

Ministerial segment**Agenda 6,
Seventh session of
Committee on Environment
and Development****Tuesday, 1 December 2022
TBC
CR-1, UN Conférence
Center, Bangkok, Thailand**

Dear Excellencies, Honourable delegates, Colleagues, friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cities are at the forefront of taking actions in key policy areas including climate action, sustainable urbanization, air pollution, ecosystem health, and environmental protection. Indeed, cities contribute 70% of the world's GHG emissions. Motorized transport, increased energy consumption, and unmanaged waste caused by rapid urbanization are the source of emissions and air pollution. More than ever, it is now evident that our all efforts to balance climate change and environmental considerations and sustaining inclusive growth in cities are all interconnected and will be vital to meeting NDC targets.

Recently at COP 27, together with the COP27 Presidency, UN-Habitat with facilitation by ICLEI launched the “Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation”, or SURGe initiative at the first ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. The initiative promotes acceleration of local and urban climate action through multilevel climate governance, strengthening implementation of the climate agenda in and with cities; unlocking urban climate finance; capacity-building and ensuring equity.

Through our flagship Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor Programme – or RISE UP we continue to integrate tried and tested approaches of slum upgrading with innovative ways of building climate resilience – including leveraging climate finance.

We work closely with city networks. With the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy we have fostered innovation for urban climate action by bringing innovators, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers together – this is particularly important given the more than 11,000 cities which can be reached through the partnership.

Across the Asia and the Pacific region, UN-Habitat has demonstrated this at national and local level in various countries, in various aspects. In Solomon Island, Mongolia, Lao PDR and Pakistan, we facilitated community-level WASH infrastructure through People's Process that contributes to build resilience to climate change. In Chennai, India, innovative and inclusive approach selected from multi-sectoral proposals was applied to tackle urban water problems. In

Philippines, context-specific processes in building resilience while considering balanced economic and ecological sustainability were showcased in five pilot cities leading to national policy revision. In Vietnam and Cambodia coastal communities are supported on building resilient infrastructure and in cities in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR we have worked with UNEP on nature-based solutions to climate challenges; lessons learned are now applied in Fiji, Philippines, Solomon Islands and in Malaysia. All of these activities are focused on the provision of basic services, building local capacity to adapt to climate change and ecological impact on the ground and each with a model for scaling up that are reliant on private sector co-investments.

Next year in October, we will join ESCAP in hosting the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, to be held in Suwon, Republic of Korea. We look forward to strengthen our collaboration with ESCAP.

We also look forward to a strong contribution of Member States of this region, to voluntary local and national reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; to their forthcoming reporting on the environmental dimensions of SDG11; to participation in the 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023 and in the 12th Session of the World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt, in January 2024.

As a UN agency being mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, UN-Habitat is ready to work together with partners in advancing eco-system-based approaches to address urban challenges for the better future, achieving the 2030 Goals as well as net zero society. Thank you ESCAP for being the forefront of leading this broad range of partnerships across countries, cities, sectors, and agencies. UN-Habitat is in solidarity with all the partners for regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.