



First Meeting of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) Initiative

21- 22 July 2016

ITU Headquarters, Rue de Varembe 2, Geneva, Switzerland

Background document

“Smart urbanization” is a key to building safer, healthier, resilient and sustainable cities of tomorrow. Constructing cities sustainably, utilizing smart growth principles, effective urban planning models, ICTs and low carbon energy systems, can help create more habitable and efficient urban centres. It could also help alleviate pressure on existing natural habitats, resources and biodiversity, thereby reducing the risk of man-made disasters.

A smart sustainable city (SSC) 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, environmental as well as cultural aspects.

In line with this, UNECE and ITU together with other partner organizations, have joined forces and developed a common definition of a smart and sustainable city which reads:

In response to the sustainable development goal (SDG) 11: “*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”, ITU and UNECE launched the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative. U4SSC primarily advocates for public policy to encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate and ease the transition to smart sustainable cities worldwide.

ITU and UNECE are organizing the first Meeting of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative, on 21-22 July 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will be held from 1700 to 1900 hours on 21 July 2016 and from 9:00 to 16:00 hours on 22 July 2016.

The main objectives of this meeting are to approve the structure and terms of reference of the U4SSC, start developing a work plan for the three proposed working groups and to discuss the key performance indicators (KPIs) for smart sustainable cities elaborated by ITU and UNECE together with other stakeholders.

For more information on the event, please contact:

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