





Incheon International Mayors Forum

Incheon, Republic of Korea 16-19 June 2020¹ Concept Note & Agenda

1. Background

Cities have been playing a central role for sustainable development for some time and their contribution in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will be ever more crucial within the coming decade. Cities are essential to achieve nearly every Goal's targets as they can ensure local progress. Cities are incubators for knowledge generation and production, innovation in science and technology, as well as in governance, social development and even art and culture. Cities also play a leading role in generating national employment, productivity and economic development, with over 80 per cent of GDP coming from cities.² 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. particularly true in developing countries, where 95% of urban expansion will take place over the next decades.3 It is also a matter of major concern that cities and urban areas in developing countries are already accommodating most of the 883 million people living in slums, their number increasing rapidly thanks to informal urban settlements.4 With growing rural to urban migration expected in the coming years, achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 will become an impossibility unless actions are taken to ensure improved conditions in informal urban settlements. With, unchecked urban expansion, lack of access to quality basic services, weak land use planning and management, environmental degradation and the vulnerability marginalized urban citizens face will grow.

There is an urgent need to tackle failures in the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and make them more resilient while implementing integrated planning and management at national to local levels.

The environmental impacts of urbanization are also expected to worsen in the coming decade of rapid urban growth. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are found to a large extent in cities, which are also main contributors to climate change and environmental

¹ Tentative dates. Dates may be changed subject to the evolution of the situation regarding COVID-19.

² World Bank (2019). Accessed at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview

³ United Nations (2019) Accessed at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/

⁴ United Nations (2019) Accessed at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/

degradation. While accommodating more than half of the world's population on only 1 to 3 per cent of the earth's land, the 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.⁵ 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 becoming more vulnerable to weather- and climate-related extreme events, which are increasing in frequency and severity with 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 placed even more emphasis on the role of cities in achieving the SDGs. 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.

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 UN Member States in planning and undertaking integrated sustainability transformation, notably through knowledge sharing, research, policy advisory partnerships and capacity development.

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, UNSOD 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 on "Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable."

In May 2018, a second International Mayors 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 Metropolitan City, in the Republic of 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

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⁵ https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/

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.

During the 2018 International Mayors Forum organized in Lilongwe, Malawi mayors, civil society, international organizations all agreed that the "SDGs are a Peoples Agenda". Equally, in September 2019 during the UN Secretary-General's SDG Summit, Heads of State agreed on a Political Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly calling for a focus on ten accelerators to ensure achievement of the SDGs in the coming decade (A/RES/74/4). The first and primary accelerator in the SDG Summit's Political Declaration is "Leaving no one behind: we will place a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable in our policies and actions" while another accelerator focuses on "Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation". The Political Declaration commits Member States to "empower and support cities, local authorities and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda" given the central role of cities in accelerating progress for the SDGs.

It is with this background and in a spirit of continuity that UNOSD is organizing its third International Mayors Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea this 16-18 of June 2020, with support from Incheon Metropolitan City and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment.

2. Co-organizers and partners

The Incheon International Mayors Forum is co-organized with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), co-hosted with the Incheon Metropolitan City and held in collaboration with other UNOSD partners.

3. Objectives

The main objective of the Incheon International Mayors Forum 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. During recent surveys conducted by UNOSD to evaluate past fora, local representatives noted that policies and plans exist for sustainable development but lack financing locally to implement these. Another challenge cited was data to monitor progress on the Goals locally. Based on these findings, the Mayors Forum also aims to build the knowledge and skills of local leaders for financing and monitoring SDG implementation locally.

Mayors and other leaders of local governments from developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS⁶, 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 interactions across the Goals.

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

- Knowledge and skills acquisition for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at local level, especially on financing and monitoring local planning and policymaking;
- 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;

⁶ Least Developed Countries (LDC), Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDC), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – for more information please visit: http://unohrlls.org/

- Expanding the network of mayors and other leaders of local governments working towards achievement of the SDGs at local level;
- Exchanging good practices and establishing 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;

4. Structure

The Incheon International Mayors Forum is structured around Goal 11 and selected targets (11.1, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6 and 11.7) while exploring its interactions between the Goals and central principles of the 2030 Agenda, such as Leaving No One Behind.

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. The interlinkages between Goal 11 and Goal 13 on Climate Action will also be discussed while also drawing on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the strengthening urban resilience and adaption capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters through policies, strategies, planning and management.

Furthermore, the Political Declaration adopted by Heads of State and the UN General Assembly in 2019 underscore the role of local governments in SDG implementation and recognise empowering local governments as an accelerator in this Decade of Action until 2030. The Forum will have special sessions focusing on skills-building for financing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals locally, in line with expressed requests from past Mayors Forum participants and as strengthened financing and monitoring of the SDGs are also recognized as key for the Decade of Action. In financing the SDGs sessions will share new tools and models for financing the SDGs locally, through improved asset management and impact investment for example. In monitoring the SDGs, Voluntary Local Reviews will also be discussed, as a tool to engage a diversity of voices and stakeholders, while showcasing how local authorities are delivering on the SDGs today.

Similarly, the Mayors Forum will focus on the importance of inclusive cities and Leaving No One Behind to ensure sustainable urbanization (Goal 11) and related progress on Goals related to access to basic services such as 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, and Goal 10 on Reduced Inequalities. The importance and progress made on inclusive decision-making and multi-stakeholder engagement to reach the furthest behind first will be a focus, by presenting key cases from local governments on how this being achieved in practice.

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 one-day study tour co-organized with the Incheon Metropolitan City to explore sites and projects illustrating the Korean experience in locally implementing the Goals, including smart urban design, innovative waste management and energy production, nature-based flood risk management and urban rehabilitation is foreseen.

6. Schedule and venue

The Mayors Forum is scheduled to take place on 16-19 June 2020 in Incheon City, Republic of Korea. Please note that the dates may be changed subject to the evolution of the situation regarding COVID-19.

7. Language

The Forum will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation provided in Korean.

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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Draft Agenda

Participants' arrival and pre-registration – at venue 16:00Hrs to 19:00Hrs on 15 June

	Day ONE – Tuesday, 16 June 2020
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 - 9:20	Welcome Remarks
	Hon. Mr. Park Nam-Chun, Mayor, Incheon Metropolitan City – tbc
	Hon. Ms. Cynthia Viteri, Mayor of Guayaquil – tbc
9:20 - 9:30	Keynote Address
	 Mr. Sangju Lee, Director of Urban Policy Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport – tbc
9:30 - 9:40	Opening Remarks
	Mr. Jean D'Aragon, Officer-in-Charge, UNOSD
	Mr. Kazushige Endo, Director, UNCRD
9:40 – 10:00	Welcome Address on behalf of the Participants
	Tbd, Vientiane, and
	Tbd, Malawi
10:00 – 10:15	Photo Session
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:00	Outline of Mayors Forum (tbd, Facilitator of the Forum); Introduction of participants/Mayors

	Session 2: Implementing the SDGs at national and subnational levels
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11:00 – 11:15	Local and Regional implementation of SDGs: An introduction to Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)
	 Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief of Outreach and Partnership Branch, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD – tbc
	 Mr. Junichi Fujino, Programme Director of the City Taskforce, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) – tbc
11:15 – 11:30	Integrated Regional Development Planning
	 Ms. Claudia Hoshino, former Coordinator of the UNCRD Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogota, Colombia)
11:30 – 11:45	Country/City Experience: Shizuoka City, Japan: Local 2030 Hub in Asia
	• tbd, Shizuoka City, Japan
11:45 – 12:00	Country/city experience: Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Addis Ababa (tbd, Addis Ababa City Council, Ethiopia)
12:00 – 12:15	Country/city experience: Implementing the SDGs at subnational level in Africa
	 Ms. Najat Zarrouk, Director of the African Local Government Academy (ALGA), UCLG Africa – tbc
12:15 – 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break (Room TBD)
	Session 3: Decent Work and Economic Growth in a Changing Climate
14:00 – 14:15	Decent Work and Economic Growth in a Changing Climate
	Carlos Carrion-Crespo, International Labour Organization (ILO) – tbc
14:15 – 14:30	Cities and Biodiversity Outlook: Action and Policy - A Global assessment of the links between urbanization, biodiversity and ecosystem services (report)
	• tbd , Convention on Biological Diversity – tbc
14:30 – 14:45	Country/city experience: Policy Coherence for a Green Economy – Perspectives from Ecuador
	 Mr. Daniel Vicente Ortega Pacheco, Director, Center for Public Policy Development, ESPOL Polytechnic University, Ecuador – tbc
14:45 – 15:00	Country/city experience: Climate change and Inclusive growth
	Mr. Tae-young Yeom, Mayor of Suwon, Republic of Korea – tbc
15:00 – 15:30	Discussion
15:30 – 15:45	Break

	Session 4: Leaving No One Behind – Addressing Inequalities in our Cities and Communities
15:45 – 16:00	Reduced Inequality in our cities
	 Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief of National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, USA – tbc
16:00 – 16:15	Ensuring Inclusion and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities as Active Actors for Achieving the SDGs in our Cities
	 Mr. Murali Padmanabhan, Light of the World – Disability Inclusion Lab – tbc
16:15 – 17:00	Country/city experience: Addressing Inequalities in our Cities and Communities – a Gender Perspective from the Arab Region
	• tbd, ESCWA Centre for Women (ECW) – tbc
17:00 – 17:30	Discussion and closing of session
18:00 – 19:30	Welcome Reception

	Day TWO – Wednesday, 17 June 2020
Time	Activities
	Session 5: Sustainable urbanization as a means to achieve the SDGs
9:00 - 9:15	Integrated Planning for Sustainable Urban Development
	 Mr. Curt Garrigan, Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – tbc
9:15 – 9:30	The urban renewal planning process in Guayaquil, Ecuador
	• tbd, Guayaquil City Government, Ecuador – 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: Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), Thailand
	• tbd , Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30 – 10:45	Break
	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
	 Sanjaya Bhatia, -Head of UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) & Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) - tbc
11:00 – 11:15	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change SDGs
11.00 - 11.13	Disaster Kisk Reduction and Climate Change 3DGs
	 Mr. Kazushige Endo, Director, UN Centre for Regional Development, Nagoya, Japan
11:15 – 11:30	Country/city experience: Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in cities of Asia Pacific
	 Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) – tbc
11:30 – 11:45	Country/city experience: tbd
	• tbd,
11:45 – 12:15	Discussion
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch break
	Session 7: Climate Change and Energy at City Level
13:30 – 13:45	Sustainable energy in the city
	 Mr. Minoru Takada, Team Leader (Sustainable Energy), Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA – tbc
	 Mr. Vincent Kitio, Chief, Urban Energy Unit, Urban Basic Services Branch, UN-Habitat – tbc
13:45 – 14:00	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
	• tbd, GCMCE and/or ICLEI Korea – tbc
14:00 – 14:15	Country/city experience: Renewable Energy for Korean Citizens
	tbd, Ministry of environment, Republic of Korea
14:15 – 14:30	Country/city experience:
	• tbd

14:30 - 15:00 Discussion

15:00 – 15:15 Break

	Session 8: National and Local Governments' response to COVID-19
15:15 – 15:30	Mr. Marco Martuzzi, Head, Head of World Urban Health Organization (WHO) Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region – tbc
15:30 – 16:00	A Global View of the COVID-19 and its financial impact on cities tbd, World Economic Forum – tbc
16:00 – 16:15	Country/city experience: How to manage coordinate COVID-19 at national
	 Ms. Jung Eun-Kyeongn Director of the Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – tbc
16:15 – 16:30	Country/city experience:
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

	Day THREE – Thursday, 18 June 2020
Time	Activities
	Session 9: Delivering Basic Services to leave no one behind
9:00 – 9:15	 Ensuring Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation in Cities under the Current Climate Change Scenario tbd, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – tbc
9:15 – 9:30	Leaving No One Behind: UN World Water Development Report 2019
	Carlos Carrion-Crespo, International Labour Organization (ILO) – tbc
9:30 – 9:45	Peer Support Partnerships Between Water and Sanitation Utilities

bring and display promotional materials for discussion

	 Julie Perkins, Officer-in Charge of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance UN-HABITAT – tbc
9:45 – 10:00	Country/city experience:
	• tbd , Metro Vancouver 2040 – How to Deliver Basic Services to 2.3 Million People Living in 22 Municipalities – tbc
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30 – 10:45	Break
	Session 9: Asset Management Action Plans for Local Governments
10:45 – 11:00	A Diagnostic Tool to Assess Asset Management Needs of Local Governments
	 Mr. Daniel Platz, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA – tbc
11:00 – 11:15	How to Design an Asset Management Action Plan
	 Mr. Daniel Platz, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA – tbc
11:15 – 11:30	Country/city experience: Asset Management Profile and Assessment of Needs in City of Mwanza, Tanzania
	• tbd – tbc
11:30 – 11:45	Country/city experience: Asset Management Action Plan (AMAP), Yumbe District Local Government, Uganda SDGs
	Mr. Noah Ewaru, Mayor of Moroto Municipal Council, Uganda) - tbc
11:45 – 12:15	Discussion
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch break
	Session 10: Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership
13:30 – 13:45	The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator
	 Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief of Outreach and Partnership Branch, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD – tbc
13:45 – 14:00	Public-Private Partnerships in the context of the 2030 Agenda
	Mr. Daniel Platz, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA – tbc

14:00 – 14:15	Effective Partnerships for the 2030 Agenda
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	Mr. Felipe Castro, Director of Center for the Sustainable Development
	Goals of Latin America & the Caribbean (CODS) at the Universidad de
	los Andes, Colombia – tbc
14:15 – 14:30	Country/city experience: Financial Partnerships – Impact investment as a
	tool for financial partnerships to achieve the SDGs Impact investment
	models
	tbd, local government, India – tbc
	• tbu, local government, mula – tbc
14:30 – 15:00	Discussion
45.00 45.45	Decel
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15 –	Closing Session
15:15 – 15:45	Closing Keynote
	• tbd , The way forward
	,
15:45 – 16:30	Presentation of the Incheon International Mayors Forum Communiqué
	- 4h-d
	• tbd,
	Discussion
16:30 – 16:45	Closing Remarks
	Mr. Jean D'Aragon, Officer-in-Charge, UNOSD
16:45 – 17:00	Farewell remarks –
	• tbd, Incheon Metropolitan City – tbc
	to a, monoch monopolitari ony too
17:00	Closing

Day FOUR - Friday, 19June 2020

13:30 – 17:00 Study tour co-organized with the Incheon Metropolitan City