Committee on Regional Development Workshop
Brussels, 19 June 2017

Urban Action on Climate Change: Linkages between SDGs, Paris Agreement & New Urban Agenda
Outline – Urban Action on Climate Change

1. Introduction: SDGs, Paris Agreement and NUA
2. Role of Cities & Subnational Authorities
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas
   a) Transportation
   b) Buildings
   c) Energy
   d) Waste Management
   e) Cross-sectorial Planning
4. Adaptation in Urban Areas
5. Urban-rural linkages /City-region planning
6. Conclusions
1. Introduction

Agendas are **mutually reinforcing** on urban climate action:

Of 169 SDG Targets, United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG) considers that **92 (54%)** are relevant for Local Governments.

**Sustainable Development Agenda**

Of 160 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reviewed, UN-Habitat found **110 (69%)** included urban mentions.

**Paris Agreement**

NUA includes **22 references** to climate change, climate action & related (versus 1 reference in Habitat II document).
2. Role of Cities & Subnational authorities

COP-21 Decision:

✓ Mentions “Cities & subnational authorities” as a non-Party stakeholder
✓ Invites non-Party stakeholders to “scale up their efforts” & demonstrate action on platform
✓ Provides for a “work plan” on “capacity-building” that includes subnational level
✓ Calls for new platform to exchange experiences & best practices
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Transportation

SDG 11 (cities):
• Target 11.2: “Provide access to... sustainable transport systems for all”.

TOBIKE bike sharing system in Turin, Italy
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas – Transportation (continued)

New Urban Agenda:
“We envisage... resource-efficient transport systems”
“We commit to... sustainable transport & mobility... & sustainable & efficient transport infrastructure & services... reducing the... environmental... costs of inefficient mobility”.

Oslo, Norway –

• Oslo’s Action Plan for Environment & Climate Change calls for expanded public charging stations & other actions to promote electric mobility.

• From 2009 to 2013, Oslo reduced per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 9%.

Former Oslo Mayor, Mr. Fabian Stang, in a model electric vehicle
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Transportation (continued)

Bogor, Indonesia –

• Under the EC-funded Urban-LEDS Project (co-implemented with ICLEI), UN-Habitat assisted Bogor to chart a path towards strengthened Bus Rapid Transit.

‘Roadmap to Bus Rapid Transit’ for City of Bogor, Indonesia.
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Buildings

SDG 11 (cities):

• Target 11.2: “Ensure access for all to... housing & basic services, & upgrade slums”.

• Target 11.C: “Support least developed countries (LDCs)... in building sustainable & resilient buildings”.

New Urban Agenda:

• “We commit to... develop... energy-efficient buildings & construction modes & to promote energy conservation and efficiency... [& to] promote the development of sustainable & resilient buildings”.
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Buildings (continued)

Well designed 'green' buildings reduce GHG emissions from business as usual

Green roof on top of the old broadcasting building in Copenhagen, Denmark

Carré Vert office building in Paris, France, awarded with an “Outstanding” BREEAM rating
Sub-Saharan Africa -

• In 2010, UN-Habitat invited progressive builders from 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa to explore Green Building Council concept.

• Following conference, Nigeria launched its own Green Building Council; Kenya consolidated.

Participants at the Conference on Promoting Green Building Rating in Africa, hosted by UN-Habitat in Nairobi
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Energy

**SDG 7 (affordable & clean energy):**

- **Target 7.1:** “By 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, & modern energy services”.
- **Target 7.2:** “Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030”.
- **Target 7.b.** “Supply... sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) & Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”.

**New Urban Agenda:**

- “We will ensure universal access to affordable, reliable & modern energy services by promoting energy efficiency & sustainable renewable energy, & supporting sub-national & local efforts;... We will also prioritize smart grid, district energy systems, & community energy plans to improve synergies between renewable energy & energy efficiency”.

Hamburg, Germany –

- After acquiring 25% of shares in local energy, gas & district heating utilities in 2012, Hamburg took over entire electricity distribution network in 2014.

- Took place under Germany’s Energiewende (‘Energy transition’) policy of 2010.

- Transition to distributed energy coincides with big increase in share of renewables – from 5% (1999) to 23% (2012).

In September 2013, 51% of Hamburg, Germany citizens voted in a referendum for the remunicipalisation of the energy distribution grid.
Cape Town, South Africa –

- Kuyasa Clean Development Mechanism Pilot Project retrofitted 2,309 low-cost homes with solar water heaters, insulated ceilings & energy efficient lighting.

- Estimated reductions in GHG emissions 2009-2012: 10,527 tonnes
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Waste Management

SDG 11 (Cities):
• Target 11.6 – “Reduce the... environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to... municipal & other waste management”.

SDG 12 (Sust. consumption & production):
• Target 12.4 – “By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of... all wastes throughout their life cycle”.
• Target 12.5 – “Substantially reduce waste generation thru prevention, reduction, recycling & reuse”.

New Urban Agenda:
“We commit ourselves to... the environmentally sound management & minimization of all waste....”
“We will promote universal access to sustainable waste management systems”.
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Waste Management (continued)

Ämmässuo (Helsinki metropolitan area), Finland -

- Generates **15 MW** of power
- Reduces GHG emissions generated by waste treatment centre by **3,000 tonnes** per year (CO2e)

Landfill to gas plant in Ämmässuo, Finland
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Waste Management (continued)

Beira Municipality, Mozambique -

- From human waste, biodigester produces biogas, fuel briquettes & solar energy

- Benefits: reduced waste, reduced GHG emissions & local economic development

The Multifunctional Community Centre for Renewable Energy, developed by UN-Habitat & Municipal Council of Beira, Mozambique
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Cross-sectoral Planning

**SDG 11 (Cities):**

- Target 11.b: “By 2020, substantially increase the # of cities & human settlements adopting & implementing integrated policies towards inclusion, resource efficiency & mitigation... to climate change”.

**SDG 13 (Climate change):**

Target 13.b: “Raise capacity for... climate change-related planning & management in LDCs & small island developing states, including focusing on women, youth & local & marginalized communities”.

**SDG 15 (Ecosystem):**

Target 15.9: “By 2020, integrate ecosystem & biodiversity values into... local planning”.
New Urban Agenda:

• “We will support **better coordination** between transport & urban & territorial planning departments”.
• “We will promote the coordination of **sustainable food security & agricultural policies** across urban, peri-urban & rural areas”.

Transit Oriented Development centered on Bus Rapid Transit System in **Curitiba, Brazil**

A community garden at an abandoned airport in **Berlin, Germany**
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Cross-sectoral Planning (continued)

New Urban Agenda:

• “We recognize that urban form... [is] among the greatest drivers of cost & resource efficiencies”.

• “We will promote planned urban extensions & infill, prioritizing renewal, regeneration & retrofitting of urban areas... including the upgrading of slums & informal settlements”.

19
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Cross-sectoral Planning (continued)

Royal Seaport, Stockholm, Sweden -

- A new district in a former brownfield industrial land

- By allowing taller buildings, density of the built environment in the district is expected to nearly double compared to Stockholm’s average

- Carbon footprint emission projected to decrease to 1.5 tonnes per capita per year (compared to city-wide 4.5 tonnes)
3. Mitigation in Urban Areas - Cross-sectoral Planning (continued)

Guangzhou, China -

• More compact city development in China could save up to US$ 1.4 trillion in infra-structure spending - a considerable ‘co-benefit’. 

Source: World Bank, as cited in New Climate Economy Cities Paper 03

Part of the Central Business District in Guangzhou, China
4. Adaptation in Urban Areas

SDG 11 (Cities):
• Target 11.b: “By 2020, substantially increase the # of cities & human settlements adopting & implementing integrated policies... adaptation to climate change [&] resilience to disasters... in line with the Hyogo Framework”.

SDG 1 (Poverty):
• Target 1.5 – “Build the resilience of the poor & those in vulnerable situations & reduce their exposure & vulnerability to climate-related extreme events”.

[Image of a flooded area, indicating the impact of climate-related extreme events]
4. Adaptation in Urban Areas (continued)

New Urban Agenda:

We commit to:

• “Improve the resilience of cities to disasters & climate change”

• “Support the medium- to long-term adaptation planning process, & city-level climate vulnerability & impact assessments to inform adaptation plans... that build resilience of urban inhabitants”.

• “Integrate disaster risk reduction & climate change adaptation... considerations... into urban & territorial development & planning processes”.

UN-Habitat support to Sorsogon City, Philippines in addressing climate change
4. Adaptation in Urban Areas (continued)

Netherlands ("Building with Nature") –

- Lowering old dykes to allow water to flow freely
- Protecting upstream human settlements & nearby farms from flooding

“Room for the river” infrastructure project in Overdiepse Polder, Netherlands
4. Adaptation in Urban Areas (continued)

Following cyclone-related flooding in 2014, UN-Habitat supported development of an **Urban Resilience & Climate Action Plan**
- Developed & jointly approved by national & city governments

Honiara, Solomon Islands
5. Urban-Rural Linkages / City-region Planning: EU Consensus on Development (Draft)

“The EU & its Member States will:

• Seek to boost the potential of cities as hubs for sustainable growth..., taking account of their wider rural communities & of balanced regional development.

• In line with the UN’s New Urban Agenda... promote sustainable land use planning, ... sustainable urban mobility & smart... cities....

• Promote inclusive, balanced, integrated territorial & urban policies & multilevel government coordination, forging stronger links between rural & urban areas.

• Build cities’ resilience to shocks & harness opportunities for a low-emission & climate-resilient economy“.
5. Urban-Rural Linkages /City-region Planning: New Urban Agenda

• “We commit ourselves to supporting territorial systems that integrate urban & rural functions into the national & subnational spatial frameworks...to foster equitable regional development”.

• “We will support the implementation of integrated, polycentric & balanced territorial development policies & plans, encouraging cooperation & mutual support among different scales of cities & human settlements...”.

• “We will encourage the implementation of sustainable urban & territorial planning, including city-region & metropolitan plans, to encourage synergies & interactions among urban areas of all sizes & their peri-urban & rural surroundings...”.
6. Conclusions

A. Regarding **urban climate action**, the major global agendas of 2015 & 2016 are **mutually reinforcing**.
6. Conclusions

B. Truly effective urban climate policies in a number of sectors –
✓ ecosystem-based adaptation,
✓ sustainable transportation,
✓ solid waste management,
✓ renewable energy,
✓ urban food chains –
transcend municipal boundaries & require a city-regional approach. This may involve municipal cooperation – “horizontal integration”.

In some cases a ‘city-region’ may cross an international boundary.
6. Conclusions

C. Effective city-level climate action also requires "vertical integration"

From national to local level –
- Empower local action
- Provide enabling framework, resources, standards, etc.

From local to national level –
- "MRV" reporting of climate results suitable to include in NDC reporting
6. Conclusions

D. The **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy** encourages cities to take climate action in a manner consistent with national level reporting.

It has the potential to be the most important global initiative to encourage **ambitious urban climate action**.
E. In the same way the EC is represented in the Paris Agreement by a single Nationally Determined Contribution, so the EC may wish to consider a unified framework to encourage & monitor vigorous implementation of the New Urban Agenda – particularly its environmental & climate change components.
THANK YOU!

Raf.Tuts@unhabitat.org