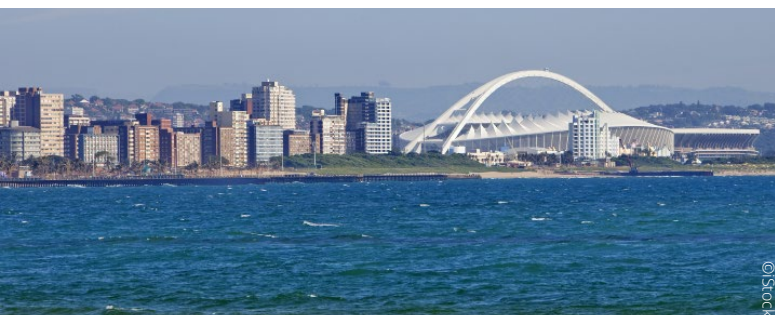
Goal #14 - Life below water

Key facts

SDG 14 recognizes that the world's oceans are an essential global resource and vital to our own sustainable future. Oceans are a public good that contains over 200,000 identified species, and the most prevalent source of protein; more than 3 billion people depending on the oceans for their survival, while fisheries directly or indirectly employ over 200 million people. At the same time, over 40 percent of the world's oceans are strongly influenced by human activities, including contamination, loss of habitats and livestock depletion.

Relevance for cities

Urbanisation has historically happened along major water bodies and coastal areas. Consequently, the most harmful ways in which cities contaminate water reservoirs is by the discharge of sewage and waste. Statistically, two-thirds of the sewage from urban areas is discharged untreated into lakes, rivers and marine water. While many coastal cities still discharge wastewater directly into marine ecosystems, many inspiring examples of local governments implementing comprehensive programs

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

of integrated water resource management already exist.

Relevance of local governments

Protecting oceans and coasts is not just the responsibility of coastal cities; any urban activity can affect the oceans. The roles of local authorities, though different on the basis of their geographic and jurisdictional context, include:

- Implementing integrated water resources management and programs to capture, treat and reuse urban stormwater runoff
- Enhancing integrated coastal zone management and conservation strategies, and cooperating across jurisdictions within a particular river basin or coastal area
- Enforcing regulations governing industrial, municipal and agricultural pollution
- Introducing and enhancing value of ecosystem services as assets (e.g. mangroves)
- Promoting community participation and local increase of nature protected coastal areas
- Encouraging sustainable fishing practices through ethical municipal procurement

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Pioneering examples

Rotterdam, Netherlands

The Delta Cities network

City of Rotterdam is an active member of the Connecting Delta Cities (CDC) network. Within this network, Rotterdam implements a number of sustainability projects on water quality and recreation. One of such projects includes the introduction of lush greenery and a healthy cover of riparian vegetation to the river banks and the tide-influenced estuary. Work is currently underway at the Nieuwe Waterweg and the Nieuwe Maas.

Sriracha, Thailand

Balancing development and conservation with integrated coastal management

Since 1999, Sriracha Municipality, together with other local governments of Chonburi province, has developed an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) project. By late 2008, 26 local government units were part of the Chonburi ICM network, which covers the entire 157 km coastline of Chonburi province. One of the focus areas of the project, the Blue Swimming Crab conservation activities, has resulted in increasing crab-related eco-tourism.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): UNEP's Regional Seas Programme; the Connecting Delta Cities network

Goal #15 - Life on land

Key facts

In the past 50 years, changes in biodiversity due to human activities have occured more rapidly than at any other time in human history. Habitat change from harvesting natural resources for industrial production and urbanization is one of the most important causes of biodiversity loss. Every year, thirteen million hectares of forests – habitats for up to 80 percent of all terrestrial species of animals, and subsistence providers for 1.6 billion people – are lost due to deforestation and desertification caused by human activities and climate change.

Relevance for cities

Although cities occupy only 2 percent of the global area, their demands for mineral, land and biodiversity resources are increasing. Cities interfere prominently with terrestrial ecosystems, convert land for industrial purposes and obtain large territories of land. It is not just the expanding human population that drives biodiversity loss, but primarily the production and consumption patterns of urban dwellers that require specific resource inputs within and outside of the urban ecosystems. Urban growth therefore affects the provision of many ecosystem services and the demands of cities are likely to reshape urban, peri-urban and rural natural landscapes in the coming decades.

Relevance of local governments

While local governments are major service providers (e.g. water, sanitation, solid waste management), their responsibilities vary from country to country and generally involve:

15 LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

- Preserving existing urban biodiversity areas by creating designs, building codes, zoning schemes, spatial plans, strategic choices, and enforcement policies
- Considering the resource flows that link cities to ecosystems outside of urban boundaries and engage stakeholders that define and influence them
- Integrating ecosystem services in both monetary and non-monetary equivalents for mainstreaming nature and biodiversity agenda into the urban budgets
- Developing more green urban spaces that improve air quality and climate-change mitigation and promote active living and learning about nature
- Promoting coopperation between authorities across their subnational or national borders, and fosters biodiversity and wildlife passages
- Procuring sustainably harvested wood and paper products (e.g. FSC), therein promoting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests

Pioneering examples

Winnipeg, Canada

An Urban Forest: Valuable to Both Ecosystem and the Community

The Bois-des-esprits (or Spirit Forest) is an urban forest on the Seine River and is the largest remaining riverbank forest in Winnipeg. Rapid urban sprawl has threatened the forest. The City has established a Forest Management Planning Process to protect the entire forest from harmful urban development in a partnership between various municipal departments, community development groups and the Province of Manitoba.

Walvis Bay, Namibia

Pioneer in Local Action for Biodiversity Programme and URBIS

The Walvis Bay Lagoon is considered one of the richest and most important wetlands in southern Africa, with approx. 20 bird species regularly occurring in numbers greater than 1% of their world population. Walvis Bay established the Walvis Dune Belt Management Plan to protect the dune ecosystems from disturbances from irresponsible recreational activities such as off-road driving. Zoning the area for specific uses is one of the key strategies employed by the plan.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity/BiodiverCities (LAB) participants; Urban Biosphere Initiative (URBIS); Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity (advocacy at UN CBD); City Biodiversity Index (CBI); Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD); Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity (2011–2020).

Goal #16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

Key facts

While the number of international conflicts has significantly decreased in recent decades, the world is still shaken by war, terrorism and widespread local conflicts (especially in poverty affected regions). According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, over 15 million refugees in 2013 had to flee to other states, while even greater numbers of people were internally displaced refugees in their own countries. Furthermore, malfunctioning institutions and justice systems remain a huge obstacle to tackling sustainability issues. It is estimated that bribery, corruption and tax evasion alone cost some US $1.26 trillion for the developing world annually.

Relevance for cities

As many of these conflicts have a local dimension, peace and inclusion in urban areas are inextricably linked to the transparency and accountability of local governments and institutions. Cities offer a great range of opportunities for capacity-building at all levels of government, and provide platforms for dialogue and democratic decision-making. Inclusive spatial planning and urban design accompanied by effective local institutions, are important frameworks for a peaceful society. Conflict-stricken areas demand concrete (often urgent) local actions and resources to relieve affected populations and mediate further conflict.

Relevance of local governments

SDG 16 calls on local governments to become more inclusive and transparent vis-à-vis their citizens. To attempt to create

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

political and institutional environments that nourish justice and peace, local governments can (depending on their juristictions):

- Ensure that all local groups have equal access to public services and opportunities to exercise their own rights and freedoms
- Target socially deprived neighborhoods in reducing violence and conflicts
- Increase public access to information and thus provide transparency and accountability of their own work
- Introduce new forms of participatory decision-making (budgeting, planning, and implementation)
- Tackle corruption and tax evasion
- Promote social cohesion at the global scale by fostering encounters and exchanges between nations, cultures, religions, and by supporting peace initiatives and platforms

Pioneering examples

Paderborn, Germany

New Neighbours (*Neue Nachbarn*) – Paderborner Help Refugees Initiative

In June, 2015, the City of Paderborn established a new intitiative to strengthen the positive attitude of Paderborn shows to its new citizens, and to support civic engagement for refugees. Its main goals are to strengthen the inclusiveness of the local society, encourage cross-cultural projects and avoid the formation of ghettos. The initiative is supported by a broad coalition which includes multiple religious institutions and social service organizations in Paderborn.

São Paulo, Brazil

Promoting Open Government action

The City of São Paulo introduced a municipal open government agenda. It is one of the first cities in the world to embrace issues of transparency, social participation, technological innovation and integrity in public policies. Open Government has become one of the priorities for this administration and the municipal initiative, entitled São Paulo Aberta, was established by Official Decree in January, 2014.

Partnerships and Networks (examples): International Cities of Peace; Mayors for Peace; A Peace Network of European Cities and Regions; World Peace Council

Goal #17 - Partnerships for achieving the goals

Key facts

Cross-cutting sustainable development issue require solutions that work across different sectors and levels of governance. SDG 17 is about ensuring that individual actors and institutions are not left alone to deal with poverty and environmental degradation. The Goal stimulates the need to find new financial means to implement the 17 SDGs, while also cultivating cooperation at the global, regional, national and local levels. Access to information, financial flows and technologies withing and between such partnerships is vital, as are vertical and horizontal connections that transcend North-South or State-State boundaries.

Relevance for cities

As they are centers of education, culture, economic development and infrastructure, cities provide opportunities for different networks and partners. At the same time, a greater number of partnerships is also beneficial for cities. Municipal cooperations with various public, private and civil society partners can attract financial means to implement

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

See the globally adopted targets for this goal on the UN website:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

different projects, and can promote better inclusiveness during their implementation.

Relevance of local governments

The roles and responsibilities of local governments for implementing the SDG 17 vary greatly by context. Generally, they can take a leading role in SDG 17, as well as take an active part in building partnerships themselves by:

- Building close networks with local, governmental and international bodies, the private sector and civil society
- Addressing corruption and promoting accountability on a local level
- Strengthening means of implementation locally, such as capacity building, tax and other revenue collection
- Assisting developing stakeholders in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring
- Advocating and networking for increased levels of decentralized cooperation

Pioneering examples

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Bonn, Germany

Decentralized cooperation for Renaturalization of Fosu Lagoon, Cape Coast, Ghana

Since 2012, Cape Coast and the City of Bonn have been partners in a project to restore the Fosu Lagoon, funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as one of the "50 Municipal Climate Partnerships until 2015". The four year project has increased knowledge of the sensitive ecosystem and contributed to the protection of this natural resource.

Shimla, India

Addressing future climate change by building institutional capacity

Shimla Municipal Corporation seized the opportunity to pilot the ICLEI-ACCCRN Process (IAP) of climate resilience planning during 2012. The IAP pilot was an innovative approach to climate resilience planning that draws on the ACCCRN experiences of the previous years. As a result, Shimla now has a better understanding of the future climate scenario the city may face.

A number of international and regional partnerships already exist with the purpose of connecting local governments and other partners for the sustainable development agenda, including: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and its thematic Committees; C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group; Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD); R20 Regions of Climate Action; Global fund for cities development (FMDV); as well as many national and regional organizations.

ANNEX:

Networks, Partnerships and Initiatives working in different areas of the SDGs

The following is an indicative list of some key global networks, partnerships and initiatives (as listed in the Briefing Sheets above) working towards the achievement of the SDGs in cities and human settlements. It does not, however, assume to be an exhaustive nor comprehensive list.

Name of the Networks, Partnerships, Initiatives	Acronym	Website
8-80 Cities		http://880cities.org/
100 Resilient Cities		http://www.100resilientcities.org/
African Water and Sanitation network for Local Authorities	AWASLA	http://www.awasla.org/
Arab Towns Organization	ATO	http://www.ato.net/
Asian Cities Climate Change Rresilience Network	ACCCRN	http://acccrn.net/
Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag)	DSTGB	http://www.dstgb.de
Association of Vertical Farming		https://vertical-farming.net/
Big Cities Health Coalition		http://www.bigcitieshealth.org/
C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group		http://www.c40.org/
CIFAL Global Network: Supporting Local Actors to Achieve Sustainable Development		http://www.unitar.org/affiliated-training-centres
Cités Unies France	CUF	http://www.cites-unies-france.org/
Cities Alliance	CA	http://www.citiesalliance.org/
Cities and Climate Change Initiative	CCCI	http://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/initiatives-programmes/cities-and-climate-change-initiative/
Cities Clean Air Partnership	CAP	http://cleanairasia.org/cities-clean-air-partnership/
City Health International		https://cityhealthinternational.org/
CityNet		http://citynet-ap.org/
Climate Alliance		http://www.climatealliance.org/
Commonwealth Local Government Forum	CLGF	http://www.clgf.org.uk/
Compact of Mayors		http://www.compactofmayors.org/
Council of European Municipalities and Regions	CEMR-CCRE	http://www.ccre.org/
Covenant capaCITY Training Platform		http://www.covenant-capacity.eu/
Covenant of Mayors		http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html
Dubai Green Economy Partnership (Dubai GEP)		http://greeneconomy.ae/
EcoMobility Alliance		http://www.ecomobility.org/alliance/
Energy Cities		http://www.energy-cities.eu/
Every Woman Every Child		http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/
FAO Food for the Cities network		http://www.fao.org/fcit/fcit-home/en/
German Towns and Municipalities (Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund)	DSTGB	http://www.dstgb.de
Global Call to Action against Poverty	GCAP	http://www.whiteband.org/
Global Cities Education Network	GCEN	http://asiasociety.org/global-cities-education-network/about-network
Global fund for cities development	FMDV	http://www.fmdv.net/index.php?id=2
Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement		http://www.sustainable-procurement.org/network-exchange/global-lead-city-network-on-sustainable-procurement/
Global Partnership for Education	GPE	http://www.globalpartnership.org/

Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity		https://wwwt.cbd.int/subnational
Green Climate Fund		http://www.greenclimate.fund/home
Higher Education Sustainability Initiative		https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/hesi
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability	ICLEI	http://www.iclei.org/
- 100% Renewable Energy Cities and Regions Network		http://www.iclei.org/activities/our-agendas/low-carbon-city/iclei-100re-cities-regions-network.html
- Annual Global Forum on Resilience and Adaptation	Resilient Cities	http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/
- ICLEI's Urban Agenda on Happy, Healthy and Inclusive Communities		http://www.iclei.org/activities/our-agendas/healthy-happy-and-inclusive-communities.html
- ICLEI Cityfood Network		http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=1348
- Compact of Mayors		http://www.iclei.org/compactofmayors.html
- Covenant of Mayors		http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html
- ICLEI EcoMobility Alliance		http://www.ecomobility.org/alliance/
- ICLEI Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement		http://www.sustainable-procurement.org/network-exchange/global-lead-city-network-on-sustainable-procurement/
- ICLEI GreenClimateCities® program	GCC	http://www.iclei.org/our-activities/our-agendas/low-carbon-city/gcc.html
- Local Action for Biodiversity, and BiodiverCities (LAB) participants	LAB	http://cbc.iclei.org/home
- Urban-LEDS project		http://urbanleds.iclei.org/
International Association of Francophone Mayors	AIMF	http://www.francophonie.org/
International Cities of Peace		www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org
International City/County Management Association	ICMA	http://icma.org
International Network for Urban Development	INTA	http://www.inta-aivn.org/en/
International Urban Food Network		http://www.iufn.org/en/
Latin American Federation of Municipalities and Local Government Associations	FLACMA	http://www.flacma.com
Mayors for Peace		http://www.mayorsforpeace.org
Metropolis, World Association of the Major Metropolises		http://www.metropolis.org/
Milan Urban Food Policy Pact		http://www.foodpolicymilano.org/
Municipal Development Partnership	MDP	http://www.mdpafrica.org.zw/
Network of cities of Mercosur	MERCOCIUDADES	http://www.mercociudades.org/
Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development	nrg4SD	http://www.nrg4sd.org/
Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities	OICC	http://www.oicc.org/
Partnership for Action on Green Economy	PAGE	http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/PAGE
Partnership for Economic Policy	PEP	https://www.pep-net.org/
Peace Network of European Cities and Regions		http://www.seupb.eu/PEACENetwork/AboutPEACENetwork/WelcometothePEACENetwork.aspx
Poverty Environment Initiative	PEI	http://www.unpei.org/
Sister City International	SCI	http://www.sister-cities.org/
Sustainable Food Cities Network		http://sustainablefoodcities.org/
The European voice of Local and Regional authorities for Development	PLATFORMA	http://platforma-dev.eu/
The Global Water Operators Partnerships	GWOPA	http://www.gwopa.org/en/
The Hunger Project	THP	http://www.thp.org/

UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative	PEI	http://www.unpei.org/
UNEP-led Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities	GI-REC	http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/
UNEP Green Economy Initiative		http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/
UNEP Regional Seas Programme		http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/
UN-Habitat Gender Equality Network		http://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/ networks/gender-equality-network/
United Cities and Local Governments	UCLG	http://www.uclg.org/ and http://women.uclg.org/
Urban and Regional Food Network		http://www.foodalliance.org.au/urban- and-regional-food-network-and-charter- and-the-food-profile-assessment-tool/
WHO Healthy Cities Network		http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/ environment-and-health/urban-health/activities/ healthy-cities/who-european-healthy-cities-network
World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty	WACAP	http://wacapnetwork.org/
World Association of Major Metropolises	METROPOLIS	http://www.metropolis.org/
World Economic Forum	WEF	http://www.weforum.org/
World Mayors Council on Climate Change	WMCCC	http://www.worldmayorscouncil.org/

More about cities, local governments and the SDGs in other ICLEI Briefing Sheets from this series:

01: From the MDGs to SDGs: What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

02: Cities and the Sustainable Development Goals

03: Introducing a new Global Goal for Cities and Human Settlements (SDG 11)

04: The importance of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Cities and Communities

05: Implementing the SDGs in Cities:

06: Measuring, Monitoring and Evaluating the SDGs in Cities

07: Towards a New Urban Agenda: Linking with International Processes

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