

Third Meeting of the U4SSC Initiative

26 April 2018, Malaga, Spain

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Third Meeting of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities Initiative.

First of all, on behalf of Dr. Chaesub Lee, the Director of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, I would like to thank the Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda as well as the City of Malaga for hosting today's meeting and the excellent hospitality provided here in this beautiful city of Malaga.

The "United for Smart Sustainable Cities" (U4SSC) is a UN initiative coordinated by ITU and UNECE and supported by CBD, ECLAC, FAO, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UN Environment, UNEP-FI, UNFCCC, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNU-EGOV, UN-Women and WMO in response to the sustainable development goal number 11, that is 'to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

The primary goal of this initiative, which was launched by ITU and UNECE in May 2016, is to advocate for public policy that would encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate and ease the transition to smart sustainable cities.

Lots of progress has been made since the initiative was launched.

ITU is the UN specialized agency for ICTs and we are committed to develop international standards that would support the transition to smart sustainable cities. Our Study Group 20 develops international standards to enable the coordinated development of IoT technologies in smart cities, including machine-to-machine communications and ubiquitous sensor networks. This Study Group is also involved in studies relating to big data aspects of IoT and smart cities and communities.

And as part of ITU's mandate and commitment to shape Smart Sustainable Cities worldwide within the U4SSC framework, ITU has been working with over 50 cities to implement the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities. These KPIs are based on ITU-T Y.4903/L.1603 which is international standard that provides cities with the tools to assess ICT's contributions in making cities smarter and more sustainable. In this regard, I am pleased to announce today that the cities of Singapore, Pully, Kairouan and Bizerte have successfully implemented these KPIs and will be granted with a certificate from ITU and UNECE as part of their commitment to the U4SSC Initiative.

On top of that, ITU is also currently partnering with Smart Dubai to develop a Global Smart Sustainable Cities Index within the U4SSC framework. We will discuss more about the Index in Session 5 with our experts Dr. Barbara Kolm from the Austrian Economics Center and Dr Okan Geray from Smart Dubai.

Today, we will build on what we have learned and achieved during the first phase of the U4SSC. We will review the set of deliverables that were developed within U4SSC in 2017. We will be discussing some of the latest city trends and exploring opportunities to identify relevant standardization works related to smart sustainable cities. We will also deliberate on the future activities and devise a possible action plan for U4SSC in the coming year. And last but not least, we will be looking at how we can move forward in building Smarter and more Sustainable Cities together.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to our esteemed guests and speakers for being here and sharing their expertise with us today.

The U4SSC is a unique and ambitious global smart city platform that is open to all relevant stakeholders. I cannot stress this enough. We want to hear your ideas and thoughts. It is only with your inputs and participation that we can be successful.

Once again, thank you very much for attending today's meeting. I hope that our meeting today will be both positive and fruitful.

Without further ado, I would like to invite my colleague Ms. Domenica Carriero to deliver her opening remarks.

Thank you very much.