



Guayaquil International Mayors Forum

Guayaquil, Ecuador

13-15 November 2019

Concept Note

1. Background

Cities and sustainable development are intrinsically linked. Cities are incubators for knowledge generation and production, innovation in science, productivity, business, as well as in governance, social development and even art and culture. They can also play a leading role in economic development of countries, whose global gross domestic product (GDP) is created, for a large part (80 per cent), in cities. However, the current trend of urbanization is also often accompanied by significant social and environmental challenges, such as the lack of access to adequate, affordable urban land and housing options, urban infrastructure and basic services for a growing number of citizens, who suffer from rising inequality and exclusion, unemployment, food insecurity and extreme poverty. This is particularly true in developing countries, where 95% of urban expansion will take place over the next decades. It is also a matter of major concern knowing that cities and urban areas of developing countries are already accommodating most of the 883 million people living in slums, their number increasing rapidly as in many cases urbanization is taking place mostly informally, i.e., through uncontrolled urban expansion, poor land use planning and management, environmental degradation, and failures in the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure. Besides lacking environmental services, including drainage, waste-water collection and treatment, garbage collection and adequate access to safe water, those settlements are particularly susceptible to hazards with natural or human cause.

Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are found to a large extent in cities, which are also main contributors to climate change and environmental degradation. While accommodating more than half of the world's population on only 1 to 3 per cent of the earth's land, world's cities nonetheless account for 60-80 per cent of global energy consumption and generate as much as 75 per cent of the energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Rapid urbanization is exacerbating the environmental impact of cities exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health. Figures from 2016 showed that air pollution was affecting 90% of urban dwellers, causing 4.2 million deaths. Cities are also rapidly getting more vulnerable to weather- and climate-related extreme events, which are increasing in frequency and severity with climate variability and climate change.

Cities and urban settlements are at the core of major global frameworks, starting with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted in March 2015, which calls for supporting cooperation and mutual learning among local governments for disaster risk reduction. Six months later, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted with Goal 11 specifically aiming at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, followed by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change adopted in December of the same year. Nearly a year later, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito placed even more emphasis on the role of cities in achieving the SDGs well beyond Goal 11. Actually, it is today a well-known and

recognized fact that that about 70 per cent of the 169 SDG targets can only be achieved through the substantial involvement of local actors, particularly those in urban areas, hence the need for localizing the SDGs, where local governments and local stakeholders play an essential role in adapting and implementing those SDG targets in cities and human settlements.

Established in 2011, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) is part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). UNOSD supports U.N. Member States in planning and undertaking integrated sustainability transformation, notably through knowledge sharing, research, training and partnership building.

Over the recent years, UNOSD has organized various capacity building activities and events in support of the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, including preparatory meetings for international conferences and events such as the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as well as trainings, expert group meetings (EGMs) and fora where national policymakers could learn from and interact with each other, practitioners, experts, scholars and representatives from regional and international organisations, including the United Nations, and of the civil society and the private sector.

More recently, UNOSD has undertaken a series of similar activities particularly targeting subnational authorities, including mayors and senior city management officials and supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local level. Among those recent activities, a first International Mayors' Forum co-organized by UNOSD and the United Nations Office for Regional Development (UNCRD, Nagoya, Japan) was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in March 2017, where about 70 mayors, leaders and representatives of local governments from around the world presented experiences of their cities and discussed key questions and issues related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 focusing on Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable.

In May 2018, a second Mayor International Forum took place in Lilongwe, Malawi, where the central role of cities in making our societies sustainable and resilient and of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs was reiterated. Beyond discussing the challenges, the Forum also showcased successful experiences of SDG implementation at local level, such as Incheon City, South Korea, a country that has transitioned from recipient to donor of official development assistance (ODA) and from predominantly rural to highly urbanized (above 90 per cent urbanised today) over a very short period. The Forum also discussed the importance of sustaining and reinforcing efforts to develop mayors and city leaders' skills, knowledge and capacity to deliver on Goal 11 in making their cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable as well as on the other SDGs at local level.

It is with this background and in a spirit of continuity that UNOSD is organizing an International Mayors Forum in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 13-15 November 2019.

2. Co-organizers and partners

Teaming up with UNOSD in the organization of the International Mayors' Forum in Guayaquil is the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) once again this year. UNOSD is also collaborating with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, the United Nations country team (UNCT), including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ecuador. As well, UNOSD is very privileged to be able to count on the collaboration of the *Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas* (AME), the *Fundación Hacienda Ecuador* (FHE) and the Center for Public Policy Development, *Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral* (ESPOL) in Guayaquil, Guayas, Republic of Ecuador, where the Forum will take place. The Government of Ecuador is also a very important partner in the organization of the Guayaquil International Mayors Forum.

3. Objectives

The main objective of the International Mayors' Forum in Guayaquil is to provide a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing through presentations and discussions on key aspects related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11, at local level as a means to achieve a better understanding of successes, lessons and specific mechanisms and accelerate the in-depth transformation needed to make our societies inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Mayors and other leaders of local governments from developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and countries with economies in transition, representatives of developed countries and UN agencies, international experts and other stakeholders will discuss successes and challenges, policy options, programmes, practices, initiatives as well as actions undertaken at local level helping in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on Goal 11 and its interlinkages and complementarities with other recently adopted international agreements.

More specifically, the objectives of the International Mayors' Forum in Guayaquil are:

- Knowledge and skills acquisition for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at local level;
- Enhancing participants' understanding of the interlinkages between Goal 11 and other SDGs, and other international frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda;
- Expanding the network of mayors and other leaders of local governments working towards achievement of the SDGs at local level;
- Sharing experiences and peer-to-peer collaboration amongst mayors, local government leaders, experts and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of Goal 11 and other related SDGs at local level;
- Learning from best practices and pitfalls in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in cities and human settlements.

4. Structure

The International Mayors Forum in Guayaquil is structured around the Goal 11 and selected targets (11.1, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6 and 11.7) while seeking to maintain a balance between the three (Economic, Environmental and Social) pillars of sustainable development.

The Mayors' Forum will also address other SDGs related to Goal 11. While there is no distinct target on urban and local governance under Goal 11, some important aspects of governance are particularly embedded in Target 11.3. The governance goal (Goal 16), on the other hand, refers to institutions at all levels, without further expressing what may constitute such responsibilities at the local and urban level. The Forum will thus strive to create an interface between Goal 11 and Goal 16 and address them in a complementary way.

As well, as the analysis of the submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) towards the Paris Agreement on Climate Change revealed a strong relationship between sustainable urbanization and climate action, the interlinkages between Goal 11 and Goal 13 on Climate Action will also be discussed while also drawing on the Sendai Framework for the strengthening urban resilience and adaption capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters through policies, strategies, planning and management.

Similarly, the Mayors Forum will seek to explore the strong relationship between sustainable urbanization (Goal 11) and Goal 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 10 on Reduced Inequalities, Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and Goal 17 on Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership.

5. Methodology

The Forum will consist of several interrelated modules, each covering concepts and issues of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, Goal 11 in particular, and its interlinkages with other related SDGs and other internationally agreed agendas such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda. It will consist of formal presentations by international experts, scholars, mayors, and practitioners followed by Q&A and discussions. A half-day field trip to visit projects that reflect the Ecuadorian experience in implementing the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs is foreseen.

6. Schedule and venue

The Mayors Forum is scheduled to take place on 13-15 November 2019 at the *Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral* (ESPOL) in Guayaquil, Guayas, Republic of Ecuador.

7. Language

The Forum will be conducted in English and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and Spanish.¹

8. Registration

Participation in the Forum is by invitation only. Local authorities and other experts interested are invited to contact any of the co-organizers at the addresses provided here below.

Participation in the Forum is free of charge but participants are expected to cover their own travel costs and living expenses during the Forum. However, some limited funding covering economy class roundtrip airfare, terminal expenses and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be provided by UNOSD for eligible participating mayors and senior officials from developing countries as per UN rules and regulations on a first-come, first served basis.

9. Contacts for further information

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¹ This has to be confirmed depending on the cost and funding available.



Draft Agenda

<p>Tuesday 12 November 2019</p> <p>Participants' arrival and pre-registration – at venue (tbd) 16:00Hrs to 19:00Hrs (tbc)</p>

Day One, Wednesday 13 November 2019	
Time	Activities
8:30 – 8:55	Registration
	Session 1: Opening of the Forum
8:55 – 9:00	Calling the Meeting to Order, (Facilitator of the Forum)
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome Address (Ms. Cecilia A. Parades, Dean, ESPOL Polytechnic University, Ecuador – tbc)
9:10 – 9:20	Welcome Remarks (Ms. Rossana Cevallos, President, Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas – AME – tbc)
9:20 – 9:30	Keynote Address (Mr. Arnaud Peral, UN Resident Coordinator, Ecuador – tbc)
9:30 – 9:40	Opening Remarks (Mr. Jean D'Aragon, Officer-in-Charge, UNOSD; Mr. Kazushige Endo, Director, UNCRD)
9:40 – 9:50	Official Opening (Official from Government of Ecuador/ or Hon. Cynthia Fernanda Viteri Jiménez de Villamar, Mayor of Guayaquil – tbd/tbc)
9:50 – 10:00	Photo Session
9:40 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:30	Outline of Mayors Forum (tbd, Facilitator of the Forum); Introduction of participants/Mayors
10:30	Session 2: Implementing the SDGs at national and subnational levels
10:30 – 10:45	Overview of the progress on implementing Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at national and subnational level (Mr. Jean D'Aragon, Officer-in-Charge, UNOSD – tbc/Implementing the SDGs by Subnational Governments: Challenges and Opportunities (Mr. Raymond Saner, Professor, University of Basel, Switzerland).
11:45 – 11:00	Implementing the SDGS at subnational level in Ecuador (Alvaro Andrade Terán, SDSN Andes, <i>Coordinador de Proyectos ODS Territorio Ecuador, Grupo FARO, Quito, Ecuador</i>)
11:00 – 11:15	Integrated Regional Development Planning (Ms. Claudia Hoshino, former Coordinator of the UNCRD Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogota, Colombia)
11:15 – 11:30	Country/city experience: Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (tbd, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Thailand – tbc)
11:30 – 11:45	Country/city experience: Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Addis Ababa (tbd, Addis Ababa City Council, Ethiopia – tbc)
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break (Room TBD)
13:30	Session 3: Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
13:30 – 13:45	Policy Coherence for a Green Economy (Mr. Daniel Vicente Ortega Pacheco, Director, Director, Center for Public Policy Development, ESPOL Polytechnic University, Ecuador – tbc)

13:45 – 14:00	Decent Work and Economic Growth (Ms. Lichia Yiu, President, Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development – CSEND, Geneva)
14:00 – 14:15	Country/city experience: Decent Work and Economic Growth (Ms Veronica Artola, General Manager, Central Bank, Ecuador)
14:15 – 14:30	Country/city experience: Implementing Goal 8 at national and subnational level – tbd)
14:30 – 15:00	Discussion
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15	Session 4: Leaving No One Behind – Addressing Inequalities in our Cities and Communities
15:15 – 15:30	Goal 10 Reduced Inequality (tbd, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, USA – tbc)
15:30 – 15:45	Ensuring Inclusion and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities as Active Actors for Achieving the SDGs - Mr. Murali Padmanabhan (Light of the World - Disability Inclusion Lab – tbc)
15:45 – 16:00	Country/city experience: Addressing Inequalities in our Cities and Communities of Ecuador (Ms. Mónica Banegas Cedillo, Director, Fundación Haciendo Ecuador – tbc)
16:00 – 16:15	Country/city experience: Stakeholder Engagement for Reducing Inequality through Participatory Planning and Development Experiences from 10 or so countries of Latin America (Javier Vergara Petrescu, Co-founder and Executive Director, Ciudad Emergente – tbc)
16:15 – 16:45	Discussion
16:45 – 17:30	Pause: Participants are free until 17:30
17:30 – 19:30	Welcome Reception (Venue: tbd)

Day Two Thursday 14 November 2019	
Time	Activities
9:00	Session 5: Sustainable urbanization through sustainable planning and management
9:00 – 9:15	Integrated Planning for Sustainable Urban Development (tbd, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – UN DESA – tbc)
9:15 – 9:30	The urban renewal planning process in Guayaquil, Ecuador (tbd/tbc)
9:30 – 9:45	Country/city experience: Incheon Metropolitan City Sustainable Development Plan (tbd, Incheon Metropolitan City Government, Republic of Korea – tbc)
9:45 – 10:00	Country/City Experience: Shizuoka City, Japan: Local 2030 Hub in Asia (tbd/tbc)
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45	Session 6: Strengthening Urban Resilience and Adaption Capacity to Climate-Related Hazards and Natural Disasters
10:45 – 11:00	Coherence Implementation of Sendai Framework and SDG 13 (Ms. Ana Cristina Thorlund (Programme Officer, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – tbc)
11:00 – 11:15	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change (Mr. Kazushige Endo, Director, UN Centre for Regional Development, Nagoya, Japan)
11:15 – 11:30	Country/city experience: <i>Prevención de Crisis y Aumento de la Resiliencia en Ecuador</i> (Ms. Maria del Pilar Cornejo, <i>Directora del Centro Internacional del Pacífico para la reducción del riesgo de desastres de la ESPOL</i> – former Minister of Risk Management National Secretariat, Ecuador)
11:30 – 11:45	Country/city experience: Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in SIDS (tbc/tbd)

11:45 – 12:15	Discussion
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30	Session 7: Water and Sanitation
13:30 – 13:45	Ensuring Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation in Cities under the Current Climate Change Scenario (Nicolas Franke, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – tbc)
13:45 – 14:00	Peer Support Partnerships Between Water and Sanitation Utilities (Mr. Faraj El-Awar, Programme Manager Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance UN-HABITAT – tbc)
14:00 – 14:15	Country/city experience: tbd (tbd)
14:15 – 14:30	Country/city experience: Metro Vancouver 2040 – How to Deliver Basic Services to 2.3 Million People Living in 22 Municipalities (tbc/tbd)
14:30 – 15:00	Discussion
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15	Session 8: Asset Management Action Plans for Local Governments
15:15 – 15:30	A Diagnostic Tool to Assess Asset Management Needs of Local Governments (Daniel Platz Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA – tbc)
15:30 – 16:00	How to Design an Asset Management Action Plan (Daniel Platz Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA)
16:00 – 16:15	Country/city experience: Asset Management Profile and Assessment of Needs in City of Mwanza, Tanzania (tbc)
16:15 – 16:30	Country/city experience: Asset Management Action Plan (AMAP), Yumbe District Local Government, Uganda (tbc)
16:30 – 17:00	Discussion
17:00 – 18:30	Short break for diner
18:30 – 20:30	SDG Café: Informal interactive session for participants, who are encouraged to bring and display promotional materials for discussion

Day Three Friday, 15 November 2019	
Time	Activity
9:00	Session 9: Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership
9:00 – 9:15	Sustainable Development Goal 17: An Overview (tbd, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, USA – tbc)
9:15 – 9:30	Financing Urban Infrastructures: A Critical View of the PPPs — People-first PPPs (Raymond Saner, Professor, University of Basel, Switzerland – tbc / Daniel Platz Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA – tbc)
9:30 – 9:45	Effective Partnerships for the 2030 Agenda (tbd)

9:45 – 10:00	The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator (Mr. Ola Göransson, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD – tbc)
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30 – 10:45	Break
11:00	Closing Session
10:45 – 11:00	Closing Keynote (Ms. Rossana Cevallos, President, Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas – AME – tbc)
11:00 – 11:10	The way forward: The Guayaquil Mayors Forum Communiqué
11:10 – 11:20	Closing Remarks (Mr. Jean D’Aragon, Officer-in-Charge, UNOSD)
11:20 – 11:30	Farewell Remarks (Hon. Cynthia Fernanda Viteri Jiménez de Villamar, Mayor of Guayaquil - tbc)
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch break
13:00 – 18:00	Field trip

Saturday 16 November 2019 Departure of Participants
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