Compilation for Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Post-2015 Development Agenda

1 November 2013
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Introduction

Current proposals for reflecting sustainable cities in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fall along three complementary lines, beginning with securing a dedicated goal on sustainable cities. An SDG on sustainable cities would be universal, transformative and integrated, which have been proposed in a report of the Secretary-General as criteria for all goals. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) details how an urban SDG would transform challenges into opportunities, mobilize and empower urban actors, integrate planning with economic development and converge design with service delivery. Such a goal would be productively complemented by the inclusion of urban targets in other goals. These could be further supported by urban/rural disaggregated indicators throughout the SDGs.

In the quest for sustainable development, a focus on cities and human settlements is unique because it foregrounds space and place as well as the subsidiarity of local government. Cities constitute the arena where action is concretized. As engines of growth they are transformative; they concentrate the institutions and infrastructure required to bring about change. As hubs of peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing they are integrative; their championing of innovative approaches strengthens institutions and builds capacities. As homes for a majority of the world’s people, they are universal.

One promising way to reflect this in the development of an SDG on sustainable cities would be to highlight core targets not addressed in other SDG proposals. These unique targets (e.g. national urban policies, urban resilience, global urban land cover, land tenure security, public space, public transport, urban slums and adequate housing, amongst others) might form the basis of a dedicated SDG on cities.

To help forge consensus, the development of an SDG on sustainable cities might also incorporate emerging themes and recommendations from the Thematic Consultations held over the past year. For example, the Consultation on Population Dynamics highlighted that by anticipating urban growth and leveraging agglomeration advantages cities can accommodate increased demographic demands – including the youth bulge – at the same time as they strengthen linkages to rural regions. Participants in the Inequalities Consultation suggested that cities tackle urban segregation through inclusive policies and participatory decision-making. In Environmental Sustainability, participants highlighted the need to address unplanned urbanization, rural-urban migration and the disaster risks it drives as well as evolving climate conditions. And in Governance, participants discussed localizing sustainable human development.

Alternatively, member states might consider constructing a dedicated goal on cities along the lines of the issues discussed in paragraphs 134-7 of The Future We Want. These paragraphs outline the following urban subthemes: affordable housing, infrastructure and slum upgrading; cultural heritage and urban revitalization; participatory decision-making; urban safety and health; sustainable transport and energy and green space; water and sanitation; resilience; urban planning and design; and partnerships for sustainable urban development.

The current formulation of the goal proposed by UN-Habitat is “to promote cities and human settlements that are environmentally safe, socially inclusive, economically productive and resilient”. As the debate on SDGs is progressing, UN-Habitat will further refine the formulation of the proposed goal and targets and develop a more extensive narrative to support the proposal.

In preparation for OWG7, 6-10 January, UN-Habitat, with co-lead UNEP and the contributions of ECLAC, ESCAP, IFAD, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UN-Women, WHO, WMO and the World Bank, produced an Issue Brief on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements (available online at http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2306TST%20Issues%20Brief%20Cities_FINAL.pdf). Recognizing that much flexibility remains – not least of which in the title of a related goal – the Issue Brief provides a solid, consultative starting point for Member States’ consideration of the topic.

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1 Sustainable Development Solutions Network: Why we need an urban sustainable development goal
2 These topics will be explored further in a LAMG-hosted expert group meeting planned for 5-6 December in New York
1. Inclusive National Urban Policies

By 2030, increase to 50% the number of countries adopting and implementing inclusive national urban policies.

Relevance and Significance

The world reached a milestone in 2006 when more than three billion people, half the global population, lived in urban areas. Planning for sustainable urban development, through inclusive national urban policies, is imperative and offers a pragmatic basis for environmental outcomes and socioeconomic development to maximize the benefits of urbanization, while mitigating potential adverse externalities. The NUP is a key to coordinate ministerial and sectoral efforts at different levels of government for sustainable urban development, territorial cohesion and urban-rural linkages.

The economic benefits from sustainable urban growth will come from exploiting economies of scale and agglomeration. However, the inadequate capacity to plan, manage and guide urban growth and dynamics places urbanization on an uncertain developmental path. Through reasserting the positive role of urbanization, and providing an overarching coordinating framework to address urban challenges, inclusive national urban policies offer a key strategy for national socioeconomic development.

Aimed at guiding the urbanization process based on compact, connected, integrated and inclusive cities, National Urban Policies seek to strengthen the link between urbanization and socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability.

Good urbanization can deliver social, environmental and economic transformation and prosperity if it is guided and supported by effective national policies and frameworks. A target on inclusive national urban policies will ensure a more integrated approach to sustainable urban development and position cities as inclusive engines of growth, protectors of natural resources and providers of poverty alleviation and inequality reduction.

Existing Mandates and Commitments

The Habitat Agenda underscores that ‘[u]rban settlements, properly planned and managed, hold the promise for human development and the protection of the world’s natural resources,’ (¶2). The Agenda encourages the international community to support and facilitate national and local efforts in human settlements management and to promote the exchange of experiences and policy responses to urbanization and integrated regional development within the framework of national development strategies. The Agenda also calls for the enhancement of capabilities of national and local authorities to identify and analyze critical human settlements issues and to formulate and effectively implement policies and programmes in response to them (¶98). It thus reflects how cities and towns have been engines of growth and incubators of civilization, industry and commerce.

The Rio+20 Outcome document3, ¶134-135, recognizes ‘the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements’ and committing ‘to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements’.

UN-Habitat Governing Council Resolution4 24/5 of 19 April 2013 mandates UN-Habitat to promote sustainable development through national urban policies as a key strategy for national socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability.

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method

As custodians of national policies, national governments offer a credible source of information on newly developed and improved national urban policies. However, each national urban policy will have to demonstrate that it adequately fosters a process of urbanization based on compact, connected, integrated and inclusive cities. A NUP index will be developed and will be composed of compact, connected, integrated and inclusive indicators. Baselines and targets for monitoring and evaluation purposes will also be set based on the methodology for measuring inclusive NUP. Therefore, further development of indicators and indices must qualify and quantify compact, connected, integrated and inclusive as ideals/norms to be promoted by any newly developed or improved national urban policy.

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3 http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/774futurewewan_english.pdf
2. Multisectoral Urban Resilience Policies

By 2030 increase to 20% the number of cities adopting and implementing policies and plans that integrate comprehensive measures to strengthen resilience

Relevance and Significance

More than 226 million people are affected by disasters every year. From 2000 to 2010, economic damage as a result of disasters amounted to around US$ 1 trillion. However, less than 0.7 per cent of total relief aid goes to disaster risk reduction. Of the 33 cities that will have at least 8 million residents by 2015, 21 are in coastal areas. Moreover, 80% of the largest cities are vulnerable to severe impacts of earthquakes and 60% are at risk from storm surges and tsunamis; all face the new impacts of climate change.

Since 1980, drought and associated famine have claimed nearly 558,000 lives and affected more than 1.6 billion people. On average, 102 million people are affected every year by floods, 37 million people by cyclones, hurricanes or typhoons, and nearly 366,000 by landslides. However, in East Asia and the Pacific, the risks of dying from floods and cyclones have actually decreased by two thirds since 1980. In terms of earthquakes, more than 680,000 people died between 2000 and 2010 due mainly to poorly-built buildings. Overall, most of the 3.3 million deaths from disasters in the last 40 years have been in poorer nations.

None of the goals of any sustainable agenda will be met without ensuring that even the modest development gains are protected against losses incurred through natural or human-induced disaster and crisis. That the majority of the world’s population lives in urban areas demands systemic, integrated, and progressive action to build resilient cities.

Inadequate urban planning, unregulated urban density, inadequate infrastructure and basic services, poor local capacities, and systemic economic marginalization all contribute to increasing vulnerability to crises. Rapid urbanization, poor quality construction, unregulated expansion of urban settlements, weak governance capacities and climate change impacts are increasing cities’ exposure to hazards and risks.

Unfortunately, however, most current resilience planning and development strategies focus on sectoral (e.g., health, education, utilities, etc) or thematic (e.g. climate change, community and economic) approaches, that do not adequately address systemic integrated and multi-hazard resilience.

Existing Mandates and Commitments

The UN mandate is derived from Member State commitments to the Hyogo Framework for Action, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/60/195 following the 2005 World Disaster Reduction Conference. References to the need for global, regional, national and local resilience to natural and human-made disasters throughout A/RES/66/288 (The future we want) are too numerous to cite. However, they clearly illustrate the global commitment to protecting development gains through risk reduction and resilience building. UN-Habitat’s mandate is derived from the Habitat Agenda (¶40(l)), ¶43(d-z), ¶170-176, ¶208(d-e), ¶228(c)) to assist Member States with disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities in human settlements.5

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method

While advances are being made globally in shifting emphasis from risk reduction to resilience, the tools and methods for reliably measuring urban resilience will only be available within the next years. That which is available today provides city and town administrations only an understanding of their inherent vulnerabilities and limits action to remedial (i.e. risk/vulnerability) development programming alone. Consequently, there is no common baseline for forward-looking, multi-sectoral, multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder strategies for building resilience, accounting for the inherent interdependencies of each part of an urban system. New approaches and methodologies for assigning resilience metrics to urban systems (i.e. physical, spatial, functional and organizational) elements are being developed, tested, and used to determine reliable city resilience profiles. They will also provide reliable baselines for future urban planning, development and governance within a resilience framework. One key baseline, however, does exist. The UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign has garnered over 1,500 cities around the world that have made local government-level commitments to building resilience. These may constitute the preliminary target group for more concentrated, integrated approaches as noted above.

5 In addition to: i) Resolution HSP/GC/19/9 of 9 May 2003: declares that one of the special themes of the twentieth session of the Governing Council shall be “Post-conflict, natural and human-made disasters assessment and reconstruction”. (A/58/8 Report of the Governing Council of the UNHSP, p. 44); ii) Resolution HSP/GC/19/7 of the same date recommending UN-HABITAT to devote specific attention to human settlements needs in the reconstruction of countries and territories affected by armed conflicts or by other human-made or natural disasters. (A/59/8 Report of the Governing Council of the UNHSP, p. 42, paragraph 6); iii) GA Resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of UN-HABITAT further requested that UN-HABITAT continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies, to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, and to ensure a more effective transition from relief to development. (A/59/239, paragraph. 18); iv) GA Resolution 60/203 of 22 December 2005 urging the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to include UN-HABITAT in its membership. (A/60/203, paragraphs 15, 16); v) Resolution HSP/GC/20/17 on “Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction” taking note of the UN-HABITAT’s guiding principles for sustainable relief and reconstruction, and requesting that the Executive Director mainstream prospects for risk and vulnerability reduction and limiting the after-effects of disasters, elaborate on the guiding principles, and develop a strategic policy for the role of UN-HABITAT. (A/60/8 Report of the Governing Council of the UNHSP, p. 43)
3: Global Urban Land Cover
By 2030, halve the rate of increase of global urban land cover

Relevance and Significance
Cities are expected to absorb an additional 2.5 billion (?) people by the year 2050. Whether they manage to do so sustainably depends heavily on whether they harness the efficiency advantages of agglomeration. Agglomeration provides compactness, concentration and connectivity. More than half of the area expected to be urban in 2030 remains to be built. Therein lies an extraordinary opportunity to make the future city more productive and sustainable.

However, most cities are forfeiting these advantages and becoming more expansive. With cities growing spatially faster than their populations, urban sprawl is accelerating. As a result, urbanization is becoming less efficient. Globally, the amount of land available for agriculture, habitat and nutrient recycling is also declining. With impending resource limits and twin climate change and food crises, we have little time to reverse this trend.

The more compact a city the more productive and innovative it is and the lower its per capita rates of resource use and emissions. Though sprawl and density are generally two sides of the same coin, sprawl, i.e. global urban land cover, is more feasible to measure and monitor.

A target on sprawl would uniquely highlight the form the future development takes. Urban configuration largely predetermines the technologies and behavioural patterns within a city. Once built, cities are expensive and difficult to reconfigure. It is particularly crucial that the fastest growing cities in the developing world ‘get it right’ before they are beset by infrastructural lock-in. Other more sectoral targets are equally important, but a target on sprawl within a goal on cities would ensure that wider dimensions of space and land are adequately addressed in the SDGs.

Existing Mandates and Commitments
The Governing Council […] encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda partners […] to consider seriously increasing urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to promote development patterns that allow housing for all, increased job opportunities and reduced urban sprawl, to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres and demand for transport and energy use, and to overcome a growing social divide, spatial fragmentation and resulting land use patterns (UN-Habitat Governing Council, Resolution 23/17).

Adopt urban planning principles and practices that advance higher density, mixed use, walkable, bikeable and disabled-accessible neighborhoods which coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreation and ecological restoration (Urban Environmental Accords, Action 8).

The objective is to provide for the land requirements of human settlement development through environmentally sound physical planning and land use so as to ensure access to land to all households and where appropriate, the encouragement of communally and collectively owned and managed land. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of women, and indigenous people for economic and cultural reasons (Local Agenda 21, 7.28)

Rapid urbanization, the concentration of the urban population in large cities, the sprawl of cities into wider geographical areas and the rapid growth of megacities are among the most significant transformations of human settlements (Habitat Agenda, P99). Green spaces and vegetation cover in urban and peri-urban areas are essential for biological and hydrological balance and economic development … and the provision of common land should be integrated into the planning of urban and peri-urban areas (Habitat Agenda, P112).

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method
Three sources offer methods, baselines and projections. Angel et al6 put global urban land cover in 2000 at 605,875 sq km. Looking toward 2030, they offer a ‘high’ projection of continued density decline (i.e. increase in sprawl) of 2 per cent per year and 1.8 million sq km urban land cover by 2030; a ‘medium’ projection with density decline slowing to 1 per cent and just over 1.3 million sq km by 2030; and a ‘low’ projection (optimal scenario) in which density decline stops and global urban land cover by 2030 remains under 1 million sq km. The meta-analysis of Seto et al7 establishes a baseline urban extent of 726,943 sq km with 2030 total urban land cover projections ranging from 1.2 to 2.3 million sq km. Their most likely scenario, assuming low-to-moderate economic growth and stabilizing population growth, is the addition of new urban land area the size of Mongolia. Elmqvist et al8 indicate that 60 per cent of the area expected to be urban in 2030 remains to be built, implying more than a doubling of global urban land area. As per Angel et al, built-up urban area can be measured by counting built-up pixels within satellite images. Any impervious surface -- including pavements, rooftops and compacted soils – counts as built-up area. Angel et al have used both Land-sat imagery with a 30-meter pixel resolution and Mod500 imagery with 463-meter pixel resolution.

4. Land Tenure Security
By 2030, increase by x% the share of women and men, communities and businesses with secure rights to land, property, and other assets

By 2030, ensure equal right of women to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register a business and open a bank account.9

Relevance and Significance
Land is fundamental to addressing urban challenges. Improving land tenure and promoting good land governance will benefit many other sectoral issues also addressed by UN-Habitat. These include dealing with governance and legislation, housing, slum upgrading, economy through land-based financing, water and sanitation, infrastructure, transport, planning, safety and security as well as dealing with post-conflict and post-disaster contexts, gender, youth and human rights issues. The gap in measuring and ascertaining tenure security is a major obstacle to the improvement of tenure security. Although there are many indicators and assessments available for measuring land governance and land tenure, globally comparable data on various aspects of land do not exist. Indicator definitions and the frequency and methods of collection vary, and coverage is usually limited to a small subset of countries or project areas.

UN-Habitat has built on its experience in developing and testing different ways in which tenure security might be measured. In that sense it has also made significant progress in developing approaches that generate the comprehensive, comparative household and administrative data required for monitoring tenure security. For instance, in 2011 UN-Habitat released a report proposing a robust methodology for monitoring security of tenure in cities at three levels: people, land and policies. UN-Habitat has a good track record in urban monitoring in general, and access to land and land-related interventions in particular, including the Housing Indicators Programme, the Global Urban Indicators Databases I and II and the Global Urban Indicators Database.

The current proposal therefore builds on the already registered target in the High-level Panel Report A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development. Page 33 of the report recognized UN-Habitat’s work on land tenure, which bolsters its argument for a specific target on land.10 The report further states that ‘tenure security was originally included in the MDGs, but a lack of globally comparable data at the time led to its replacement; since then, UN-Habitat and partners have made progress in developing a methodology consistent across countries and regions’. Furthermore, ‘[t]hose countries where women’s interests are strongly represented, laws have been passed to secure land rights…’

Existing Mandates and Commitments
UN-Habitat was mandated under the current Millennium Goal 7, Target 11, to monitor slums (including tenure security – the fifth dimension of slums – under Indicator 32). However, the inability to acquire widespread comparative data for measuring tenure security led to the UN system dropping this indicator. It is thus important that UN-Habitat lead the land target, through which other aspects of the urban agenda will be reinforced.

Since 2013, UN-Habitat’s Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) has been facilitating a number of key players in the effort to coalesce around global land indicators, particularly in the context of Post 2015 development agenda. These partners include the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the World Bank and UN-Habitat. Many other global partners – including DFID, FAO, IFAD, the Omidyar network, African Union, UNECA, ADB, Landesa and Habitat for Humanity – have supported this consultative process for strong land targets and indicators.

UN-Habitat is a member the UN Statistical Commission. It proposes tenure security as one of the targets in the post-2015 UN development agenda, also cognizant that it is likely to receive a $500,000 grant from the UN Development Account for pilot testing and building the capacity of select national governments to collect tenure security data for monitoring.

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method
Data will be collected from a range of sources already vetted by UN-Habitat and its partners. These include household and administrative data, expert opinion, surveys, national statistical agencies and crowdsourcing. UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on, the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013) A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development. UN-Habitat (2011) Monitoring security of tenure in cities – people, land and policies.

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9 These two proposed targets are already included in the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Experts entitled A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development.
10 This is the only place in the report where UN-Habitat was quoted. Also, no other UN agency or development partner work on land was quoted to make the case for introducing land prominently in the proposed post-2015 development goals and targets.
11 The slum indicator has five dimensions, namely (1) improved water, (2) improved sanitation, (3) adequate living space, (4) durable housing and (5) security of tenure.
5. Public Space in Urban Land Area

*To increase by one third the amount of public space over total land area by 2030*

**Relevance and Significance**

Today, in most cities in developed regions, urbanization has occurred with the rapid expansion of low-density, single-use suburban development with spacious houses. In most cities in developing regions, urban expansion has also taken the form of ‘peripherization’ that is characterized by large peri-urban areas with informal and/or illegal patterns of land use. In both scenarios the prominent consideration historically given to public spaces, including streets, has significantly eroded. As new cities also emerge they are coupled with the reduced allocation of land to public space (particularly the street). Streets, as public spaces, have lost their importance in terms of their relative share of land and their role in shaping the culture and history of cities. Recent UN-Habitat estimates show that the land allocated to streets in suburban areas is less than half the proportion allocated to them in city cores. Reducing the land allocated to public spaces impacts negatively on quality of life, social inclusion, infrastructure development, environmental sustainable and productivity.

Public spaces are all places publicly owned and/or for public use. They are also generally accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. Each public space has its own spatial, historic, environmental, social and economic features. Public spaces consist both of open environments (e.g. streets, squares, gardens, parks) and of sheltered spaces (e.g. public libraries, museums). One key indicator of public space is the proportion of land allocated to streets within the total urban land area. Other qualitative indicators may also be considered.

**Existing Mandates and Commitments**

Citizens are increasingly reclaiming their streets as public spaces. In recent years streets have also been recognized as an integral factor in the achievement of sustainable urban development and various organizations are collaborating to improve the livability of streets as public spaces. Recognizing this, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat has passed a resolution (23/4) on “Sustainable urban development through access to quality urban public spaces” which reiterates the commitment to advancing the agenda on place-making and public spaces to consolidate local and international approaches to creating inclusive cities. One of the objectives of Localizing Agenda 21 that is most relevant to public space is helping local authorities improve urban environmental planning and management processes and building local institutional support for the same.

**Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method**

Globally, barely 15 per cent of urban land area is allocated to streets. Measuring this proportion is unusually difficult, except where there is comprehensive information and a complete inventory and identification of public spaces in an area. With sufficient data this indicator allows for the comparing and aggregating progress across cities towards the achievement of an optimal quantity of land allocated to public space. Related information is now available in the Global Urban Observatory (GUO) database that represents a global sample of cities. An Integrated Street Database (ISD) has also been created where street information is integrated with social, economic and other infrastructural and environmental information. Using the street database UN-Habitat has prepared a publication *Streets as Public Spaces and Drivers of Urban Prosperity*, which will be launched in November 2013. Inherent in measuring public space is the challenge of delimiting city boundaries. For the data collectors, most important is the task consisting in deciding on what will be the most accurate boundary for the urban agglomeration area.
6: Urban Slums and Adequate Housing for All
To halve the proportion of people living in slums towards adequate housing for all by 2030.

Relevance and significance of the Target
While the lives of 220 million slum dwellers have been improved, the total number of slum dwellers has increased, and it is estimated that 863 million people are living in slums today. The number is projected to double by 2030 and thus urban poverty eradication stays an enormous challenge to be addressed. This increased inequality and exclusion is consequent to the failure of public urban and housing policies and inadequate investment in pro-poor urban and housing development frameworks. Learning from the MDG experience, it is important to continue efforts for improved living standards in slum towards sustainable, inclusive and adequate housing for all through national targets indicators and monitoring mechanisms.

The target will be owned by national and local authorities developing rights-based, gender responsive, and results-based national housing and slum upgrading strategies and programmes formulated with full participation. Particular, capacities of women, youth and vulnerable groups are to be strengthened to become agents of change for the improvement of living standards and the realization of the right to adequate housing without unlawful forced evictions.

Existing Mandates and Commitments
The target on Housing and Slums builds on key global declarations and agendas: the right to adequate housing is enshrined in HRC Res. 6/27, CHR Res. 2004/21 and the Habitat Agenda/§26, 39, 61; as part of the right to an adequate standard of living contained in UDHR/§25 and ICESCR/Art. 11.1. It is also outlined in Agenda 21/§7.6 and throughout chapter 7 on “Promoting sustainable human settlements” with specific targets on housing finance, access to land, self-help housing and the promotion of sustainable construction materials. Protection against forced evictions is further delineated in ICESCR/Art. 11.1 and CESCR/GC4 & 7, and is an integral part of the right to adequate housing. With regards to slum upgrading and prevention, slums are defined according to 5 main deprivations (security of tenure, access to safe drinking water, access to improved sanitation, durability of housing and overcrowding), both in the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indicators (2002) and in the State of World’s Cities 2010-2011. Moreover, the target on Housing and Slums builds on the previous MDGs, targets 7A (at the agency level) and targets 7C and 7D (with regards to slum deprivations). Agenda 21 reinforces the target on slums in its Chapter 7 while the Habitat Agenda advocates for slum upgrading in its Chapter 43. The target also reflects commitments made by 56 countries in the Rabat Declaration on “Making Slums History” and Kigali Declaration. As part of the Agency’s mandates, Target 4 is in line with the Rio+20 commitments on “Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements” outlined in The Future We Want document. In 2013, UN-Habitat’s Governing Council, adopted the Global Housing Strategy Framework Document, as well as resolutions 24/7 and 24/9 that mandated UN-Habitat to make slums history and to formulate inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift and contribute to the global discourse on the post 2015 agenda.

Data sources, baseline and measurement methods

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<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Method of Measurement</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Proportion of urban slum dwellers in urban settings reduced by half</td>
<td>Slum definition with its five deprivations (security of tenure, access to safe drinking water, access to improved sanitation, durability of housing and overcrowding) Participatory slum upgrading principles</td>
<td>National policies and city-wide slum upgrading strategies National and City Statistics;</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Increased realization of the right to adequate housing</td>
<td>Seven criteria of the Right to Adequate Housing (security of tenure, availability of services and infrastructure, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location and cultural adequacy)</td>
<td>Housing Rights Indicator; Universal Periodic Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Number of policies and programmes promoting inclusive housing and slum upgrading practices</td>
<td>Analysis of participatory gender responsive and rights-based approaches applied in policies and programmes</td>
<td>National policies and programmes; Global Housing Indicators; Inclusive Housing and Slum Upgrading Index;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Increased sustainability of housing and slum upgrading</td>
<td>Analysis of social, economic, environmental and cultural sustainability approaches applied in policies and programmes</td>
<td>National policies and programmes; Sustainable Housing Rating Tool;</td>
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7: Access to Safe and Affordable Public Transport
By 2030 urban households are able to access jobs, goods, services within 30 minutes by public transport and/or walking and cycling.

Relevance and Significance
The world is facing an unprecedented growth of motorization at the same time as the modal share of public transport in developing country cities is decreasing (Global Report on Human Settlements 2013). In 2010, 1.2 million people, mostly in developing countries, were killed in road accidents (WHO). Small particulate matter (i.e. air pollution) is also estimated to have caused more than 3 million deaths. The poor often spend a much higher proportion of their time and income to reach their destinations. Women and other disadvantaged groups are often at a particular disadvantage and face a variety of risks in travelling to their destinations. Traffic congestion is becoming increasingly severe resulting in major losses to national GDP in many developing countries. Efficient, safe and affordable public transport systems that are integrated with safe and attractive non-motorised transport can reduce dependence on personal vehicles, reduce congestion and reduce the resulting air pollution, which is fundamental for economically and socially vibrant cities.

Existing Mandates and Commitments
The UN General Assembly Resolution 64/255 of 10 May 2010 on Improving Global Road Safety among other things, calls for ‘increasing sustainable means of transport and invites international financial institutions and regional development banks to assist developing countries in building sustainable mass transportation systems with a view to reducing road traffic accidents.’ The outcome document of Rio+20, The Future We Want, notes that transportation and mobility are central to sustainable development and further supports the development of sustainable transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems. The Habitat agenda also emphasizes sustainable transport systems, including public transport. UN-Habitat’s Governing Council Resolution 24/2 calls upon Member States to step up their efforts to improve urban mobility, ensure better access to goods and services and reduce traffic accidents and air pollution through improved urban planning, better public transport and facilities for non-motorized transport (such as walking and cycling). The Five Year Action Agenda of the UN Secretary General calls for convening, among others, urban public transport providers along with Governments and investors to develop and take action on recommendations for more sustainable transport systems than can address rising congestion and pollution worldwide particularly in urban areas. Speaking at the WHD 2013, SG stressed that urban transport is central to sustainable development and called for a commitment to make cities and towns accessible to all.

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method
No single indicator may be adequate to provide information on sustainable transport. A possible set of indicators and measurement methods including the specific target parameters are presented below:

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<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Method of Measurement</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(i) Vehicle km travelled/capita; (ii) Per capita fuel consumption on transport</td>
<td>(i) National and City Statistics; (ii) National and City Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Acceptability of PT/Satisfaction rating by commuters;</td>
<td>Objective surveys/FGDs/interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Average commute travel time and reliability</td>
<td>Objective surveys/FGDs/interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Accidents, fatalities and injuries</td>
<td>City and National Statistics.</td>
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8: Public Expenditure by Local Government
By 2030, reach a 15% of total public expenditure by local governments

Relevance and Significance
More than 60% of the world population will be living in cities by 2030. Local governments will maintain the final responsibility for managing cities and give a first response to all challenges linked to rapid urbanization. Cities cannot be sustainable without strong and capable local and territorial governments, including regions, provinces, megalopolis and small city towns.

The concept of governance implies that the public sector works in efficient way, assigning responsibilities and resources to the different levels of government. Consultation between different spheres is believed to be one of the factors of success in achieving good governance. It also requires local governments to have the legal capacity to act and to plan their own priorities.

Strong local governments are the better response to maintain infrastructures, to provide basic urban services and reduce inequalities by tackling urban poverty through strategies designed and implemented locally. They also represent enormous opportunities to increase local democracy and participation. To be able to function, local governments need the resources and capacities to serve their communities. These resources can be simplified in three main dimensions:

a) Human resources, motivated, and protected local officers and decision makers
b) The legal capacity to intervene, regulate and act though local normative and autonomy
c) Adequate local financial mechanisms

UN-Habitat is proposing a target on strengthened local governments that measuring their financial capacity and autonomy. Its adoption will help achieve sustainability by empowering local governments to provide services and maintain infrastructures. The proposed target also proposes measuring the total of public expenditure allocated to local or regional governments (including both transfers from central governments and locally generated taxes)

Existing Mandates and Commitments
Habitat Agenda, Article 180
To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks, Governments at the appropriate levels should:
(a) Examine and adopt, as appropriate, policies and legal frameworks from other States that are implementing decentralization effectively;
(b) Review and revise, as appropriate, legislation to increase local autonomy and participation in decision-making, implementation, and resource mobilization and use, especially with respect to human, technical and financial resources and local enterprise development, within the overall framework of a national, social, economic and environmental strategy, and encourage the participation of the inhabitants in decision-making regarding their cities, neighbourhoods or dwellings;
(c) Develop education in citizenship to emphasize the role of individuals as actors in their communities;
(d) Support local authorities reviewing revenue-generating mechanisms;

The International Guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities
48. Effective decentralization and local autonomy require appropriate financial autonomy.
49. Local authorities’ financial resources should be commensurate with their tasks and responsibilities and ensure financial sustainability and self-reliance. Any transfer or delegation of tasks or responsibilities by the state shall be accompanied by corresponding and adequate financial resources, preferably guaranteed by the constitution or national legislation, and decided upon after consultations between concerned spheres of government on the basis of objective cost assessments.
50. Where central or regional governments delegate powers to them, local authorities should be guaranteed the adequate resources necessary to exercise these powers as well as discretion in adapting the execution of their tasks to local conditions and priorities.
51. Local authorities should have access to a broad variety of financial resources to carry out their tasks and responsibilities. They should be entitled, preferably on the basis of constitutional and/or national legislative guarantees, to adequate resources or transfers, which they may freely use

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method
Studies have shown the correlation between high levels of local expenditure and higher levels of human development. All 10 top countries as assessed by the Human Development Index have percentages of local expenditure higher than 15%. UN-Habitat would like to contribute to the increase of locally-implemented financial resources by proposing this target.
9: Urban Violent Crime

Relevance and Significance
The world’s “to-do” list turns out to be perplexingly long, but there is growing recognition that addressing conflict, crime and violence needs to be high on it. In 2012, the UN Task Team on the post-2015 framework acknowledged that ‘[v]iolence, conflict (and crime) have become the largest obstacle to achieving the MDGs.’ Building on the increasing recognition that conflict, violence and crime are among the most significant factors holding back human development, we need to ensure that the post-2015 framework takes account of the connections between development, conflict, crime and violence. The new development framework needs to achieve two things from a safer cities and sustainable urbanization perspective: (1) it should adopt a holistic, integrated, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to prevent conflict, violence and crime in urban areas and (2) it should reflect the best available evidence of how to build safer cities successfully.

Violence and crime disrupts economies, creates segregated societies with gated communities, impacts on education, mobility and destroys social cohesion within communities and neighbourhoods. Conflict, crime and violence will take the focus and resources away from achieving the SDGs, and also diminish the capacity of governments to plan, manage and make decisions for a better urban future.

Existing Mandates and Commitments
Habitat Agenda – 10 paragraphs related to safer cities. (¶25, 30, 32, 36, 45 (d), 84, 85, 123, 161 (d) and (p).


GC resolution 23/14 (2011) on Sustainable Urban Development through Safer Cities and the Prevention of Urban Crime, and recognizing its implementation and the growing involvement of local authorities through the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC)

The General Assembly held a thematic debate on crime, violence and insecurity as a threat to development at its 66th session held in New York on 26 June 2012

Resolution “Supporting Action for the Creation of Safer Cities” was adopted during the recently concluded twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat (HSP-GC-24-L7). This includes the proposal for updating the 1995 “Guidelines for the Prevention of Urban Crime” with UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities, with an accompanying instrument of an Urban Safety Monitor, and a financial mechanism to support action for the creation of safer cities.

In addition, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 22nd Session that took place in Vienna from 22 - 26 April 2013 adopted a resolution on “Promoting and mainstreaming the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the post-2015 development agenda” requesting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide substantive contributions to UN-Habitat on efforts to complement the development of UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities. (ODC-CCPCJ-22-L19)

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method
There are some strong arguments both for including global targets and indicators in the new global development framework and for avoiding them in favour of a ‘global vision – local targets and indicators’ model. Although each context is different, tackling conflict, violence and crime in urban areas is in the shared interest of all countries and essential for successful development.


Public perception indicators: International Crime Victim Survey’s, UNICEF Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey, WHO multi-country study on women’s health and domestic violence, Demographic and Health Surveys, Transparency International
10: Youth Employment and Urban Job Creation

By 2030, to halve the unemployment rate among the urban youth (or close gap between youth & adult unemployment) and halve the proportion of urban youth engaged in informal economic activities

Relevance and Significance

The rate of urbanization in developing countries has been much faster than the rate at which cities have been able to generate decent jobs for their ever-growing populations. As a result, a significant proportion of youth and women in many cities remain either unemployed or underemployed. During the next 15 years 600 million more people will join the global labour market, most of whom will be the youth in cities in developing countries. These new entrants to the labour market will be competing with the existing 197 million unemployed and 550 million working poor. The 2008 financial crisis pushed 215 million more workers into poverty. In 2012, the global unemployment rate was 5.9%.

Growing unemployment among youth is the main cause of the recent social and political unrest around the world. Globally, young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Today, 73.4 million youth are looking for work, leading to a current global youth unemployment rate of 12.4%. As a result, many urban young men and women are forced to eke out a living in the low-productive informal sector.

Young men and women of today are the best educated in history. If they transition into adulthood in an environment that guarantees secure and equitable economic opportunities, youth can become key to achieving economic growth and social equity. According to ILO, even halving the world’s youth unemployment rate could generate an estimated USD2.2 to 3.5 trillion (between 4.4 and 7% of the world’s GDP).

Existing Mandates and Commitments

In the Habitat Agenda, Governments recognized that urban economies are integral to the process of economic transformation and development, and that the eradication of poverty requires, inter alia, sound macroeconomic policies aimed at creating employment opportunities and equal and universal access to economic opportunities. In ¶158-161 of the Agenda, Governments are urged to, among other things, (a) formulate and implement financial policies that stimulate a broad range of urban employment opportunities; (b) assist informal sector enterprises to become more productive; and (c) encourage fair treatment of the informal sector. In ¶119, Governments are encouraged to stimulate productive employment opportunities and all actors are encouraged to foster economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and incomes of women workers in both the formal and informal sectors.

In paragraphs 13, 33, 45 and 120 of the Habitat Agenda, UN-Habitat, among others, is specifically encouraged to work in partnership with young people in human settlements development and to empower them to participate in decision-making in order to improve urban livelihoods and contribute to sustainable human settlements.

In the outcome document of Rio+20, Governments also committed themselves to promoting an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements and the generation of decent jobs (¶135).

There is a growing consensus on the need for inclusive economic growth, a concept that – according to the Commission on Growth and Development – includes equity, equality of opportunity and protection in market and employment transitions. Inclusive growth is about raising the pace of growth and expanding the size of the economy while leveling the playing field for investment and increasing productive employment opportunities” (World Bank). Clearly, the key outcome of inclusive growth is increased participation of the labour force in terms of productive employment.

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method

At the outset, it should be noted that the two targets mentioned above should be taken together to ensure coherence of policy actions by national and subnational governments. However, it might also be argued that Target 2 could encourage local authorities to evict informal sector operators without providing alternative economic opportunities. The objective here though is to provide sufficient economic opportunities in the formal economy, hence reading the two targets together is imperative. There are also definitional issues to address including defining ‘youth.’

Most developing countries do not have reliable data on the number of unemployed urban youth. This includes data on trends in urban youth unemployment in general and disaggregated data on unemployment among young men and women in particular. Given this serious challenge, a feasible approach to gathering data on urban unemployment among youth by individual cities is sample surveys of urban youth. With some modifications it might also be possible to use existing surveys such as Labour Force Surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Living Standard Measurement Surveys (LSMS). If UN-Habitat’s Prosperity Index takes off in a large number of cities, the above indicators could be integrated and results used to track global trends and establish benchmarks. As the indicators proposed above are measured by proportional changes, baselines would be, respectively, the current rate of unemployment among urban youth and the current proportion of the urban youth engaged in informal economic activities in individual cities.
11: Renewable Energy and Access to Improved Energy

By 2030, double the share of renewable energy in urban area to 30% of the global energy; double energy efficiency in all buildings and transport; and achieve universal access to improved energy in urban areas.

Relevance and Significance

Energy is both a driver and the enabler of economic development. Its availability is the prerequisite for development. Over 75% of total global energy generated is consumed in cities and contribute to over 70% of GHG emissions. As cities consume ¼ of global energy generated, there account for 70% of world GDP. Since cities are the major contributors of climate change, national economic development and welfare, they also present potentials for energy conservation and generation. The built environment alone consumes more than 40% of energy, most of which is wasted because of environmentally unfriendly design and the use of inefficient appliances. In developing countries, around 40% of urban dwellers do not have access to improved energy. The urban poor rely heavily on biomass for cooking leading to major environmental degradation of forests land and indoor air pollution that claims millions of lives every year.

Existing Mandates and Commitments

The Habitat Agenda calls for the promotion of locally available, appropriate, affordable, safe, efficient and environmentally sound construction methods and technologies in all countries, particularly in developing countries and at local, national, regional and sub-regional levels. It also emphasizes the optimal use of local human resources and encourages energy-saving methods that are protective of human health. The Agenda further calls for the promotion of changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, particularly in industrialized countries. This involved the adoption of population policies and settlement patterns that are more sustainable, reduce environmental stress, promote the efficient and rational use of natural resources - including water, air, biodiversity, forests, energy sources and land - and meet basic needs, thereby providing a healthy living and working environment for all and reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements.

For its part, the Istanbul Declaration also calls for the promotion of more energy-efficient technology and alternative/renewable energy for human settlements to reduce the negative impacts of energy production and use on human health and on the environment.

In resolution 67/215, “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy”, the General Assembly decided to declare the decade 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All and invited the Secretary-General to oversee a report on the decade. It also encouraged efforts by Governments to create and develop an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy. Lastly, it recognized the importance of giving appropriate consideration to energy issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

UN-Habitat’s Governing Council Resolution 24/2 “Strengthening UN-Habitat’s work on urban basic services” calls upon Member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable energy services a priority. The resolution further calls upon UN-Habitat to promote access to sustainable energy, particularly to the poor including through decentralized options for renewable energy generation.

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method

UN-Energy, the UN inter-agency group on energy devised seven targets for their proposed SDG on Energy. Three are particularly relevant to this proposal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Method of Measurement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Energy Access</td>
<td>Universal access to improved energy in urban areas</td>
<td>Statistics from the power utilities; Reports from local authorities. City Statistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All major cities to adopt pro-poor energy access program.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>All major cities to adopt mandatory energy efficiency measures;</td>
<td>National and City statistics and policy documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least one in three countries reviews its building code to integrate energy efficient measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least fifty per cent of public buildings are retrofitted to become energy efficient building.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Renewable energy</td>
<td>¼ of countries globally adopt feed in Tariff to promote the market transformation of renewable energy technologies; At least 50 per cent of countries remove all taxes on renewable energy products.</td>
<td>National statistics and policy documents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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12: Access to Safe Drinking Water and Adequate Sanitation

Universal access to safe water supply and sanitation by 2030

Relevance and Significance

By the year 2030, an estimated 60% of the world’s population will be living in cities. With more than 93% of urban growth taking place in the developing world, the sustainable development of cities will become increasingly dependent on the extent to which municipal authorities are able to address issues of weak infrastructure and limited access to basic urban services. Urbanization in the developing world is also associated with a progressive increase in the number of slum dwellers, who often lack access to the services that are essential to enable them to achieve adequate living standards and to effectively participate in economic activities that can help to lift them out of poverty. Water and sanitation are the two services most directly linked to standards of public health, the quality of the urban environment and the capacity of the urban population to generate sustained increases in economic productivity. However, as cities both expand and become more compact, inadequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation will probably increase the incidence and severity of waterborne diseases, undermining the economic productivity of city residents. Unsafe sanitation practices will pose further threats to environmental sustainability and economic productivity by polluting water sources and degrading the city environment. In the expanding slums of the developing world, these problems and risks are further compounded by congested living conditions and the absence of basic infrastructure such as electric power, roads and drainage.

The 2013 update on ‘Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water’, published by WHO and UNICEF, notes that about 36% of the world’s population lacks improved sanitation and that the world remains off track to meet the MDG sanitation target. In urban areas, over 794 million persons (25% of the urban population) live without access to basic sanitation. With respect to drinking water supply, service coverage in urban areas remains relatively high; however, are major issues of service quality. Intermittent supplies and a heavy reliance on unsustainable sources of supply such as shallow ground water aquifers are particularly problematic in slums. A target on water and sanitation in cities is essential to build on what has been achieved towards the water and sanitation MDGs, and completing “unfinished business” in providing the essential services to support the sustainable development of urban areas.

Existing Mandates and Commitments

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set a target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe water and sanitation between 1990 and 2015. Although the target for access to improved drinking water was achieved, approximately 768 million people, around 10% of the global population, still do not have access to improved sources of drinking water. The target for sanitation is one of the most off track of all the MDGs, with nearly a third of the global population – 2.5 billion people – currently without improve sanitation. Over one billion people still defecate in the open.

The Human Right to Water and Sanitation, driven by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) General Comment No. 15 of 2002, and reaffirmed by resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council in 2010, places legally binding obligations on all member states to progressively realize the right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. This is in recognition of the persistent challenges of inequalities in access to essential services and the need to realise peoples’ rights such that every person has equal access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

In its paragraph 40c the Habitat Agenda commits to “promoting access for all people to safe drinking water, sanitation and other basic services, facilities and amenities, especially for people living in poverty, women and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups”. Furthermore, in April, 2009, the UN-Habitat Governing Council, in approving the International Guidelines on “Access to Basic Services for All” as a necessary instrument to achieve the MDGs and to improve the potential of each person to engage in economic activity within the framework of sustainable human settlements, encourages Governments, according to their circumstances, to promote sustainable criteria in planning and construction while taking into account access to clean water and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, urban services, sustainable waste management and sustainable transport.

¶119 of the Rio+20 outcomes recognizes that water is at the core of sustainable development, reiterates the importance of integrating water in sustainable development, underlines the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development. In ¶120 it also commits to the progressive realization of access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation for all.

Data Sources, Baseline and Measurement Method

The main data source for measuring access to water and sanitation is the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), managed jointly by UNICEF and WHO. The JMP methodology is well established as a means of providing global statistics on access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The JMP estimates are based on country data from household surveys and censuses. It needs to be noted, however, that the definitions and data sources used by the JMP are often different from those used by national governments, and the estimates may therefore differ from national estimates.