



Advancing Sustainable Development in Cities through Meaningful Insights and Partnerships

CONCEPT NOTE



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL





CURRENT STATE OF CITIES

Urbanization has rapidly increased over the years and while it has been a great economic driver, it has also contributed to unprecedented sustainability challenges. Moreover, the global urban population is projected to increase by 63% between 2014 and 2050 further displacing and driving people to poverty, thus, limiting their access to basic services such as water, food, healthcare, and education to name a few and having adverse effects to the environment such as water and air pollution, therefore, proper management and planning is needed.

It is widely recognised that “the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities.” With less than a decade remaining for the achievement of SDGs, it is crucial to step up global efforts and intensify impact in cities. Coherent city initiatives are critical in providing systemic pathway for cities to advance their achievement of SDGs through a value chain that connects data, strategic planning, impact project formulation and financing, and strengthening local institutions.

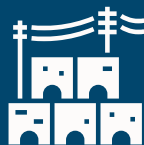
FACTS AND FIGURES



3.5 billion people live in cities today and 5 billion people are projected to live in cities by 2030



95% of urban expansion in the next decades will take place in developing world



828 million people live in slums today and most of them are found in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia.



Cities account for **60-80%** of energy consumption and **75%** of carbon emissions.



90% of urban growth is forecasted to happen in Asia and Africa in the next 30 years.



70% of the world population is predicted to live in urban settlements by 2050



COVID-19

Cities are in the forefront of dealing with the pandemic and its long-term consequences. COVID-19 has threatened communities across the globe, posing great challenges and risk that puts the vulnerable sector on the edge — especially those with poor infrastructure and inefficient service systems. Aside from its impact on public health, the COVID-19 epidemic is having a wide range of economic consequences, ranging from disrupted global supply chains to bankrupted small businesses, resulting to significant job losses and impacts on people's livelihoods all over the world, particularly in the informal sector and those with irregular earnings and unstable jobs who have fewer safety nets to weather the storm.

Creating strategic partnerships will:

- Support local governments and community-driven solutions in informal settlements
- Provide urban data, evidence-based mapping and knowledge for informed decision
- Mitigate economic impact and initiate recovery

Moreover, there are several best practice and case studies that provides guidance for global, regional, national and city-level action and responses..



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

SCI CONFERENCE AIMS TO ELABORATE ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Building urban resilience is critical for avoiding personal, social, and economic losses, as well as protecting the environment and mitigating disaster risk and climate change.

2. FORGE PARTNERSHIPS

It is vital to have a lasting and partnerships with governments, private and public entities sharing the same commitment to be able to work together towards the same goals.

3. LOCALIZATION OF SDGS

SDGs can serve as a framework for local development policy, as well as assisting in the attainment of SDGs in the local and regional governments through bottom-up action.



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

CHALLENGES

1 URBANIZATION

The rapid urbanization witnessed worldwide has led to increased pressure on the environment

2 ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Our cities account for up to 80% of energy consumption as well as 75% of global waste and carbon emissions

3 VULNERABLE CITIES

Due to the high concentration of people, infrastructure, housing and economic activities, cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters

SOLUTIONS

URBAN PLANNING

sustainable building, low-carbon transports, green spaces and sustainable lifestyles

RENEWABLE ENERGY

waste management, sustainable and green infrastructure

PROTECT CITIES

which are important social, cultural and economic centres - from environmental and climate threats



Working Title:
Advancing Sustainable Development in Cities through Meaningful
Insights and Partnerships

PROGRAM FLOW

11:00 – 11:05	WELCOME/ INTRODUCTORY REMARKS LEROY ALLALA <i>President, Sister Cities International</i>
11:05 – 11:15	GLOBAL CONVERSATION OVERVIEW JIM DONOVAN <i>Founder & Chairman, Global CEO Alliance</i>
11:15 - 11:25	PANEL DISCUSSION PETER SVARZBEIN <i>Mayor Pro Tem, El Paso Texas, Chair-Elect, Sister Cities International</i>
11:25 - 11:35	EFFECTIVE SUSTAINABLE CITY PLANNING DR. SEGUNDO JOAQUIN ROMERO JR. <i>President of UNIIDSEA, Professor, Ateneo University</i>
11:35 - 11:45	GLOBAL FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES CLAUDIA GARCIA ZARAGOZA <i>Advocacy and Knowledge Management Expert, UN Habitat</i>
11:45 - 11:55	CURRENT STATE OF CITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PHYLLIS VENABLE <i>Co-country Representative, SCI Kenya</i>
11:55 - 12:00	CLOSING REMARKS PETER SVARZBEIN <i>Mayor Pro Tem, El Paso Texas, Chair-Elect, Sister Cities International</i>