

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

GENEVA | 1-2 March 2018



Promoting resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements:
intersectoral cooperation and evidence-based policies

Time: 16:30-18:00

Room: 3

Interpretation: English, French, Russian

Achieving long-term sustainability of cities and communities, ensuring they are resilient, connected; institutionally-, spatially- and socially-integrated; and compact; requires application of and synergies between different sectors and disciplines. Multiple practical experiences of implementing national urban policies demonstrated that solutions to urban challenges based on sectoral approaches are unlikely to bring impactful results; and that successful implementation of the policies requires in-country and international partnerships and cooperation and financial and institutional arrangements which are built on trust, appropriate representation, sharing of responsibility, authority and resources.

The focus on sustainability and resilience is a key feature of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and this is clearly reflected in SDG 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. To address a number of major housing and urban challenges, such as: disaster-risk reduction, access to sustainable transport, energy-efficiency measures in the residential buildings, and preventing social exclusion due to unaffordable housing for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people, etc.; evidence-based cross-cutting policies must be developed and implemented by governments. It is imperative to develop and implement these policies through horizontal (intersectoral) and vertical (national to local) cooperation. These efforts should reduce risks and increase resilience by using norms, standards and conventions; as well as by using the SDG indicators while addressing rural-urban disparities, including gender disparities, and improving affordability and access to achieve smart sustainable cities.

Questions for discussion

Where are the gaps in availability of reliable data and disaggregated data to track and monitor progress and co-delivery of urban solutions with local government, civil society and the private sector? What solutions exist to address these gaps and promote resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements?

What tools (normative frameworks, standards etc.) do policy makers have available to support their efforts to promote resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements? Is there a need for new tools to be developed?

What opportunities exist for more effective multi-stakeholder partnerships, intraregional and interregional cooperation to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, with focus on SDG 11, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?

What tools and other support might policy-makers and stakeholders need to develop sustainable partnerships (between sub-national governments, enterprises, civil society, universities, philanthropies and communities) to achieve the SDGs relevant to sustainable cities and communities?

Objectives & Focus

The roundtable will focus on the following topics:

- Understanding data needs and availability
- Policy responses and specific actions that address information gaps
- Use of policy instruments and tools in implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global and regional accords
- How to involve all stakeholders/sectors, including those from vulnerable groups, in creating sustainable communities
- Developing and implementing capacity-building programmes for participatory, integrated, sustainable, resilient and affordable human settlement
- Co-optimizing infrastructure with various objectives
- Using data across sectors for informed decision- and policymaking
- Effectiveness of intersectoral planning/coordination/consultation arrangements
- Good practices in regional cooperation

The aims of the roundtable will be:

- to provide a space where policymakers can interact with their peers and other relevant stakeholders in order to exchange experiences, propose solutions to address identified problems and anticipate future developments;
- to identify main lessons and compile a set of key action areas and good practices that can be shared with a wider audience;
- to encourage and promote multi-stakeholder partnerships in sustainable urban development and substantially contribute to promoting the localization of the SDGs as well as the New

Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction transformative commitments and means of implementation.

In the SDG context

The key focus of this round table will be on SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. However, in taking an integrated view of urban development, it will also touch on various other sustainable development goals. Developing partnerships and improving the management of data for the transition to more sustainable cities and communities is also linked to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being (SDG 3), improving water management and protect water-related ecosystems (SDG 6), improving energy efficiency in buildings (SDG 7), promoting sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), building resilient infrastructure (SDG 9), facilitating the transition to low-carbon society through emissions reduction (SDG 13), and strengthening sustainable management of resources (SDG 15).

Target audience

This round table will be of interest to policymakers and other stakeholders involved in regional development, urban planning, housing provision, financing of public services, infrastructure development, coordination between different government levels and environmental management.

Case studies

COUNTRY	TITLE AND AREA OF CASE STUDY	FOCAL POINT IN COUNTRY
Potenza, Basilicata, Italy	Implementing resilience in territorial policies	Alessandro Attolico Executive Director of Territorial Planning and Environment Department, Province of Potenza, Italy
REC Caucasus	The KPIs for Smart Sustainable Cities and overcoming the data availability barrier in small cities	Nune Harutyunyan Director, Regional Environmental Center for Caucasus
Serbia	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Serbia - Law on Reconstruction following Natural and other Hazards	Sandra Nedeljkovic Deputy Director National Disaster Risk Management Program Public Investment Management Office
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Hazard- risk vulnerability, impact assessment and establishing the first ever city level multi stakeholder Platform	Albek Ibraimov Mayor of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Tatarstan and Dagestan Russian Federation	An all of society approach in building resilience and addressing sustainable development	Elena Arefyeva Chief researcher, All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Civil Defence and Emergency Management

Nordic Council of
Ministers

Nordic Sustainable Cities - Promoting
solutions for sustainable, liveable and
smart cities

Trine Schmidt
SDG Project Officer

Key participants

Moderator: Adam Banaszak, Committee of the Regions, European Union

Rapporteur: Franc Matjaž Zupančič, State Secretary, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Slovenia

Resource persons to provide expertise: ITU; Committee of the Regions, EU; UN-Habitat

Lead organizers of round table: UNECE, UNISDR

Other contributors to round table organization: ITU; Housing Europe; United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); University of Geneva; Habitat for Humanity; Nordic Council of Ministers

Background materials

[Geneva UN Charter on Housing and Sustainable Development](#) (2015)

[Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development](#) (2016)

[Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (2015)

[Paris Declaration "City in Motion - People First!"](#) (2014)

[Collection Methodology for Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities](#) (2017)

[Technical Guidance for Monitoring and Reporting on Progress in Achieving the Global Targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#)

[Words into Action guideline: Man-made/technological hazards National and Local DRR platforms](#)

[How to make cities more resilient: A Handbook for local government leaders](#)

[Local Government Powers for Disaster Risk Reduction: A Study on Local-Level Authority and Capacity for Resilience](#)

[UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention](#)

[Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects](#)

[THE TEN ESSENTIALS: An operational framework of Sendai Framework in cities and at local level.](#)

[Standards for Disaster Risk Reduction: ECE/TRADE/424](#)

[New Urban Agenda](#) (2016)

[Habitat III Regional Report for the UNECE Region](#) (2016)

[Connecting cities and communities with the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (2017)

[Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE region for the period 2014-2020](#) (2013)

[Climate Neutral Cities: How to make cities less energy and carbon intensive and more resilient to climatic challenges](#) (2012).