Smart Sustainable Cities: Paving the way to urban development

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Established in 1947
56 member States

Mandate: To improve housing, urban sustainability and land governance

1. Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets
2. Smart and Sustainable Urban Development
3. Land Administration and Management
4. Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management
Population

- World urban population projected to increase to 6.3 billion people in 2050
- Most urbanized region: Northern America (82%), Latin America (80%), Europe (73%), Asia (48%), Africa (40%)

Cities

- The largest: Tokyo (38 million), Delhi (25 million), Shanghai (23 million), Mexico City, Mumbai, Sao Paolo (21 million)
- Fastest growing: medium-sized cities and cities with less than 1 million in Asia and Africa

Main features:

- technologically (especially ICT) oriented to **improve competitiveness and ensure a more sustainable future**
- interconnected networks of people, businesses, technologies, infrastructures and spaces
- its strategies **include at least one of the following:**
  - Smart Governance
  - Smart People
  - Smart Living
  - Smart Mobility
  - Smart Economy
  - Smart Environment

**Definition:** “A smart sustainable city is an **innovative** city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve **quality of life**, **efficiency** of urban operation and services, and **competitiveness**, while ensuring that it meets the **needs of present and future generations** with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects as well as cultural.” (UNECE & ITU, 2015)
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 1. No Poverty
- 2. Zero Hunger
- 3. Good Health and Well-Being
- 4. Quality Education
- 5. Gender Equality
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 10. Reduced Inequalities
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12. Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13. Climate Action
- 14. Life Below Water
- 15. Life on Land
- 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 17. Partnerships for the Goals

United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative

United Smart Cities project
USC and U4SSC

U4SSC is a global platform for smart cities stakeholders which advocates for public policies to encourage the use of ICT to facilitate the transition to smart sustainable cities.

Partners: UNECE, ITU, ECLAC, UNECA, UNIDO, UN-Habitat, WTO, WMO, FAO, UNEP, UNEP-FI, UN Women, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNU-IAS, CBD

Current deliverables:
- Data Taxonomy
- Guides on tools and mechanisms to finance SSC projects
- Guidelines on strategies for circular cities
- Blockchain in cities
- City Science Application Framework
- Smart Sustainable Cities Standard and Index

United for Smart Sustainable Cities (2016)

United Smart Cities is a project which aims at addressing the major urban issues in medium-sized cities in countries with economies in transition in the UNECE region.

Partners: Un-Habitat, OiER, Environment Agency Austria

Outputs:
- City profiles
- City action plans
- Capacity building workshops
KPIs for smart sustainable cities to assess the achievement of SDGs

- Developed by a consortium of organizations (2015-2017)
- International standard
- Uniqueness: address smartness and sustainability of a city
- Support the monitoring of SDGs
- 50+ participating cities

**Approach**

3 main areas
18 topics
91 indicators (core & additional)
Benefits and lessons learned

Benefits

- To show gaps and areas for improvement but also to demonstrate performance and outcomes
- To serve as a starting point for action
- To set priorities
- To measure changes
- To standardize data collection
- To support to achieve the SDGs

- Data availability/scarcity and data-use legislation
- Diversification of collection practices (lack of harmonization)
- Resources: human and financial
- Expertise, skills and information on which data to collect
Thank you for your attention!

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