



In Focus: SDG 11



Supporting city actions for a resilient future

5 October 2020

**Conference Room VXII, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland**

www.unece.org/housing/sdg11day2020

In Focus: SDG 11

“Supporting city actions for a resilient future”

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CONCEPT NOTE

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Context

Cities play an important role in the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and in achieving the *Sustainable Development Goals*, especially SDG 11: “Sustainable cities and communities”. Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity and social development, and they define people’s quality of life. They deliver basic urban services and infrastructure and enable people to advance socially and economically.

In 2015, close to 4 billion people — 54% of the world’s population — lived in cities. That number is projected to increase to about 5 billion people by 2030. This unprecedented urban growth poses challenges, such as urban decline, environmental pollution and socio-spatial polarization for city administrations. Recently, cities have been at the forefront of addressing the challenges posed by COVID 19, climate change and natural disasters.

In Focus: SDG 11

The UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit has been organizing a one-day event each year to focus discussions on SDG 11 and called it “In Focus: SDG 11”. This year, together with the Geneva Cities Hub¹, UNECE is organizing the event on 5 October 2020.

The theme of the SDG11 event is “Supporting city actions for a resilient future”. The theme corresponds to the theme of the 2020 Forum of Mayors “City action for a resilient future: Strengthening local government preparedness and response to emergencies and the impact of climate change” (more at <https://www.unece.org/housing/forumofmayors2020.html>). Outcomes of the event will inform discussions during the Forum of Mayors.

The **In Focus: SDG11** is a platform for an illuminating and refreshing dialogue on how cities address the challenges related to climate change, the COVID 19 pandemic, natural disasters (earthquakes and floods) and on how to better support cities in addressing these challenges.

The event will address the following questions:

1. What challenges do climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and natural disasters pose for the sustainable development of cities?

¹ <https://www.genevacitieshub.org/>

2. What are the needs of cities to address these challenges?
3. What are the projects, policies and partnerships that allow us to address and focus on these challenges?

Participation

The event provides an opportunity to:

1. Foster cooperation between UN agencies, city networks, private and public organizations, NGOs, academia and civil society
2. Brainstorm to create synergies to promote effective implementation of SDG 11
3. Create joint initiatives and activities to ensure the highest and best-coordinated impact in implementing SDG 11 and other urban related SDGs.

City networks are particularly encouraged to participate in the event. The outcomes of the event will support network development by providing opportunities to form partnerships and collaborations that aim to further the implementation of SDG 11.

Format

Invited participants will deliver an oral presentation of 5 minutes (no PowerPoint presentations are previewed). The presenters will be contacted ahead of the event by the moderators to be provided more information.

The presenters should submit the titles of their presentation to the moderators by 21 September 2020 COB.

Languages

The event will be held in the English language with a simultaneous translation into French and Spanish.

Registration

The **In Focus: SDG11** is organized as a part of the 2020 UNECE Sustainable Cities Week - <https://www.unece.org/housing/citiesweek2020>

To register, please sign up for the UNECE “In Focus: SDG 11” at <https://indico.un.org/event/34611/>

Registration is open until 20 September 2020.

Date and Venue

The event will take place from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. on 5 October 2020 at Room XII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

On-line connection

The meeting will be streamed and recorded.

Contact

For more information, you may contact:

Ms Agata Krause, UNECE at agata.krause@un.org

Ms Kamelia Kemileva, Geneva Cities Hub at info@genevacitieshub.org