



Side event

Shaping Smart Sustainable Cities for the New Urban Agenda

Day: 16 March 2016

Time: 16:00-17:30

Venue: Room Club H

Background and objectives:

Cities worldwide are considered powerful engines of economic growth, fuelled by intensive interpersonal communication and high concentrations of specialized skills. Accordingly, it has been estimated that cities account for 80% of the world's GDP. However, the advantages bestowed by urbanization are plagued with significant sustainability challenges as cities account for over 70% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and 60-80% of global energy consumption. As it has been estimated that 66% of the world's population will live in cities by 2050, sustainable urbanization has become a key policy point for administrations across the world.

Over the last two decades, research has highlighted how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can be used to achieve urban climate targets by lowering energy use and GHG emissions while boosting socio-economic growth. When discussing the use of ICTs for cities, reference is often made to the concept of "smart sustainable cities". The words "smart" within the concept of "smart sustainable city" is used to highlight the importance and potential of ICTs in assisting cities to introduce environment friendly urban services based technological innovation including smart transportation systems, smart healthcare, smart energy and smart education. The main features of smart sustainable cities make them an efficient tool when accomplishing the urban targets set forth in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. A number of cities around the world have already jumped on the smart sustainable city bandwagon, labelling themselves "smart" and "sustainable" in one way or another. This has made it difficult to comprehend what is actually meant by "smart sustainable city". With several researchers giving their perspective on this, it has become increasingly difficult to set the terms for identifying cities which are both "smart" and "sustainable".

In line with this, several United Nations organizations have also been working in a concerted manner to address economic growth, sustainability and social inclusion in urban areas so as to set a feasible benchmark for cities aiming to transition into smart sustainable cities. The UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, at its 75th session, mandated its secretariat to establish the "United Smart Cities" project and at its 76th session, on 14 December 2015, the Committee endorsed the globally accepted definition for Smart Sustainable Cities and the set of Smart Sustainable Cities Indicators that UNECE and ITU jointly developed. Smart Sustainable City indicators will be incorporated along with the other SDG indicators and will be updated when all the SDG indicators are adopted by the UN in March 2016.

This session will analyse how the internationally developed indicators formulated by UNECE and ITU will help countries surge forward in the smart sustainable city realm, thereby providing all countries with a benchmark for smart sustainable operations.

For more information on the event, please contact:

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Provisional Agenda

16 March in Room Club H	
16:00 – 16:15	<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— <i>Mr. Christian Friis Bach</i>, Executive Secretary, UNECE— <i>Mr. Joan Clos</i>, Executive Director, UN-Habitat— <i>Mr. Chaesub Lee</i>, Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU
16:15-17:30	<p>Session 1 – Smart sustainable cities stakeholders roundtable</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Andre Dzikus</i>, Coordinator, Urban Basic Services Branch and Acting Coordinator, Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch, UN-Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— <i>Mr. Roman Mendle</i>, Smart Cities Programme Manager, ICLEI World Secretariat— <i>Mr. Heimo Aichmaier</i>, Chief Executive Officer, Austrian Mobile Power— <i>Ms. Matilda Gennvi Gustafsson</i>, Sustainability Director, Ericsson— <i>Mr. Artem Sedov</i>, Head, Intelligent Systems in Automation Laboratory , University of Moscow and Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Construction, Housing and Utilities of the Russian Federation— <i>Mr. Zdenek Lokaj</i>, Associate Professor, Dept. of Applied Informatics, Czech Technical University— <i>Mr. Hilmar von Lojewski</i>, Association of German Cities (tbc)— <i>Mr. Rasoul D. Mikkelsen</i>, Director, Global Partnerships Grundfos LIFELINK (tbc) <p>Q&A</p>
	<p>CONCLUSIONS</p> <p><i>Mr. Andre Dzikus</i>, Coordinator, Urban Basic Services Branch and Acting Coordinator, Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch, UN-Habitat</p>