

NORTHWEST MODEL UNITED NATIONS



PORTLAND



Background Guide for the
UN Human Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)

December 1, 2014

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to **Northwest Model United Nations – Portland 2015** (NWMUN-Portland 2015) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). The committee staff of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, consisting of Director Morgan Deters and Assistant Director Meaghan Webster, is looking forward to working with you over the course of the conference.

The entire Secretariat is very excited to work with you in February and appreciate the hard work and research you are undertaking in preparation for what we are confident will be a great conference!

We are immensely pleased to present to you the background guide, written by your committee staff. The topics for UN-HABITAT are:

- I. Expanding sustainable energy sources and consumption in developing areas
- II. Financing Urban Development

Every participating delegation is required to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. NWMUN will accept position papers until **Friday, January 23rd at 11:59 pm Pacific Time. Please submit all position papers to unhabitat.portland@nwmun.org AND positionpapers.portland@nwmun.org.**

Please refer to the following pages for position paper requirements, as well as an example position paper. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial, because it not only ensures a well-prepared committee, but is also a key component of the evaluation process.

We wish each of you the best as you prepare for this conference and committee. We urge you to move beyond the background guide as you learn more about both the Member State you will represent and the topics we will be discussing. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or concerns toward your Director or the Director-General. We look forward to meeting you at the conference!

Sincerely,

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Position Paper Guidelines

Your position paper should consist of a well-developed introduction and a summary of the position of your country on each of the topics to be discussed in your committee. It is important to remember that while you will have lots of information on your country's actions on a local or national level, you must discuss your country's position on an international level, particularly including suggestions for policies and future action that could be taken by the committee. Examples of high quality position papers are available on the NWMUN website under "Delegate Preparation."

Formatting

Position papers should be formatted using the following specifications:

1. Times New Roman
2. Size 10 – 12 font
3. Single spaced
4. 2 pages in length

Please Note: Anything over two pages will not be read.

Submission Process

NWMUN-Portland will accept position papers until **Friday January 23, 2015 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.**

1. Please **send each position paper in a separate e-mail to the committee** with the subject line: COUNTRY – COMMITTEE
 - a. Example: BELARUS – HRC
 - b. Example: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – GA
2. Please **CC all position paper submissions** to positionpapers.portland@nwmun.org.

General Assembly Plenary:	ga.portland@nwmun.org
United Nations Human Settlements Programme:	unhabitat.portland@nwmun.org
United Nations Population Fund:	unfpa.portland@nwmun.org
Security Council:	sc.portland@nwmun.org

Please Note: Delegates who have not submitted a position paper by the specified deadline will not be given consideration for awards.

Content Requirements

Position papers should include, and will be graded, on the following items:

1. **Formatting** and presentation;
2. **Spelling and grammar that is reflective of the level of education** being pursued by attendees to the conference.
3. The content should include:
 - a. **Background information on the topic**, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally.
 - b. **International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions**, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country.
 - c. **Specific and concrete proposals** for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph.

Research Tips

1. Look for statements made by your country – you will often find the exact position of your country within a speech that they have been made.
2. Look for the voting record of your country, which indicates its support or lack of support for particular resolutions on the topics when they were previously discussed.
3. Look for recommendations made in Secretary-General reports or within resolutions that have been adopted in order to identify the ways in which you can move forward or take action on the topic.

Key Resources

1. **UN Website “On the Record”**: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/>
This website provides direct access to official documents reflecting the views of United Nations Member States.
2. **UN Website “Global Issues”**: <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/>
This website offers an overview of some of the global issues we will be discussing at NWMUN, and links to other resources where you can get additional information.
3. **UN-HABITAT Website**: <http://www.unhabitat.org>
This is the official website of UN-HABITAT, including its mandate, work, structure, programs and projects, and resources delegates can use to better understand the issues it addresses.

Sample Format & Content of Position Papers

Delegation from
(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

[Member State]

(Bold, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

Delegation from
(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

[Member State]

(Bold, Times New Roman, Size 10-12)

Position Paper for [Committee Name] **(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)**

Introductory sentence providing an overview of the topics and, if appropriate, your delegation's relationship with the committee. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

I. Topic One Title ***(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)***

Paragraph #1: Background information on the topic, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally.
(Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #2: International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #3: Specific and concrete proposals for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

II. Topic Two Title ***(Bold, Italicized, Times New Roman, Size 10-12, Centered)***

Paragraph #1: Background information on the topic, why your country thinks it is important, relevant national commitments and action on the issue. Remember to focus on national policies which influence your country's action on this topic within the UN and internationally.
(Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #2: International commitments and your country's support of specific resolutions, initiatives, conventions or treaties. Describe what actions have been taken by your country to address prior international agreements made by your country (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

Paragraph #3: Specific and concrete proposals for next steps on the topic, priority issues, and how your country can move forward on addressing the topic. This is the most important section of the position paper, and should be the longest paragraph. (Times New Roman, Size 10 – 12)

(Repeat the topic header and content for other topics if your committee has more than two.)

Example Position Paper

Delegation from

Canada

Represented by

University of Southern Washington

Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council Plenary

The topics before the Economic and Social Council are: 1) Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace, 2) Implementing International Agreements to Ensure Global Public Health, and 3) Promoting Sustainable Cities. Canada is committed to strengthening the role of ECOSOC on the issues before it, and looks forward to promoting enhanced cooperation amongst Member States in order to reach consensus and take concrete action.

I. Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace

In conflict and post-conflict societies, economic and social rights are often given lower priority than political and civil rights. In these cases, women are not treated equally, and are often the victims of gender discrimination, which manifests itself in violations of human rights such as rape, violence and displacement. The prevalence of these crimes is exacerbated by a lack of protection for women, who often do not possess the right to own land, have no means to receive adequate health care and have no access to justice.

Canada has long been a champion of women's economic, social, and cultural rights. As an original signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Canada has a formal commitment to gender equality and, more specifically, supports the explicit and systematic integration of a gender perspective into all peace-building and foreign aid initiatives. Canada continues to press for specific initiatives with concrete and measurable outcomes when addressing gender inequality. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has developed its own Framework for Addressing Gender Equality Results. This framework has been an important advance in assessing the effectiveness of its initiatives and has consistently provided CIDA with useful and relevant data. Canada recognizes the advancements made in Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) to strengthen the original principals of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). However, Canada firmly believes that ensuring the implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) at the national level is vital. That is why Canada suggests that the CEDAW committee issue recommendations to both the Security Council and ECOSOC on positive models for National Action Plans (NAP) for incorporating SCR 1325 (2000), a set of progress and impact indicators through which its implementation can be monitored, and benchmarks designed towards strengthening the principals of SCR 1325 (2000).

Canada recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), along with the ECOSOC Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) reach out to local NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) to coordinate the monitoring of, and reporting on, the progress of these NAPs. CSW will then report its findings to ECOSOC, the Security Council, and the Secretary-General. Canada urges for the adoption of benchmarks requiring 30% of UN-mandated peacekeeping forces and negotiating delegations be women. Canada also believes that while peacekeeping troops are vital to

facilitating the cessation of hostilities, a separate unit with a specialized mandate is necessary to deal with the psychological and health issues of women that continue in post-conflict situations long after the violence is over. The specialized mandate will also lay the groundwork for legal procedures that may need to be taken to ensure just peace. Canada calls for the creation of this specially trained unit to be deployed in post-conflict situations, with a specific mandate to address sexual and gender based violence, help to eliminate impunity, and offer same-sex interviewers for rehabilitation purposes. The newly created unit will facilitate reconciliation and violence prevention.

II. Implementing International Agreements to Ensure Global Public Health

Effectively addressing global public health lies at the center of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through agreements such as the Paris Declaration on AID Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), and global health initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, the international community has made significant progress in addressing the world's health concerns. Canada is focused on creating frameworks and resolutions that foster greater coordination, eliminate corruption and overlap, improve AID consistency, encourage the untying of AID, emphasize a focus on national health systems, and hold all the countries involved accountable for producing tangible and measurable results.

Canada has been a leader in the use of innovative funding mechanisms, such as the Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which provides incentives for pharmaceutical companies to accelerate the development of vaccines and sell them at prices that poor countries can afford. This project, which is being implemented in coordination with the World Bank and GAVI, is expected to save an estimated 7.7 million lives by 2030. Canada will continue to urge its fellow member states to become more involved in the creation and implementation of such innovative funding mechanisms.

Especially now, due to the downturn in the global economy, where the world's poor are disproportionately suffering, there is a greater need for all donor countries to fulfill their Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments. Canada was the first country to fulfill its G8 commitment to double ODA in Africa by 2008, and throughout the world by 2010. This has been accomplished through both the African Health Systems Initiative (AHSI) and the Catalytic Initiative to Save a Million Lives. Canada has not only committed USD 450 million to these initiatives, but with them has demonstrated its focus on both strengthening, and developing local ownership, of national health systems. Canada urges the implementation of year-by-year funding targets to ensure that ODA commitments for health initiatives are kept. Currently The Measles Initiative is facing a funding gap of \$59 million for 2010, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria is also facing a funding crisis of \$5 billion for this year. These gaps in funding could cause millions their lives. Canada strongly urges it fellow member states to fulfill their commitments to these funds.

Canada is also a strong proponent of the International Health Partnership & Related Initiatives (IHP+). The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), through the IHP+ framework, is the chair of the Mozambique National AIDS Council (CNCS) and has made long-term financial commitments to IHP+. Canada believes that IHP + will not only prove to be extremely effective in addressing the issues of AID effectiveness, redundancy, and accountability, but will also go a long way towards creating a united front dedicated to improving global public health. Canada urges for the creation of new commitments that compel 15 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries to join in either bilateral or compact agreements through IHP+ by 2020.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme at NWMUN-Portland 2015

The NWMUN-Portland Secretariat works to create as accurate a simulation as is possible for our delegates. Therefore, we have developed some additional ways for delegates to interact within the simulation, including enabling delegates to take multiple forms of action on an issue, including but not limited to adopting resolutions. This section aims to provide additional, specific information for the United Nations Human Settlement Programme at NWMUN-Portland 2015.

Briefings

While discussing a topic, United Nations Human Settlement Programme delegates are able to receive briefings from representatives of relevant member states or UN subject matter experts. The specific thematic experts available will be announced on the NWMUN-Portland website, as well as the beginning of the conference.

Mandate

The mandate of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme is:

“to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.”

Selected Functions & Powers

- Address issues related to urban growth and acts as a knowledge institution for governments
- To promote urban legislation and risk management as well as gender, youth, and capacity building for all actors in the urbanization process;
- Establishes think tanks and networks for governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and other members of the urban process to jointly address present and future predicaments;
- To provide general information to the United Nations on urban development issues and to provide technical advice on urban projects within the United Nations system.

Outcome Documents

When taking action on a topic, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme can adopt resolutions.

Rules of Procedure

The United Nations Human Settlement Programme will use the standard NWMUN rules of procedure, available on our website under “Delegate Preparation” as well as in printed form at the conference.

Members of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme at NWMUN-Portland 2015

NWMUN-Portland 2015 will simulate the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. While the Governing Council has a membership of 58, at the time of publication of this document ECOSOC had not yet determined seven of the members. Should they be elected by ECOSOC prior to the conference, they will be added to the 51 determined members listed below:

Albania		Italy	Pakistan
Algeria			Republic of Korea
Antigua & Barbuda	Congo		Russia
Argentina	El Salvador		
Bahrain	Finland	Japan	
Bangladesh	France	Jordan	
Benin	Gabon	Lesotho	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	Germany	Madagascar	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Grenada	Mali	South Africa
Central African Republic	Haiti	Mexico	Spain
Chile	India	Morocco	Sri Lanka
China	Indonesia	Mozambique	Sweden
Colombia	Iran	Nigeria	Thailand
	Israel	Norway	Turkey

Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
United States
Venezuela

Committee History

Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is a specialized agency of the United Nations designated to provide better urban living.¹ It was created in 1975, when the United Nations General Assembly (GA) established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) under resolution A/RES/29/3327.² The UNHHSF was mandated to provide financial and technical assistance in strengthening national environmental programs relating to human settlements by assisting in finding financial resources, organizing technical assistance and sharing knowledge.³ The UNHHSF was originally under the authority of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and was given a four-year mandate; the program evolved from a temporary foundation to a permanent program.⁴

The first UN Conference on Human Settlements was held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976.⁵ The Conference, now known as Habitat I, resulted in the creation of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.⁶ The outcome document for Habitat I was the Vancouver Plan of Action (VPoA), which made several recommendations for the development of human settlements, including policy and strategy, urban planning, shelter infrastructure and services, land, public participation, and institutions and management.⁷ The UN Centre for Human Settlements, nicknamed Habitat, then managed funds for the UNHHSF.⁸ A second conference, known as Habitat II, was held in 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey.⁹ The outcome document, the Habitat Agenda, was adopted by 171 countries and contained over 100 commitments.¹⁰ The commitments are divided into adequate shelter for all, sustainable human settlements, enablement and participation, gender equality, financing shelter and human settlements, international cooperation, and assessing progress.¹¹ The commitments are followed by a Global Plan of Action, focusing on providing shelter, sustainable development of human settlements, and cooperation and implementation of the commitments that precede it.¹² This Global Plan of Action, coupled with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), provided guidance for Habitat's actions.¹³

General Assembly resolution A/56/206 created UN-Habitat in its current state by updating the mandate and giving UN-Habitat full program status.¹⁴ The MDGs guide UN-Habitat's work, specifically goal 7, ensuring environmental sustainability.¹⁵ Part of that goal is to provide access to clean water and basic sanitation.¹⁶ In 2014, the Open Working Group (OWG) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed 17 sustainable development goals to be used as the foundation of the post-2015 development agenda, when the MDGs have

¹ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/un-habitat-at-a-glance/>

² UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (A/RES/29/3327)*, 1974. <http://www.un-documents.net/a29r3327.htm>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ UN-Habitat, *History, Mandate & role in the UN system*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/history-mandate-role-in-the-un-system/>

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, *The Vancouver Action Plan*, 1976. <http://habitat.igc.org/vancouver/vp-intr.htm>

⁸ UN-Habitat, *History, Mandate & role in the UN system*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/history-mandate-role-in-the-un-system/>

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ UN-Habitat, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996. http://ww2.unhabitat.org/declarations/habitat_agenda.asp

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ UN-Habitat, *History, mandate & role in the UN system*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/history-mandate-role-in-the-un-system/>

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

ended.¹⁷ Largely thanks to UN-Habitat, urban-related development goals have been further developed in the proposed post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, primarily proposed goal 11: “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.”¹⁸

Mandate, Powers & Functions

UN-Habitat is mandated by the General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.¹⁹ UN-Habitat reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and manages several programs and campaigns to promote sustainability and urban growth.²⁰

Several partners work with UN-Habitat to help complete its projects. First, UN-Habitat coordinates all UN action relating to human settlements and urban areas, which cross-cuts with the work of several other agencies, including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank.²¹ Additionally, UN-Habitat has a network of Habitat Agenda Partners (HAPs), which include a wide array of organizations, including state and local governments, NGOs and CBOs, the private sector, financial institutions, and academics and researchers.²² UN-Habitat has created special networks based on thematic issues such as gender equality, academic research, and security, among others.²³ This network is an important part of ensuring that UN-Habitat’s agenda is implemented more broadly than UN-Habitat could on its own.²⁴

UN-Habitat receives funding from a few different sources. First, they get a regular allocation from the General Assembly, which constituted about 7% of the budget as of 2012.²⁵ General purpose contributions made by governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), private sector, etc. that are not earmarked for a specific purpose make up another 7% of the total budget, as of 2012.²⁶ The remainder of the budget comes from special purpose contributions; these are contributions that are donated with a specific destination in mind.²⁷ The total 2012 budget was approximately 186 million USD.²⁸

In 2014, UN-Habitat released its 2014-2019 Strategic Plan on how it plans to address its mandate over the next five years.²⁹ The plan outlines seven focus areas: urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; and research and capacity development.³⁰ Priority has been placed on the first four focus areas because prior international action has been the weakest in these areas.³¹ UNEP carries out the Strategic Plan through various programs and initiatives that largely work with local governments to determine needs, develop plans, and formulate policy.³²

¹⁷ Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals, *Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/un-habitat-at-a-glance/>

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ UNDP/UNCHS/WORLD BANK-UMP, *Urban Management and Infrastructure*, 1996.

<http://ww2.unhabitat.org/programmes/ump/documents/wp9.pdf>

²² UN-Habitat, *Our Partners*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/our-partners/>

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ UN-Habitat, *Our Donors*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/our-donors/>

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ UN-Habitat, *Goals and strategies*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/goals-and-strategies-of-un-habitat/>

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² UN-Habitat, *Urban low emission development strategies*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/initiatives-programmes/urban-low-emission-development-strategies/>

Structure

UN-Habitat is governed of two bodies: the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Governing Council (GC) is the body that makes decisions regarding the policies of UN-Habitat, oversees relationships with other United Nations (UN) bodies and approves the biennial work program and budget.³³ The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is the organ responsible for addressing issues in between the GC's biennial sessions.³⁴ They monitor the implementation of the policies and guidelines set forth by the GC, review the draft work program and budget of UN-Habitat and prepare draft decisions and resolutions for consideration by the GC.³⁵ In order to prepare these decisions, the CPR creates and meets with Working Groups that each specializes in a topic area.³⁶

In addition to these two bodies, UN-Habitat has a Secretariat that designs, implements and manages all initiatives and projects and provides the GC with strategic recommendations.³⁷ The Secretariat is under the direction of the Executive Director and is structured by offices carrying out management and support tasks, branches that handle each of the seven themes in the Strategic Plan, and regional offices that implement programs at the regional and country levels.³⁸ The current Executive Director is Dr. Joan Clos of Spain.³⁹

Membership and Procedure

The GC is composed of 58 Member States, representing five regional groups.⁴⁰ Representatives serve four-year terms and are elected by ECOSOC.⁴¹ The GC meets every other year.⁴² The Council prefers to make decisions by consensus, but a vote may be taken if any Member State requests it.⁴³ The CPR has four or more regular meetings a year and its membership is open to all permanent representatives of the Member States of the UN accredited to UN-Habitat.⁴⁴

Current Work and Upcoming Agenda Items

The ongoing work of UN-Habitat is dictated by its various programs and initiatives as well as its focus areas.⁴⁵ Looking forward, UN-Habitat has started the World Urban Campaign, the goal of which is to make urban agendas a priority and engage citizens to think about positive global change by positively changing their cities.⁴⁶ The World Urban Campaign is being used as the platform for the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which will take place in 2016.⁴⁷ Since it will have been 20 years since Habitat II and 40 since Habitat I, Habitat III is meant to provide new pathways to urban development in a changing global landscape.⁴⁸ Because it takes place so soon after the initiation of the post-2015 development agenda, the SDGs will provide Habitat III with guidance in formulating the new urban agenda, which will have the capability to address several SDGs rather than just proposed goal 11, which addresses building safe, secure and sustainable cities. Due to the large and increasing percentage of the global population living in cities, improving the urban environment has implications on alleviating poverty, environmental sustainability, and healthcare as a whole.⁴⁹

³³ UN-Habitat, *Our Structure: Overview*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/structure-overview/>

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ UN-Habitat, *Our executive director*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/our-executive-director/>

⁴⁰ UN-Habitat, *Governing Council*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/governing-council/>

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ UN-Habitat, *Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council*, 2005.

http://mirror.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/11795_1_594686.pdf

⁴⁴ UN-Habitat, *Committee of Permanent Representatives*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/our-structure/committee-of-permanent-reps/>

⁴⁵ UN-Habitat, *Goals and strategies*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/goals-and-strategies-of-un-habitat/>

⁴⁶ World Urban Campaign, *What is the World Urban Campaign?*, 2014. <http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/about/>

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ UN-Habitat, *Habitat III*, 2014. <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=831>

⁴⁹ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/un-habitat-at-a-glance/>

Conclusion

Guided by its founding documents and development goals, UN-Habitat has worked to keep cities safe and sustainable, using policy and strategy from its conferences and its Governing Council and working with other agencies and a vast network of partners. With the post-2015 development agenda focusing more strongly on sustainability and urbanization, and with the upcoming Habitat III conference approaching, UN-Habitat will need to adapt to challenges including increasing urbanization, population growth, and greater resource scarcity in order to make continued strides towards achieving its mandate.

I. Expanding sustainable energy sources and consumption in developing areas

“Energy transforms lives, businesses and economies. And it transforms our planet — its climate, natural resources and ecosystems. There can be no development without energy. Today we have an opportunity to turn on the heat and lights for every household in the world, however poor, even as we turn down the global thermostat. The key is to provide sustainable energy for all.”

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon⁵⁰

Introduction

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the percent of the global population living in urban areas has increased from 34% in 1960 to 54% in 2014, and continues to grow.⁵¹ This growth is largely occurring in less-developed regions, where it is estimated that by 2017, most people will live in urban areas.⁵² As a result of this rapid increase in urbanization, cities are using more energy, on average, than rural populations, causing urban energy demands to rise.⁵³ The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) focuses on urban development and human settlement, including addressing increased energy needs in cities.⁵⁴ Energy is necessary for almost all aspects of urban life, including “transport, industrial and commercial activities, buildings and infrastructure, water distribution, and food production.”⁵⁵ As urban communities expand, they will be challenged to provide enough energy to power this infrastructure for rapidly growing populations.⁵⁶

As energy demand increases, the need for sustainable energy sources also increases. Historically, rapid urbanization has been intertwined with continued dependence on non-sustainable energy sources, including fossil fuels, such as oil.⁵⁷ Fossil fuel-based energy has been shown to create harmful environmental and health problems including air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.⁵⁸ These negative effects have collectively driven an international push for expansion of sustainable, green energy sources in urban development.⁵⁹ Using sustainable energy sources for transportation and power generation can reduce pollution and also improve the health of local populations.⁶⁰

“Sustainable energy” refers to sources that can meet the energy demands of populations today without compromising the resources available to energy needs in the future.⁶¹ This includes renewable energy sources, but can also refer to sources such as nuclear energy, which is non-renewable, but can be used today and still benefit

⁵⁰ Ban, *Powering Sustainable Energy for All*, 2012. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/12/opinion/powering-sustainable-energy-for-all.html?_r=2&...

⁵¹ World Health Organization, *Urban Population Growth*, 2014.

http://www.who.int/gho/urban_health/situation_trends/urban_population_growth_text/en/.

⁵² World Health Organization, *Urban Population Growth*, 2014.

http://www.who.int/gho/urban_health/situation_trends/urban_population_growth_text/en/.

⁵³ Muhammad, Shahbaz and Lean, Hooi Hooi, *Does Financial Development Increase Energy Consumption? Role of Industrialization and Urbanization in Tunisia*, 2011. <http://mpa.ub.uni-muenchen.de/id/eprint/33194>

⁵⁴ UN-Habitat, *Energy*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/energy/>

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ Muhammad, Shahbaz and Lean, Hooi Hooi, *Does Financial Development Increase Energy Consumption? Role of Industrialization and Urbanization in Tunisia*, 2011. <http://mpa.ub.uni-muenchen.de/id/eprint/33194>

⁵⁷ Mutizwa-Mangiza, Naison, *Sustainable Urbanization in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda*, 2012.

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/pres_sustainable_habitat_mutizwa-mangiza.pdf

⁵⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, *Assessing the environmental impacts of consumption and production: priority products and materials*, 2010. [http://apps.unep.org/publications/index.php?option=com_pub&task=download&file=-Assessing%20the%20environmental%20impacts%20of%20consumption%20and%20production_%20priority%20products%20and%20materials%20\(Summary\)-2010PriorityProductsAndMaterials_Summary_EN.pdf](http://apps.unep.org/publications/index.php?option=com_pub&task=download&file=-Assessing%20the%20environmental%20impacts%20of%20consumption%20and%20production_%20priority%20products%20and%20materials%20(Summary)-2010PriorityProductsAndMaterials_Summary_EN.pdf)

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *Green Economy Report*, 2011.

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport>

⁶¹ Imperial College London, *Sustainable Energy*, 2014. <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/energyfutureslab/about/sustainableenergy>

future generations.⁶² “Renewable energy” refers to sources that are inexhaustible and clean and can come from sources such as wind, water, the sun, biomass and geothermal energy.⁶³

The expansion of sustainable energy sources in urban development is a major priority for the international community. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) proposed by the 30 member Open Working Group (OWG) for Sustainable Development Goals address the issue in proposed Goal 7, “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”⁶⁴ The targets for proposed Goal 7 are to ensure “universal access” to energy services; “increase substantially” the share of renewable energy globally; “double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency,” enhance international cooperation to facilitate investment in clean energy technologies, and “expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services” in all developing countries.⁶⁵ In order to achieve these proposed SDG energy goals by 2030, it is important for rapidly growing urban populations to incorporate sustainable energy sources into their development strategies and avoid the negative local and global impacts caused by fossil fuel-dependent urbanization.⁶⁶ The proposed SDGs provide a framework for governments to adapt national-level policies to meet global development goals, at the national level.

While many cities have begun to transition to green energy, there is room for much more global progress. According to the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) Renewables Global Status Report, renewable energy constituted around 19% of global energy consumption in 2012 and increased in 2013.⁶⁷ As UN-Habitat is mandated to promote the development of sustainable cities, this topic allows Member States to outline policies that incorporate sustainable energy implementation into all aspects of urban development.⁶⁸

International Framework

The importance of promoting and protecting human rights were first enshrined within the Charter of the United Nations (1945), and affirmed within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).⁶⁹ The inalienable right to development and sovereignty over natural wealth and resources was explicitly outlined in General Assembly resolution 41/128, the Declaration on the Right to Development (1986).⁷⁰ At a regional level, this right was underscored by the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (1987), which states that “all peoples shall have the right to their economic, social and cultural development.”⁷¹ The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 highlighted the complexities of growing global economic inequality and stressed the need to place a new focus on fully taking into account any environmental impact of national and international policy-making.⁷² At the conference, Member States issued the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), which defined “the rights of the people to be involved in the development of their economies,

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ Sustainable Energy for All, *Renewable Energy*, 2014. <http://www.se4all.org/our-vision/our-objectives/renewable-energy/>

⁶⁴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Outcome Document: Open Working Document on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ United Nations Environment Programme, *Green Economy Report*, 2011. <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport>

⁶⁷ Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, *Renewables 2014 Global Status Report*, 2014. <http://www.ren21.net/ren21activities/globalstatusreport.aspx>

⁶⁸ United Nations Human Settlement Programme, *Role in the U.N. System*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/history-mandate-role-in-the-un-system/>

⁶⁹ United Nations Conference on International Organization, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

⁷⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (A/RES/41/128)*, 1986. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/41/a41r128.htm>

⁷¹ African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, *African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights*, 1987. <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/achpr/#a22>

⁷² United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, 1992. <http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html>

and the responsibilities of human beings to safeguard the common environment.”⁷³ In 1993, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed development as a fundamental human right.⁷⁴

Building on these policy frameworks, Millennium Development Goal 7, “Ensure environmental sustainability,” has as one of its targets, the incorporation of sustainable development into country policies to reduce loss of environmental resources.⁷⁵ In 2009, 75 Member States gathered to create the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which urges governments to enact policies that invest in renewable energy sources.⁷⁶ IRENA provides Member States with expertise in deployment of renewable energy practices through services like Renewable Readiness Assessments, mapping solar and wind resources by country, and facilitation of renewable energy planning at regional levels.⁷⁷ Additionally, particularly over the last 15 years, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has strengthened research and policymaking at the international level by publishing the Green Economy Report in 2011, which describes how the transition to sustainable economies and energy is actually an engine for growth, creates jobs, and helps reduce poverty rather than being a financial burden or slowing economies down.⁷⁸

At the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the international community affirmed that, “reducing the carbon intensity of energy is a key objective in long-term climate goals.”⁷⁹ In 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/215 on the “Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,” in order to promote further investment in energy sources at an international, regional and domestic level.⁸⁰ The resolution identifies “high costs as the main barriers to development using renewables, as well as access to appropriate technologies, and further calls for policy options to be explored, such as increased research and development support.”⁸¹

UN System Involvement

Role of UN-Habitat

Urban development relies on access to energy, and only 9% energy used at a global level is currently renewable, thus expanding sustainable energy sources in developing communities is an especially relevant issue for UN-Habitat.⁸² One of UN-Habitat’s primary functions is to support capacity-building at a national level, and on this issue, UN-Habitat assists governments in the development of sustainable energy planning and implementation including establishing urban energy plans to creating environmentally sound infrastructure policy.⁸³ For example, UN-Habitat helps Member States reduce carbon emissions through the Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS) Project, which provides comprehensive strategies and frameworks for low-carbon urban planning and development to local governments in Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa.⁸⁴ While this project is currently in progress, cities in participant countries have already begun to update their energy consumption inventories in order to designate potential low-carbon policies for development.⁸⁵

The UN-Habitat’s Executive Board has passed several resolutions related to implementation of sustainable urban development strategies, including 24/2 on “Strengthening the work of the United Nations Human Settlements

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ World Conference on Human Rights, *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/RES/48/121)*, 1993. <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/vienna.aspx>

⁷⁵ United Nations Millennium Development Goals, *Goal 7*, 2000. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/envIRON.shtml>

⁷⁶ International Renewable Energy Agency, *About IRENA*, 2014. <http://www.irena.org/Menu/index.aspx?PriMenuID=13&mnu=Pri>

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, *Green Economy Report*, 2011. <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport>

⁷⁹ Rio+20, *Energy*, 2012. <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/energy.asp>

⁸⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/RES/67/215)*, 2012. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/215

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² UN-Habitat, *Energy*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/energy/>

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ UN-Habitat and ICLEI, *The Urban-LEDS project*, 2012. <http://urbanleds.iclei.org/index.php?id=108>

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

Programme on Urban Basic Services,” which explicitly calls for decentralized renewable energy options; 24/5 on “Pursuing Sustainable Development through National Urban Policies;” 24/10 on “Urbanization and Sustainable Urban Development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda;” and 24/11 on “Promoting Sustainable Urban Development by Creating Improved Economic Opportunities for All, with Special Reference to Youth and Gender.”⁸⁶

Other UN Involvement

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in 1992 after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to provide policy guidance at the local, national, regional and international levels on issues such as sustainable human settlement and development strategies.⁸⁷ The CSD has been replaced by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which currently fosters structured engagement among the international community to promote sustainable development.⁸⁸

In 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the “Sustainable Energy for All Initiative,” which strives to mobilize participation from all sectors of the international community to provide universal access to modern energy services, improve energy efficiency, and double the portion of renewable energy among global energy shares.⁸⁹ Highlighting this mission, General Assembly resolution 67/314, The International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (2012), particularly helped raise the issue of energy to the top of the agenda at both the national and international levels.⁹⁰ Additionally, the General Assembly has designated 2014-2024 the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, emphasizing energy’s importance to sustainable development.⁹¹

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also contributes to the expansion of sustainable energy sources by helping Member States strengthen their policy frameworks for low-emission and climate-resilient development, removing financial barriers to energy efficiency and sustainable urban transport, and creating strategies to scale up energy service delivery through innovative business models.⁹²

Key Issues

Increased Energy Needs in Developing Communities

As people move to cities at increasing rates, energy needs of urban populations rapidly increase as well.⁹³ This need strains urban infrastructure to support growing energy demands and challenges cities to meet these demands with sustainable energy sources that are inexhaustible as populations grow.⁹⁴ The costs of incorporating sustainable energy into urban expansion and policy-making are important considerations.⁹⁵ These costs are affected by the often expensive technology required for incorporating sustainable energy into urban development, such as wind and solar-powered electricity projects.⁹⁶ Because of their often underdeveloped institutions and resources for urban

⁸⁶ UN-Habitat, *Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session*, 2013. <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Decisions-and-resolution-GC-24th-session.pdf>

⁸⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)*, 1992. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1673>

⁸⁸ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*, 2012. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

⁸⁹ Ki-moon, Ban, *Sustainable Energy for All*, 2011. <http://www.se4all.org/about-us/>

⁹⁰ Sustainable Energy for All, *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (A/RES/67/314)*, 2012. <http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/SG-Report-to-GA-on-Intl-Year-of-SE4ALL.pdf>

⁹¹ Sustainable Energy for All, *Decade of Sustainable Energy for All*, 2014. <http://www.se4all.org/decade/>

⁹² United Nations Development Programme, *Sustainable Energy*, 2014. http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/focus_areas/sustainable-energy.html

⁹³ Muhammad, Shahbaz and Lean, Hooi Hooi, *Does Financial Development Increase Energy Consumption? Role of Industrialization and Urbanization in Tunisia*, 2011. <http://mp.ra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/id/eprint/33194>

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁵ Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, *Renewables 2014 Global Status Report*, 2014. <http://www.ren21.net/ren21activities/globalstatusreport.aspx>

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

planning and management, developing countries face unique challenges to developing sustainable energy use.⁹⁷ For example, most modern buildings in Sub-Saharan Africa were originally designed to imitate construction styles in Europe and do not account for tropical climatic differences. These buildings are, therefore, overly-reliant on artificial climate-control measures such as cooling, heating, and lighting and do not utilize energy efficiently.⁹⁸ In this case, inefficient design and inadequate understanding of thermal efficiency has led to significant energy waste, which is avoidable with thoughtful urban planning.⁹⁹

Creating Infrastructure for Clean, Renewable Energy Use

As reiterated in proposed SDG 7, the international community has committed to seeking clean, renewable energy policies in developing areas. This requires implementation of green infrastructure for urban operational needs, such as the production, transportation and consumption of food, use of heat and water utilities, and public transportation.¹⁰⁰ However, incorporating renewable energy into existing and developing urban infrastructure can be difficult for policy-makers and investors.¹⁰¹ Current challenges to this process include lack of access to capital from private funders, the inability to afford appropriate technology, and lack of management knowledge.¹⁰²

Another significant hurdle to the incorporation and expansion of renewable energy sources in developing urban communities is the widely-held belief that the cost of implementing and transitioning to renewables is too high.¹⁰³ In fact, it is actually much cheaper over time to implement infrastructure based on renewable energy sources than on fossil-fuel based sources.¹⁰⁴ According to the Stern Review, “tackling climate change is the pro-growth strategy for the longer term, and it can be done in a way that does not cap the aspirations for growth of rich or poor countries.”¹⁰⁵ The review argues that early action and investment can reduce costs.¹⁰⁶ Additionally, UNEP predicts that investing in green infrastructure will create as much as or more employment and growth than current, non-sustainable infrastructure does while also leading to increased social and environmental benefits.¹⁰⁷ There is room for UN-Habitat to consider how to spread awareness about the actual affordability of sustainable urban development among policy-makers, investors, and general populations as they plan for expansion of sustainable energy.¹⁰⁸

Reducing Dependency on Fossil Fuel-Based Urbanization

In addition to planning for sustainable energy-based development, Member States still need to address existing fossil fuel dependency and its adverse effects.¹⁰⁹ On the local level, it is important to consider how energy use

⁹⁷ Henderson, Vernon, *Urbanization in Developing Countries*, 2002.

<http://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/abs/10.1093/wbro/17.1.89?journalCode=wbro>

⁹⁸ UN-Habitat, *Integrating energy and resource efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies into existing building code and/or regulations in Cameroon, within the “Energy and Resources Efficiency in Building Code in West Africa” Programme*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Call-for-Expression-of-Interest-for-Cooperation-Partners-in-Cameroon.pdf>

⁹⁹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Green Economy Report*, 2011.

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport>

¹⁰⁰ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Outcome Document: Open Working Document on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

¹⁰¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *African Regional Implementation review for the 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development*, 2005.

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/ecaRIM_bp.pdf

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ Africa Institute of South Africa, *Factors Determining the Affordability of Renewable Energy*, 2011. <http://www.ai.org.za/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/12/No-65.-Factors-Determining-the-Affordability-of-Renewable-Energy.-A-note-for-South-Africa.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, *Green Economy Report*, 2011.

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport>

¹⁰⁵ The Stern Review, *The Economics of Climate Change*, n.d.

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/3/Executive_Summary.pdf

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, *Green Economy Report*, 2011.

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport>

¹⁰⁸ Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, *Renewables 2014 Global Status Report*, 2014.

<http://www.ren21.net/ren21activities/globalstatusreport.aspx>

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

affects environmental health through smog, respiratory diseases, and PM10 levels, which refer to suspended particulates less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) that can enter the respiratory tract and cause serious health effects.¹¹⁰ Addressing these issues on a local level often drives the transition to sustainable energy in developing areas, such as when local governments convert to more energy-efficient building designs to prevent greenhouse gas emissions.¹¹¹ On a global scale, it is important to consider how best to achieve energy security by reducing dependence on oil and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.¹¹² Energy security is an important issue for all countries, and the ability to do this is affected by many factors, including investment in energy supply in accordance with sustainable environmental needs, the energy system's capacity to react to unexpected changes in supply and demand, and the negative economic and social impacts of a lack of available energy.¹¹³

North-South Cooperation in Urban Sustainable Energy Development

At the High-Level event of the General Assembly on the “Contributions of the North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the Implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda,” Member States acknowledged that cooperation between global North and global South countries is necessary for knowledge sharing and mutual learning about sustainable development.¹¹⁴ Sharing of development ideas and renewable energy technology between North and South countries is, therefore, also vital to expanding the use of sustainable energy in urban development.¹¹⁵ North-South cooperation can take various forms, such as city twinning, which allows governments to share solutions to common problems, and partnerships between municipalities and international organizations such as UN-Habitat, which help governments develop joint projects and exchange knowledge.¹¹⁶ European countries are currently included in UN-Habitat's Urban-LEDS project to foster such partnerships.¹¹⁷

Case Study: Constructing Energy-Efficient Buildings in Africa

UN-Habitat is currently working with UNEP and the governments of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi to promote the construction of energy-efficient buildings.¹¹⁸ This project improves participant countries' housing units, office buildings, hotels, and public institutions in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through reduction of energy consumption.¹¹⁹ UN-Habitat and UNEP are implementing this project in three ways: regionally through standardization and knowledge sharing in the East African Community; nationally by amending building codes, regulations, and standards; and locally by “raising awareness and providing training and support in implementing building standards and by-laws in towns and cities.”¹²⁰ Specifically, these governments receive assistance to create energy consumption benchmarks, climatic databases, and energy efficient standards in building codes.¹²¹

This 4-year project is helping cities lower carbon emissions and plan sustainable infrastructure, as “energy used in buildings accounts for a significant percentage of national energy consumption.”¹²² The participants of this

¹¹⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *Assessing the environmental impacts of consumption and production: priority products and materials*, 2010. [http://apps.unep.org/publications/index.php?option=com_pub&task=download&file=Assessing%20the%20environmental%20impacts%20of%20consumption%20and%20production_%20priority%20products%20and%20materials%20\(Summary\)-2010PriorityProductsAndMaterials_Summary_EN.pdf](http://apps.unep.org/publications/index.php?option=com_pub&task=download&file=Assessing%20the%20environmental%20impacts%20of%20consumption%20and%20production_%20priority%20products%20and%20materials%20(Summary)-2010PriorityProductsAndMaterials_Summary_EN.pdf)

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² International Energy Agency, *Climate Change*, 2014. <http://www.iea.org/topics/climatechange/>

¹¹³ International Energy Agency, *What is Energy Security*, 2014.

<http://www.iea.org/topics/energysecurity/subtopics/whatisenergysecurity/>

¹¹⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *Summary of Key Messages of High-Level Event on Contributions of the North/South, South/South, ICT, and Triangular Cooperation*, 2014.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/sts/2014_5_23_Key_messages_HLE_on_NS_SS_TICT4D.pdf

¹¹⁵ Beermann, Jan, *Urban partnerships in low-carbon development: Opportunities and challenges of an emerging trend in global climate politics*, 2014. http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?pid=S2175-33692014000200005&script=sci_arttext.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ UN-Habitat and ICLEI, *The Urban-LEDS project*, 2012. <http://urbanleds.iclei.org/index.php?id=108>

¹¹⁸ UN-Habitat, *Energy*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/energy/>

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *GEF Approves UN-HABITAT/UNEP East Africa Energy Efficient Project*, 2011. <http://climate-iiisd.org/news/gef-approves-un-habitatunep-east-africa-energy-efficient-project/>

¹²² UN-Habitat, *Kenyan Building Practitioners Trained in Sustainable Building Design*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/kenyan-building-practitioners-trained-in-sustainable-building-design/>

program, including engineers, architects, and developers, have successfully learned strategies for “incorporating energy efficiency into site planning, building design and construction,” which they can share with their colleagues and apply to urban development practices.¹²³ As a result of this project, governments of developing countries have made commitments to use their new knowledge to include construction of energy efficient buildings in their urban development policies.¹²⁴ To be completed in 2015, this project is an example of knowledge sharing and incorporation of sustainable energy practices in urban development.¹²⁵

Conclusion

There is much work to be done in order to achieve sustainable development in rapidly growing urban communities. Planning to implement sustainable energy sources into all aspects of urban development, from transportation to food production, is necessary in order to ensure that the negative local and global effects of fossil-fuel based energy sources are reduced as much as possible. Policy-makers have many issues to consider as they plan for urban development, including changing perceptions of sustainable energy costs and the transition from fossil fuel-based infrastructure to sustainable practices. UN-Habitat can play an increasingly important role in this process as it works to achieve sustainable urban development and human settlements.

Questions for Consideration

What kinds of programs and guidelines can UN-Habitat Member States recommend in order to achieve the expansion of sustainable energy sources in developing urban areas? How can this committee work with other international frameworks to make renewable energy and the technology associated with it more affordable for developing urban areas? How can Member States incentivize sustainable energy instead of fossil fuels for development in impoverished communities? What are the best strategies for convincing policy-makers and the general public to support sustainable energy implementation?

¹²³ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *GEF Approves UN-HABITAT/UNEP East Africa Energy Efficient Project*. 2011. <http://climate-1.iisd.org/news/gef-approves-un-habitatunep-east-africa-energy-efficient-project/>

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

II. Financing Urban Development

“A city is not an accident but the result of coherent visions and aims.”
- Leon Krier, architectural theorist and urban planner¹²⁶

Introduction

Investment in sustainable development is complex because it costs time, money and requires political will, but in the end, it can secure a better world for future generations.¹²⁷ Sustainable development has three sides: economic, social, and environmental.¹²⁸ Though they are often at odds with each other, all are necessary for effective sustainable development, like pieces of the puzzle.¹²⁹ Goal 11 of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”¹³⁰ Cities are an important part of sustainable development, as over half of the world’s population resides in cities, thus improving conditions in cities would create a safe and sustainable environment for a majority of the world’s population.¹³¹ Development truly is an investment; projects tend to be costly and their implementation provides for conflict among the involved parties.¹³² Investments must be made early; the more we put into development now, the more results we will see in the near future.¹³³ Financing urban development is about more than the sources of funding; it is also about management at both a policy and programmatic level of the process of sustainable development.¹³⁴

International Framework

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which resulted from the outcomes of the Millennium Summit in 2000, outline development goals that the international community hoped to achieve by 2015.¹³⁵ The MDGs have provided a framework for development since 2000 by giving benchmarks and targets for achievement across a wide range of issues.¹³⁶ Goal 7 of the MDGs addresses the issue of urban development and ensuring environmental sustainability with targets to improve the lives of slum dwellers and improve access to basic sanitation and drinking water.¹³⁷ Financing development was part of efforts to achieve Goal 8, “Global Partnership for Development,” which included a target for “an open, rule-based, predictable, and non-discriminatory trading and financial system.”¹³⁸ With the expiration of the MDGs in 2015, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are intended to become the new development framework guiding efforts at an international level. The proposed SDGs were put forth by the United Nations Open Working Group (OWG) for Sustainable Development Goals in July

¹²⁶ Leon Krier, *The Architecture of Community*.

¹²⁷ World Bank, *What is Sustainable Development*, 2001. <http://www.worldbank.org/depweb/english/sd.html>

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals, *Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014. http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf

¹³¹ United Nations, *World's population increasingly urban with more than half living in urban areas*, 2014.

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html>

World Bank, *Urban Development Overview*, 2014. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview>

¹³² World Bank, *Urban Development Overview*, 2014. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview>

¹³³ World Bank, *Planning, Connecting, and Financing Cities - Now*, 2013. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *The Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview.html>

¹³⁶ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*, 2014.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*

¹³⁸ *Ibid.* <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>

2014.¹³⁹ There are 17 proposed SDGs, each accompanied by specific targets that the international community hopes to achieve by 2030.¹⁴⁰ Goal 11 focuses on building safe and sustainable cities and has 7 targets with which to measure progress.¹⁴¹ Goal 17 focuses on building a global partnership for development and has 5 targets focused on financing development, especially in least developed countries.¹⁴²

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) was a follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.¹⁴³ Cities were identified as one of the seven critical issues of the conference.¹⁴⁴ In the outcome document, *The Future We Want for All*, Member States recognized that integrated planning and management approaches had to be taken to build cities that were socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.¹⁴⁵ They also committed to planning and building sustainable cities: stating that they were committed to “an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements, including through supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing participation of urban residents, including the poor, in decision-making.”¹⁴⁶ Rio +20 and its outcome documents are essential parts of the framework for sustainable development and bring attention to the importance of urban development, including requesting the creation of the OWG.¹⁴⁷

Several reports note the need and international commitment to funding for development. The International Conference on Financing for Development which took place in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002, produced the Monterrey Consensus.¹⁴⁸ The Monterrey Consensus noted challenges such as economic slowdowns, conflict, and inequity and names domestic and international resources and further identifies issues with the financial, monetary and trading systems, which are crucial to financing development because funding comes from loans, government budget, and trade surplus.¹⁴⁹ In particular, it reaffirms the commitment of all developed Member States to provide 0.7% of their gross national product (GNP) in official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries.¹⁵⁰ Building off this, the Doha Declaration on Financing came out of the 2008 International Conference on Financing for Development.¹⁵¹ The Doha Declaration holds a lot of similarities with the Monterrey Consensus and contains many of the same clauses, except that it was written in the context of the 2008 financial crisis.¹⁵²

Agenda 21 rose out of the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development and is a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development.¹⁵³ Chapter 33 specifically provides information on how to finance sustainable development in the context of implementation of Agenda 21, listing domestic public and private mechanisms and ODA as primary sources of financing.¹⁵⁴ It also mentions regional development banks, UN Agencies, bilateral assistance programs, debt relief, private funding, and possible innovative ways to finance development.¹⁵⁵

¹³⁹ Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals, *Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.
http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

¹⁴³ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, *About the Rio+20 Conference*, 2012.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/about.html>

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *The Future We Want - Outcome document*, 2014.

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ International Conference on Financing for Development, *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development*, 2002.

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵² International Conference on Financing for Development, *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development*, 2008.

http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha_Declaration_FFD.pdf

¹⁵³ United Nations Sustainable Development, *United Nations Conference on Environment & Development*, 1992.

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

United Nations System Involvement

UN-Habitat

The Vancouver Plan of Action, which resulted from the Habitat I conference and led to the creation of UN-Habitat, lays out recommendations for financing urban development.¹⁵⁶ The Plan directed particular attention to ten issues, including public-private partnership, using public funds selectively, removing institutional obstacles, adopting “measures and pricing policies to reduce disparities between high and low income groups,” and innovative fiscal measures to make development self-financing.¹⁵⁷ Habitat II took place in Istanbul in 1996 and out of it came the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements with a Global Plan of Action.¹⁵⁸ The Plan puts a lot of weight on financial institutions to assist in mobilizing resources for development to take the onus off of the public sector.¹⁵⁹ UN-Habitat has been a major contributor to planning, managing and financing urban development as the coordinator of all UN actions relating to human settlements.¹⁶⁰ UN-Habitat helps local and national governments create revenue enhancement plans and assists in designing financial models to support the implementation of public projects.¹⁶¹

Commission on Sustainable Development/ High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the GA in December 1992 in response to the Conference on Environment and Development.¹⁶² It was responsible for implementing Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council.¹⁶³ In 2003, the Commission started focusing on thematic clusters in two-year increments, discussing human settlements from 2004-2005.¹⁶⁴ At Rio +20, the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was established to replace CSD.¹⁶⁵

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) was created in response to Rio +20.¹⁶⁶ The ICESDF divides its work into three clusters: assessing financing needs, mobilization of resources, and institutional arrangements and governance issues.¹⁶⁷ The Committee notes that the financing need is huge, it isn't insurmountable because public and private savings alone would be enough to cover the expenses if governments chose to spend the money on development.¹⁶⁸ However, governments are more likely to allocate their spending elsewhere, based on current financing patterns.¹⁶⁹ The ICESDF has concluded that aligning private incentives with public goals would be most effective at mobilizing resources, but there is no clear strategy to

¹⁵⁶ United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, *The Vancouver Action Plan*, 1976. <http://habitat.igc.org/vancouver/vp-intr.htm>

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Habitat Agenda: Chapter IV: F. Implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda*, 1996. <http://www.un-documents.net/ha-4f.htm>

¹⁵⁹ UN-Habitat, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996. http://ww2.unhabitat.org/declarations/habitat_agenda.asp

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ UN-Habitat, *Economy*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/economy/>

¹⁶² Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *About the CSD*, 2014. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1673>

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ Economic and Social Council, *Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda (E/2014/53)*, 2014. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2014/53&Lang=E

¹⁶⁵ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*, 2014. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

¹⁶⁶ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing*, 2014. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558>

¹⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing*, 2014. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/315&Lang=E

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

achieve this.¹⁷⁰ They also note the importance of corruption reduction and matching investor preference with investment needs.¹⁷¹ The approach is based heavily in country ownership, putting the weight on governments to create the correct “policy basket” to encourage public and private funding both domestically and internationally.¹⁷²

General Assembly & Economic and Social Council

Every year, both the General Assembly and ECOSOC adopt resolutions as a follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.¹⁷³ However, there are differences between the ways in which the committees address the topic.¹⁷⁴ The General Assembly reiterates the conclusions from the Conference in resolution 68/204, whereas ECOSOC keeps account of all actions in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, including meetings, reports and conferences in resolution 2014/11.¹⁷⁵ In its most recent followup, the General Assembly called for a third Conference on Finance for Development to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2015.¹⁷⁶

In addition to planning the next Conference on Financing for Development, the General Assembly also discusses “innovative financing” methods.¹⁷⁷ The GA considered a from the Secretary General in September 2011 (A/66/334), which concluded that progress has been made in raising resources through innovative funding, but they lack predictability and durability.¹⁷⁸ The report also noted that measuring the effectiveness of innovative financing is unreliable.¹⁷⁹ ECOSOC considered a report from the Secretary-General (E/2014/53) on “Coherence, coordination, and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.”¹⁸⁰ The report remarks on the progress made in financing development and emphasizes the importance of building a global partnership for development.¹⁸¹

The Financing for Development Office (FfDO) is a part of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), which is the part of the UN Secretariat in charge of development.¹⁸² The FfDO is responsible for the implementation of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Monterrey Consensus and all other UN documents related to development and brings together all involved parties to coordinate action.¹⁸³

Bretton Woods System

The Bretton Woods system consists of the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization (WTO).¹⁸⁴ Those three bodies are critical to development, each providing its own financial services.¹⁸⁵ The World Bank funds development projects, collects data, and publishes reports about financing

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷² *Ibid.*

¹⁷³ Financing for Development Office, *Official UN Documents on Financing for Development*, 2014, <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/documents/>

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/68/204)*, 2014, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/204&Lang=E

Economic and Social Council, *Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda (E/2014/53)*, 2014, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2014/53&Lang=E

¹⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/68/279)*, 2014, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/279&Lang=E

¹⁷⁷ UN General Assembly, *Innovative mechanisms of financing for development (A/66/334)*, 2011, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/66/334&Lang=E

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ Economic and Social Council, *Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda (E/2014/53)*, 2014, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2014/53&Lang=E

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸² Financing for Development Office, *Mission Statement of FfDO*, 2014, <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/overview/mission.htm>

¹⁸³ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁴ Stephey, M.J., *A Brief History of Bretton Woods System*, 2008.

<http://content.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1852254,00.html>

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

development; the IMF loans money to countries with balance of payments issues and helps strengthen domestic financial systems; and the WTO is a forum to encourage free and fair trade.¹⁸⁶ Each body contributes in its own way to sustainable development.¹⁸⁷ The World Bank does so more directly by funding large development projects for less developed countries.¹⁸⁸ The IMF helps to stabilize the global financial system, and the WTO helps to stabilize the world trading system.¹⁸⁹ Stabilizing trade and finance are critical for economic growth, which helps countries finance development projects.¹⁹⁰ The IMF and World Bank work very closely together as well; their Boards of Governors meet together to discuss development and conduct country missions in parallel, sometimes borrowing staff from one another.¹⁹¹

Key Issues

What is being financed?

Urban planning starts with a vision of what the city should look and then progresses through strategic and concrete discussions resulting in a blueprint of priority projects based on urgency.¹⁹² UN-Habitat's Urban Management Programme (UMP) has implemented City Development Strategies (CDSs) to assist in creating a vision for urban development specific to each city.¹⁹³ CDS are a tool to implement growth that benefits the impoverished and keeps order in developing cities.¹⁹⁴ CDSs have been implemented in several cities so far as a City Consultation Method under the UMP.¹⁹⁵ CDSs have seen some success in that they have helped the parties involved to become much more familiar with the city and the city's shortcomings while helping develop the measuring mechanisms.¹⁹⁶

Due to the fact that each strategy is unique to the city, the process of developing the strategy must be multi-stakeholder, inclusive and transparent.¹⁹⁷ The strategies tackle issues of both social and economic development, aiming for the correct balance in order to stimulate more equitable growth in the city.¹⁹⁸ Out of the strategy comes an action plan, which lists and prioritizes goals and objectives and identifies the specific projects that will be implemented to realize those goals.¹⁹⁹ Urban development projects fall into seven categories, as determined by UN-Habitat: urban planning and design; urban legislation, land, and governance; urban economy; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; and urban research and capacity development.²⁰⁰

Who is involved?

According to classical economic theory, the most efficient method of development would be to let private corporations provide for urban development.²⁰¹ However, with the presence of slums and inequality in urban areas,

¹⁸⁶ World Bank, *Urban Development Overview*, 2014. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview>

International Monetary Fund, *What we do*, 2014. <https://www.imf.org/external/about/whatwedo.htm>

¹⁸⁷ World Bank, *Urban Development Overview*, 2014. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview>

International Monetary Fund, *Technical Assistance*, 2014. <https://www.imf.org/external/about/techasst.htm>

¹⁸⁸ World Bank, *Urban Development Projects & Programs*, 2014.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/projects>

¹⁸⁹ International Monetary Fund, *Technical Assistance*, 2014. <https://www.imf.org/external/about/techasst.htm>

¹⁹⁰ International Monetary Fund, *What we do*, 2014. <https://www.imf.org/external/about/whatwedo.htm>

¹⁹¹ International Monetary Fund, *The IMF and the World Bank*, 2014. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/imfwb.htm>

¹⁹² World Bank, *Planning, Connecting, and Financing Cities - Now*, 2013. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf

¹⁹³ UN-Habitat, *City Development Strategies*, 2014. <http://ww2.unhabitat.org/programmes/ump/cds.asp>

¹⁹⁴ UN-Habitat, *Financing Urban Development around Lake Victoria*, 2009. <http://unhabitat.org/publications/financing-urban-development-around-lake-victoria/>

¹⁹⁵ UN-Habitat, *City Development Strategies*, 2014. <http://ww2.unhabitat.org/programmes/ump/cds.asp>

¹⁹⁶ UN-Habitat, *The City Development Strategy in Cuenca*, Ecuador, n.d.

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/CuencaSummary.pdf>

¹⁹⁷ UN-Habitat, *City Development Strategies*, 2014. <http://ww2.unhabitat.org/programmes/ump/cds.asp>

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁰ UN-Habitat, *53 UN-Habitat Model Projects 2013/2014, Time to Think Urban*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/53-un-habitat-model-projects-20132014-time-to-think-urban/>

²⁰¹ Duisenberg, Willem, *The role of financial markets for economic growth*, 2001. <http://www.bis.org/review/r010601b.pdf>

it is evident that the private sector has failed to provide the best outcome in the most efficient way.²⁰² “Market failure” is the term used to describe the situation in which the private sector, when left unhindered, fails to produce the most desirable outcome for all involved.²⁰³ Urban development projects are often subject to market failure, since private sector development fails to be inclusive.²⁰⁴

More recently, urban development has become the responsibility of the municipal (city) governments, state governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), specifically non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.²⁰⁵ All parties that are involved in the process are referred to as stakeholders.²⁰⁶ Keeping stakeholders engaged is critical in the current CDS-based method of urban development because it assures that as many needs as possible are being met.²⁰⁷ The private sector’s involvement ensures that the city are economically viable, local and state governments keep the people’s interests in mind, and NGOs keep track of their own respective causes, i.e. environmental sustainability, healthcare, etc.²⁰⁸ The UN System, has also contributed to urban development through the work of UN-Habitat, UNDP, and UNEP at national and local levels.²⁰⁹ UN-Habitat is the coordinator for UN action related to urban development.²¹⁰ Financing can come from any or all of these sources, and when considering urban development financing, all of these parties must be taken into consideration.²¹¹

Where does the money come from?

Public Sector

Development projects are regulated by the municipal governments, as it is their duty to provide essential public services to the city, so it is logical that they are the primary source of revenue for the projects.²¹² However, both state and local governments often fight budget deficits due to economic hardship and widespread tax evasion.²¹³ Municipalities in states with a democratic system of government would have difficulty raising taxes to pay for projects without risking the possibility of re-election.²¹⁴ Another topic of consideration with municipal government is the possibility of corruption.²¹⁵ Officials in developing countries could take money earmarked for development and instead give it to the elites, widening the gap between rich and poor and preventing the city from building the infrastructure that benefits everyone.²¹⁶ Corruption is a limiting factor in funding local governments in many less developed countries.²¹⁷

The international public sector also plays a role in financing urban development projects through official development assistance (ODA).²¹⁸ ODA refers to funds donated by foreign governments to assist with economic

²⁰² World Bank, *Planning, Connecting, and Financing Cities - Now*, 2013. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁵ UN-Habitat, *City Development Strategies*, 2014. <http://ww2.unhabitat.org/programmes/ump/cds.asp>

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁸ World Bank, *Planning, Connecting, and Financing Cities - Now*, 2013. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf

²⁰⁹ UNDP/UNCHS/WORLD BANK-UMP, *Urban Management and Infrastructure*, 1996.

<http://ww2.unhabitat.org/programmes/ump/documents/wp9.pdf>

²¹⁰ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/un-habitat-at-a-glance/>

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

²¹² UN General Assembly, *Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing*, 2014.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/315&Lang=E

²¹³ *Ibid.*

²¹⁴ *Ibid.*

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*

²¹⁶ Timilsina, Anga, *Fighting corruption and urban inequality*, 2014.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourperspective/ourperspectivearticles/2014/04/24/fighting-corruption-and-urban-inequality-anga-timilsina/>

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

²¹⁸ OECD, *Official development assistance - definition*, 2014.

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm>

development.²¹⁹ ODA has become an important source of income for many less developed countries, and because it has been decreasing more recently due to the financial crisis, financing development projects has only become more difficult; ODA has not been reaching the internationally agreed-upon target of 0.7% GNI and instead is closer to 0.3%.²²⁰

Private Sector

The private sector has an interest in developing urban areas because cities, full of “cheap labor and consumers,” are an ideal place to open factories, offices, or stores.²²¹ Cities benefit from private sector involvement because it provides more jobs, more income and hopefully, a better quality of life.²²² This symbiotic relationship grounds foreign direct investment (FDI).²²³ FDI is when multinational corporations directly investing in foreign regions by opening locations in those areas, commonly factories.²²⁴ FDI brings industry to less developed countries and requires building infrastructure and employing locals.²²⁵ In this way, the private sector, with its deep pockets, is a pertinent source of revenue for urban development.²²⁶ The downside to FDI has been documented at length as well.²²⁷ Multinational corporations are known to take advantage of the unskilled workers and lax environmental and social regulations in the less developed countries in order to keep production costs low and profit margins high.²²⁸

Innovative methods

Over the past 40 years, there has been a push to research and implement more innovative methods for funding.²²⁹ Ideally, development projects would be able to pay for themselves over time, but this is not typical because these projects provide the public with basic goods and services and contribute in a way that improves quality of life as opposed to revenue.²³⁰ The newer financing methods often include a mixture of public and private resources and use non-traditional sources of funding.²³¹ The World Bank suggests making it easier for cities to borrow funds from private financial institutions in order to fund projects.²³² In a 2007 Expert Group Meeting on Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development, experts discussed local governments selling municipal bonds to the public to fund projects.²³³ In a 2009 World Bank publication on Innovative Financing for Development, the authors suggest issuing “diaspora bonds,” which are bonds that can be issued to a country’s citizenry beyond borders, and bonds indexed to gross domestic product (GDP), which are bonds that pay out to the buyer based on the country’s rate of growth.²³⁴ Both of these types of bonds have been implemented in the past but only to a limited extent.²³⁵ This means that the government and parts of the private sector put money into a fund to be used in funding urban

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²²⁰ Economic and Social Council, *Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda (E/2014/53)*, 2014.
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2014/53&Lang=E

²²¹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing*, 2014.
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/315&Lang=E

²²² *Ibid.*

²²³ *Ibid.*

²²⁴ *Ibid.*

²²⁵ *Ibid.*

²²⁶ *Ibid.*

²²⁷ United Nations Industrial Development Organization, *FDI Policy Instruments: Advantages and Disadvantages*, 2009.
http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/Publications/RSF_DPR/WP012009_Ebook.pdf

²²⁸ *Ibid.*

²²⁹ United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, *The Vancouver Action Plan*, 1976. <http://habitat.igc.org/vancouver/vp-intr.htm>

²³⁰ *Ibid.*

²³¹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing*, 2014.
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/315&Lang=E

²³² World Bank, *Innovations to Finance a Sustainable Urban Future*, 2014.
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/04/04/finance-innovations-for-sustainable-cities>

²³³ United Nations, *Expert Group Meeting Report, Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development*, 2007.
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/report.pdf>

²³⁴ World Bank, *Innovative Financing for Development*, 2009.
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1110315015165/%5Be-book%5DInnovative_Financing_for_Development.pdf

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

development where the government has the final say on where the money goes.²³⁶ Some of the struggling, resource-rich countries in Africa have started “Resources for Infrastructure programs,” however, they have not been entirely successful and still need cultivation to reach their potential.²³⁷

In the People’s Republic of China, a unique way of financing development, the urban development investment corporation (UDIC), was established as a result of both strict rules on the government interacting with the market, as well as pressure to build infrastructure.²³⁸ UDICs are private enterprises that borrow money from the finance market to help the government carry out development projects.²³⁹ UDICs have shown quite a bit of success, but are a very unique innovation special to China because of their unique government structure, thus would not necessarily be feasible in a country with a more democratized financial structure.²⁴⁰ However, a solution more fitting to a decentralized system of finance might look a little bit more like the Bank of Territorial Development (FINDETER) in Colombia, which encourages commercial banks to loan to municipal governments by loaning to the commercial banks at discounted rates.²⁴¹ FINDETER has proven successful; initially funded by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, it is now mostly sustained by its own loan payments.²⁴² Further, another public-private option would be a bank similar to the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund, which is a public-private partnership (PPP) where the government holds a majority share.²⁴³

Social Funds

An additional innovative method of financing urban development project is through Social Investment Funds (SFs).²⁴⁴ SFs originated in Latin America in 1986 as a way to fund smaller community projects and reduce poverty in some of the more rural areas.²⁴⁵ There are a couple different kinds of SFs, but all sponsor local programs to generate employment and work and soften the blow of decreased public spending on development projects by collecting funds from the community to be dispersed back to the community.²⁴⁶ Social funds are now popular around the world and have developed beyond a once temporary solution.²⁴⁷

Impact of Urban Development

There is a strong foundation of literature and research supporting the importance of financing development, including sustainable development, but financing urban development, specifically, is often overlooked. Urban development still faces many of the same challenges in finding a stable strategy and funding source, but it is unique because urban areas are so important to development overall.²⁴⁸ Cities hold most of the world’s population; they are industrial, and they have a significant disparity between the rich and poor.²⁴⁹ Urban development also affects

²³⁶ United Nations, *Expert Group Meeting Report, Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development*, 2007.

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/report.pdf>

²³⁷ World Bank, *Financing for Development Post-2015*, 2013.

<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Poverty%20documents/WB-PREM%20financing-for-development-pub-10-11-13web.pdf>

²³⁸ World Bank, *The Urban Development Investment Corporations in Chongqing*, China, n.d. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/08/13/000334955_20100813023912/Rendered/PDF/561750ESW0Whit1C10Chongqing1UDIC1en.pdf

²³⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁰ World Bank, *Planning, Connecting, and Financing Cities - Now*, 2013. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf

²⁴¹ *Ibid.*

²⁴² *Ibid.*

²⁴³ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁴ World Bank, *Results Readiness in Social Protection & Labor Operations: Technical Guidance Notes for Social Funds Task Teams*, 2011. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/SP-Discussion-papers/Social-Protection-General-DP/1104.pdf>

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁸ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat at a glance*, 2014. <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/un-habitat-at-a-glance/>

²⁴⁹ World Bank, *Planning, Connecting, and Financing Cities - Now*, 2013. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf

sustainable development because of the environmental issues surrounding industry, resource use, and living in close-proximity.²⁵⁰

Conclusion

Financing urban development is a critical part of improving the quality of life in developing countries. Financing development encompasses a decision-making process regarding priorities and funding, and the policy solutions are unique each individual city. The UN system has worked extensively to not only provide funding for development, but to arrange for other sources of funding from domestic and international sources by encouraging the actions of the private sector and foreign governments. The biggest issue to address, in this context, is the source of funding, and, although more traditional means of financing are becoming more efficient, many governments are seeking innovative ways to provide funds for development projects. There is no required method to finance urban development, but a concerted, holistic and comprehensive approach is essential to ensure safer and sustainable cities.

Questions for Further Consideration

What funding methods are the most sustainable, and how can they be implemented more widely? What is the best way to decide where the money goes? How can traditional funding be made more efficient? How can UN-Habitat support inclusive and transparent urban planning processes that ensure the voices of all stakeholders are involved? How can governments ensure private-public partnerships have accountability mechanisms and appropriate monitoring frameworks?

²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

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