Regional Partners Forum @ Quito+5

Summary of the Background Report

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Overview

- Purpose of the Forum and the Background Report
- Voluntary Commitments from APUF-7
- Four Key Themes for Action: Case studies to show progress and challenges
- Defining capacity gaps and initial Action Points
- Reporting SDG progress at the national and sub-national level
There are several key objectives:

- Showcase examples of sustainable urban development progress in the region.
- Assess progress against the APUF-7 voluntary commitments.
- Propose initial action points and invite discussion on the recommended actions.
- Encourage partners to prepare NUA National Reports and Local Voluntary Reviews (VLRs).
# APUF-7 Voluntary Commitments (1/3)

11 commitments were made at the 7th Asia Pacific Urban Forum in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting cities and region to conduct VLRs</td>
<td>Institute for Global Environmental Strategies</td>
<td>To provide at least 10 cities and regions capacity development and technical assistance to conduct VLRs by 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development Education and Literacy</td>
<td>University Putra Malaysia</td>
<td>To embed teaching about sustainability across all of its major courses, including urban planning and development, by 2022</td>
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<td>Commitment to Making Cities More Livable</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>To provide US$2.5 billion annual financing for urban infrastructure projects from 2020 to 2024, which will support cities to improve the coverage, quality, efficiency and reliability of services in urban areas; strengthen urban planning and financial sustainability of cities; and improve urban environment, climate resilience, and disaster management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Localizing SDGs for Asia-Pacific Cities</td>
<td>United Governments and Local Governments, Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)</td>
<td>To support at least 50 cities and provinces to develop SDG aligned local plan, climate change action plans, local disaster plans and/or participatory design and construction of public spaces by 2022.</td>
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### Better Knowledge on Urban Post-Earthquake Restoration

**Kumamoto City, Japan**
To contribute to the further development of the international community as an SDG city, by sharing the urban development initiatives, disaster prevention plans, and emergency response strategies that the city developed through experiences in the Kumamoto Earthquake on both the international and domestic levels by 2023.

### Sustainable Development for Local Governments in the Asia-Pacific Region

**CityNet Secretariat**
To accelerate engagement of capacity building activities of its 154 members to localize SDGs in sustainable infrastructure, climate action, disaster risk reduction, affordable housing, smart cities, and waste management to support localization of the SDGs by 2021.

### Green Low Emission Urban Development

**Seberang Perai City Council, Malaysia**
To become a low carbon city that: utilizes 15% renewable energy; requires the installation of all streetlights to be LED lights; increase its recycling rate to 70% and reduce garbage by 50% per capita; and plant 100,000 trees by 2022.
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<td><strong>A New Partnership for Action to Implement the New Urban Agenda and the Urban SDGs in the Pacific</strong></td>
<td>Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Pacific Island Forum Partners To ensure successful implementation of the outcomes of the Pacific Urban Forum by 2023</td>
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<td><strong>The Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization</strong></td>
<td>UNESCAP and UN-Habitat, on behalf of 15 member organizations To provide joint technical assistance to at least 10 cities for localizing the SDGs by 2023, including by applying the policy pathways (See Section 2) from the Future of Asian &amp; Pacific Cities Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mayor’s Academy for Sustainable Development</strong></td>
<td>Nili City, Afghanistan, on behalf of Academy partners To build the capacity of at least 20 mayors and create a network of sustainability champions in the region with partners by 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Urban Cooperation Programme Asia, Phase II</strong></td>
<td>European Union – International Cooperation Programme To share knowledge, create innovative solutions, generate new economic opportunities by supporting cooperation on sustainability for at least 30 Asian cities by 2023</td>
</tr>
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Key Urban Development Themes and Covid-19 Impact

Four key themes and 13 policy pathways. These will be presented in detail on Day 2.

- Urban and Territorial Planning
- Urban Resilience
- Digital and smart city solutions
- Urban Finance

Considerations related to Covid-19

- Impact on jobs, livelihoods and poverty
- Reduced municipal resources
- Opportunities to combine Covid-19 recovery with sustainable urban development
- ‘Building back better’
Case Studies from the four Key Themes

Examples from the Background Report
Case Studies: Geographic Spread

30 case studies covering 16 countries

- Urban and territorial planning: 6
- Urban resilience: 10
- Digital and smart city solutions: 7
- Urban Finance: 7

- Afghanistan
- Cambodia
- China
- Georgia
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Vietnam
A decision support tool for municipal commissioners and urban practitioners.

- Prioritizes climate and environment.
- Urban diagnostics cover 12 sectors
- Supporting the development of Sustainable City Strategies in five cities.
- Plans to scale up use via Min. Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA)

Mainstreaming Climate Change through the USAF
Case Study: Urban Resilience

Nature-based Solutions in Ormoc, The Philippines

• Vulnerable to flood, storm surge, and landslide as well as strong typhoons.

• Focus on harnessing and capturing water as an additional resource.

• Three key strategies:
  • Lower Malbasag Park as a ‘sponge.’
  • Larger and integrated drainage systems in new road development.
  • Informal settlement upgrade to housing units that are above forecast flood lines / natural cooling features.
Case Study: Digital Solutions and Smart Cities

The Iskandar, Malaysia Urban Observatory (IMUO)

- A new, central body responsible for data gathering, management, monitoring and analysis.
- ‘Single window’ that integrates data from various authoritative sources, for well-informed decision making.
- Strong focus on climate change related data and application.
- Collaboration with partners so that data can feed into smart city solutions.
Effective way to finance local urban infrastructure, as demonstrated in China, Korea and Japan.

Land pooling used in Nepal since 1988 but not at the strategic, city-wide level.

ADB research in 2020 to understand barriers and opportunities.

Recommendations include: strengthen the regulatory framework; mainstream land pooling in spatial planning; and stakeholder engagement for consensus.
Some evident capacity gaps

Despite strong examples of progress there are a number of capacity gaps:

- Taking an integrated approach to urban and territorial planning
- Ability to scale up successful approaches across many more urban areas
- Effective action for slum upgrading and affordable housing
- Knowledge on how to plan, design and implement nature-based solutions
- Catalyzing and supporting alternative jobs, particularly in Covid-19 impacted sectors
- How to enable digital inclusion of everyone in society.
- Addressing privacy and cyber security risks, with smart city innovation
- Ability to prepare and showcase bankable projects and attract private sector investment

Corresponding **Action Points** will be discussed on Day 2 of the Forum
There are several key processes for countries and cities reporting on NUA progress and localizing the SDGs:

- **NUA voluntary National Reports**
  - *Feed into the Quadrennial Reporting process*

- **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**
  - *National reporting on SDG progress*

- **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)**
  - *Sub-national level reporting on SDG progress*