Sixth North East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals

7-8 September 2022
Blue Sky Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Session 8: Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11)
*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable*

Mr. Omar Siddique
Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
Presentation Outline

PART 1  Background

PART 2  (De)urbanization in North East Asia

PART 3  'Cities and communities' are crosscutting across all SDGs

PART 4  Key policy issues – Need to adapt urban policies to address multiple interlinked crisis

PART 5  Where to get inspired?
Part 1: Background

• SDG 11 firmly places **urbanization at the forefront of international development policy**.

• Viewing **urbanization** beyond simply a demographic phenomenon – as a **transformative process** galvanizing momentum for many aspects of sustainable development.

• **Cities drive innovation and investment worldwide**, making them a potent force for addressing sustainable economic growth, urban development and prosperity.

• **Cities are powerhouses of economic growth** contributing about 80 percent of Asia-Pacific's GDP and functioning as catalysts for socio-economic mobility and inclusion.
Part 1: Background

- Cities account for about 70% of global energy consumption and 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as 70+% of resource use.

- Under unplanned or poorly governed urbanization, cities are even characterized by stark socioeconomic and spatial inequalities, social exclusion, multidimensional poverty, high unemployment, slums, unaffordable and inadequate housing, and significantly poor environmental conditions.

- Therefore, cities need to take the lead in addressing many of the persistent global challenges including pollution, climate change, resilience and environmental degradation, road safety, urban mobility, poverty, inequality, unemployment, safety and security, etc.
Part 2: North East Asia is already primarily urban

Urbanization

1. Rural to urban migration
2. Urban population increase
3. Spatial expansion

Urban population percentage of total population of members in the ENEA region Data (World Development Indicators, 2022).
Part 2: North East Asia urban expansion

Source: http://www.atlasofurbanexpansion.org/data
Part 2: North East Asia urban expansion

Source: http://www.atlasofurbanexpansion.org/data
Part 2: (De)Urbanisation in North East Asia?

Shrinking City

An urban area (a city, part of a city, an entire metropolitan area, or a town) that has experienced population loss, economic downturn, employment decline, and social problems as symptoms of a structural crisis.

Annual urban population growth percent in the ENEA region (World Development Indicators, 2022).
Part 2: (De)Urbanisation in North East Asia?

- Fertility rate in the Republic of Korea is about 1.17% and in Japan 1.44%. Without immigration, a fertility rate of 2.1% is needed to have a stable population. If current trends continue, Japan’s population is expected to decline from 126.5 million at present to 88 million in 2065, 51 million by 2115, and to zero by around 3000!

- Yichun, a city in north-east China, was transformed from a sleepy town to a bustling city due to logging. Later during 2012-2016, Yichun lost 12% of population after its natural resources depleted.
Part 3: ‘Cities and communities’ are crosscutting across all SDGs
Part 3: SDG 11 Snapshot of Progress for North East Asia
### 2021 SDG Progress at Indicator Level

#### East and North-East Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Target 2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.2.P1 Road traffic deaths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.5.1 Deaths/missing/affected from disasters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.5.2 Economic loss and affected infrastructure &amp; services from disaster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.6.2 Urban particulate matter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.b.1 Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Part 3: SDG 11 Snapshot of Gaps for North East Asia

#### Goal 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban particulate matter</td>
<td>11.5.1</td>
<td>Deaths/missing/affected from disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road traffic deaths</td>
<td>11.6.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local DRR strategies</td>
<td>11.2.P1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies</td>
<td>11.b.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and regional development plans</td>
<td>11.a.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical or sexual harassment</td>
<td>11.b.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban open space for public use</td>
<td>11.7.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban solid waste collected</td>
<td>11.6.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic loss and affected infrastructure &amp; services from disasters</td>
<td>11.5.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure on preservation of cultural and natural heritage</td>
<td>11.4.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil society participation in urban planning and management</td>
<td>11.3.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land consumption rate</td>
<td>11.3.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenient access to public transport</td>
<td>11.2.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban slum population</td>
<td>11.1.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 4: Key Policy Issues – Adapt Urban Policies to Address Multiple Interlinked Crisis

01. COVID-19 recovery an opportunity to accelerate SDG11 through integrated planning

Many cities have demonstrated great agility to deploy creative solutions, ranging from supporting urban regeneration of shrinking or underserved neighbourhoods, "15 minute city" concepts, protecting vulnerable groups, including migrants, to ensuring the continuity of local public services.

02. Challenge the 'Rural vs Urban' dichotomy of development policies and siloed action

There is a general perception that urbanization is a threat to food production and agriculture when, in fact, the way countries manage urbanization will determine the future of food systems and rural livelihoods.

03. Compact, mixed use urban environments are spatial solutions to the climate crisis

Urbanization does not have to be a threat to our planetary ecosystem. Evidence confirms that compact, well-managed urban habitats are the most climate friendly environmentally sustainable form of human settlement. Building redundancies into trunk infrastructure and services can reduce loss and damage. Focus on planning policies which preserve urban assets from climate impacts.
Part 4: Key Policy Issues – Adapt Urban Policies to Address Multiple Interlinked Crisis

04. The future of work is leading to changes in urban growth and resource patterns

The rise and mainstreaming of remote working in daily practices have paved the way for **new spatial scenarios**, where cities of all sizes and growth patterns might have opportunity to drive a more polycentric and balanced model of urbanisation, as well as for rural areas close to cities.

05. Harnessing the 'twin transitions' for cities – digitalisation and shift to net-zero

Recovery strategies have also boosted the “twin transition” – i.e. digitalisation and the shift to net-zero **economy** – which will likely continue to change the way people live and work in the long term.

06. Urban poverty, exclusionary housing markets, cost of living pressures in cities

Accelerated inflationary / cost of living pressures are here. **Economic geography, balanced territorial development, and intra-urban spatial inequality** are concepts that are largely absent from major policy **documents** and yet are essential for greening economic development, equality, shared prosperity, and long term sustainability planning.
Part 5: Where to get inspired?

Regional Multistakeholder Urban Dialogues

Capacity Building of New Mayors

Addressing Urban Plastic Pollution

Developing City Air Pollution Plans

https://urbangateway.unescap.org
Partner with us to accelerate progress on SDG11 in North East Asia!

https://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development/urban-development