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IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA

The New Urban Agenda for the CIS countries
Saturday, 10 February 2018
15:00-17:00
Room 304

Background

The networking event will discuss the development of an UNECE-UNESCAP-UN-Habitat joint initiative on “The New Urban Agenda for the CIS countries”. It will be organized as an interactive panel discussion of high-level officials representing national and city governments from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, representatives of academia, civil society and international organizations. The panelists will discuss challenges and trends in urban development in the CIS region and provide their views to strategic directions of the initiative. The 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Habitat III Regional Report for UNECE Region and a report “CIS Cities: Towards Sustainable Future” will serve as starting point for the discussion.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) includes 10 permanent members and one associate member. The CIS is an important mechanism of interstate consultations and negotiations aimed at reaching agreement on various areas of multilateral cooperation within the Commonwealth and putting them into practice.

The CIS countries have shared challenges, which were outlined in the report “CIS Cities: Towards Sustainable Future The Commonwealth of Independent States”, which was prepared by UN-Habitat and the UNECE for Habitat III. These challenges include among others: high concentration of population and industrial production in the largest and major cities, stagnation of small and medium human settlements (including monocities); the rise of social segregation of population; exacerbation of traffic problems in capital and major cities; growing pressures on urban infrastructure; unfavorable environmental setting in the areas neighboring with large industrial centers; risks of natural and man-made disasters; lack of effective management and maintenance system for multi-apartment buildings; and lack of social and affordable rental housing.

The proposed initiative on “The New Urban Agenda for the CIS countries”, that the UNECE, the UNESCAP and UN-Habitat are developing in cooperation with the governments of CIS countries, including through the Interstate CIS Committee for Construction; with the Association of Capital and Megacities of the CIS, and other stakeholders, will consolidate, scale-up and build on several years of the effective collaboration in the sub-region. The initiative aims to address the above



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key challenges to sustainable urban development in an integrated manner and will support the transition in the CIS countries to localising the SDGs, especially SDG 11, The New Urban Agenda's three transformational commitments, through exchange of experiences, best practices; and awareness raising activities. The initiative when implemented will promote more effective implementation of the relevant global and regional policies in achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 11 on sustainable cities and human settlements in addition to others such as 6, 7, 12, 15 as relevant.

The networking event will provide a platform for stakeholders from the region to highlight the key areas that the initiative should address, as well as identify and solidify partnerships for the initiative.

Objectives

Key inputs and recommendations from representatives of the CIS sub-region to enhance the joint initiative on "The New Urban Agenda for CIS Countries".

1. Promotion of understanding of current urban trends in the CIS.
2. Building awareness about the need for integrated approach to the implementation of global and regional commitments in cities: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and others. ,
3. Advocacy for the localisation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda for representatives of the sub-region.
4. A broadened set of international, sub-regional and country partnerships to implement the initiative.

Agenda	
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Opening</p> <p>Christine Musisi, Director for External Relations, UN-Habitat</p> <p>Moderator: Åsa Jonsson, Chief, Best Practices Unit, Coordinator, Russia and CIS sub-region, Research and Capacity Development Branch, UN-Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulnara Roll, Head, Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalija Wehmer, Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
15:30 – 16:40	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dmitry Semenkevich, Vice-Minister of Architecture and Construction of Belarus • Polina Zakharova, Director of the MosEcoMonitoring, Russian Federation • Arsen Karapetyan, Executive Director, Development Solutions Institute Foundation <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrey Maksimov, Chairman of the Commission for Territorial Development and Local Self-Government, Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation • Grishina Olga, Head of Press Center, Fund for Assistance to Reform of Housing and Utilities, State Corporation • Sergey Kochnev, Advisor to the Chairperson of the National Youth Council of Russia
16:40 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and closing remarks