

# Creating Healthy and Sustainable Cities

*Wednesday, 12 October 2022 (11:30-15:30 GMT+7)*

## Description and Training Purpose

This training session will focus on the creation of healthy and sustainable cities, including approaches to address critical urban environmental challenges such as air pollution. Participants will learn of policy pathways across four integrated thematic pillars (Urban and Territorial Planning; Urban Resilience; Smart Cities and Technologies; and Urban Finance) and tools and resources that can be deployed to create clean, healthy and sustainable urban environments. In particular, participants will learn about approaches to improve urban air quality and to monitor and review the progress towards the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Thematic Background

More than 50 per cent of the region's population is already living in cities, and the number of urban dwellers is expected to rise to more than 2.8 billion in 2030 and reach nearly 3.5 billion in 2050. The Asia-Pacific cities of 2030, 2050 and 2100 will be very different from today.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed considerable challenges for cities in the Asia-Pacific region. From unequal access to water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and urban health services to evidence of adverse impacts of anthropomorphic activities on urban environments, the pandemic highlighted the need for more attention on planning healthy and sustainable communities and building resilience to future shocks and stresses.

The pandemic lockdowns saw the economic and social life of major urban centres devastated. Urban services and mobility options were drastically restricted. Issues of adequate shelter, sanitation and hygiene, and access to health services became major concerns, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities. Air quality and emissions however, improved dramatically, suggesting that some positive lessons could emerge from the pandemic and be incorporated in recovery strategies.

As recoveries continue, cities and local authorities play a critical role in building back better, through creation of healthy and resilient communities which contribute to achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Cities can lead recoveries, driving transformations to more sustainable and low-carbon futures, but only if leaders have the tools, policies and



technologies needed to deploy innovative urban solutions.

Population in the region's urban areas is expanding exponentially, and Asia Pacific cities are already home to some of the world's dirtiest air. As this growth boom continues, the air pollution crisis has now come to a critical point, where billions of lives depend on the region's ability to improve air quality. It is universally recognized that air pollution is a pressing environmental challenge that has increased considerably in recent years, leading to a rise in premature deaths, threatening livelihoods and the sustainable development of the region, in particular in many cities in Asia and the Pacific where air pollution is a major public health hazard to an increasing urban population. Development and implementation of actions to develop healthy urban environments and adoption of clean air solutions is essential.

In this context, monitoring and reporting the efforts of cities against multiple targets across the Sustainable Development Goals are important components in each country's progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Localizing the SDGs and developing Voluntary Local Reviews can strengthen the vertical integration of local and national policies and contribute to Voluntary National Review processes.

## Training Objectives

This training session will facilitate dialogue focused on specific opportunities and tools to support planning processes and solutions to improve the quality of life and health in cities.

The session will focus on the following areas:

- Policy pathways to support development of clean and healthy urban environments, including through urban planning, urban resilience strategies, deployment of smart city solutions and investment/financing opportunities
- Methodologies to understand urban air pollution sources and deploy appropriate clean air solutions and enhancing the use of data and technologies to inform policies
- Approaches to localize the Sustainable Development Goals and to monitor progress, including through Voluntary Local Reviews

## Modalities of Training

The training sessions will be conducted in the form of interactive webinars with recordings of the sessions made available to participants after the sessions. Active participation is highly encouraged.



- **Part 1** will be delivered through presentation of policy pathways identified in The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities and recent research/case studies on health and cities, as well as panel discussion and Q&A with urban professionals and experts on incorporating health and resilience in urban planning.
- **Part 2** will be delivered with interactive simulation exercises relating to data and information policy tools to measure air pollution and to develop clean air actions and solutions.
- **Part 3** of the training will be delivered through presentation of regional guidelines for localizing the SDGs and a case study on a Voluntary Local Review process. If a sufficient number of participants are registered, an exercise in developing a VLR in breakout rooms will be conducted and groups will report back on the challenges identified in localizing the SDGs.



## Session Structure Overview

Time (GMT+7)	Topics	Presenter(s)/ Facilitator(s)
<b>Part 1 – Planning for Healthy and Sustainable Cities</b>		
11:30-11:35	Welcome and Introduction	<p><b>Mr. Curt Garrigan</b>  <i>Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</i></p>
11.35 to 11.55	Policy Pathways for sustainable urban development	<b>Sanjeevani Singh, ESCAP</b>
11:55-12:30	Panel Discussion: Healthy urban environments – obstacles and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Bernadia Tjandradewi, UCLG-ASPAC</li> <li>• ISOCARP Representative</li> </ul>
	Q&A	<p><b>City Representatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Md. Jillur RAHMAN, Chandpur, Bangladesh</li> <li>• DA-13 City (Pune, Subang Jaya, Hoi An or Suva)</li> </ul> <p><b>Civil Society</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sri Sofjan, Huairou Commission (TBC)</li> </ul>
12:30-13:00	BREAK	
<b>Part 2: Improving urban air quality</b>		
13:00-13:10	Understanding the Sources of Urban Air Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Matthew Perkins, ESCAP</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
13:10-13:20	Integrated Programme for Better Air Quality in Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Katherine Patdu, UNEP</li> </ul>
13:20-13:50	Experience Sharing and Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiang Mai</li> <li>• Jambi</li> <li>• Fuvahmulah</li> </ul>
13:50-14:00	BREAK	



	<b>Part 3: Localizing, Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b>	
14:00-14:15	Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals & key elements of a VLR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sanjeevani Singh</li> </ul>
14:15-15:15	Developing a Voluntary Local Review (Case Study) Workshop- Undertaking a VLR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Dhulikel, Nepal (TBC)</li> <li>• Ms. Bedoshruti Sadhukhan, Senior Programme Coordinator, ICLEI South Asia</li> </ul>
15:15-15:30	Reporting Back on Breakout Sessions and Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups to report back</li> </ul>



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