



## High-Level Engagement on Climate Action and SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities Report

13 November 2017  
From the content group to the Champions

**Short-term (2018) and mid-term (2020) priority actions that could have significant impact and deliver concrete results aligned with the long-term aims of the Paris Agreement and feed into the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue are:**

**Short-term:**

1. *Promote* coherent policies and target setting by encouraging meaningful engagement between all levels of governments and non-Party stakeholders across the urban sector (including local governments, private sector, and civil society). This engagement must encourage the expertise and experience of non-Party stakeholders' to inform the development and implementation of integrated national and local strategies, enhancement of key sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and adoption of commitments and targets (in the fields of energy efficiency, buildings, waste management, transport, urban planning, adaptation and resilience), which integrate climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development and which trigger market responses to deliver the Paris Agreement and SDG11 objectives. Global, regional or national sectoral or cross sectoral alliances (e.g. on buildings can be an effective tool.)
2. *Support* developing scalable pilot projects that inspire replication, by improving capacity building and institutional coordination as means to improve non-Party stakeholders' access to finance at all levels. Developing science-based targets for stakeholders such as private sector which are aligned with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement can strengthen their contributions and achievements. In addition, purchasing power of governments (both local and national) through public procurement nationally and locally, and particularly in Low-Income Housing Development can be used to scale-up solutions
3. *Promote shared and collaborative leadership between men and women, and between Party and Non-Party stakeholders.* Specifically, recognize the role of cities, states, regions, the private sector and other non-Party Stakeholders as key partners for the implementing the Paris Agreement. Their role needs to be recognized in the implementation guidelines under negotiation and as contributors to the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue, notably through the Yearbook of Climate Action developed by the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action under the leadership of the Climate Champions, as well as in the Technical Examination Process and through continued engagement and contributions to the SBI and SBSTA. The Marrakech Partnership partners also call for engagement in the High Level Political Forum 2018 and the SDG11 review as opportunity to advance goal monitoring, reporting and implementation.



## **Mid-term:**

1. Despite some positive developments, a stronger commitment for partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the SDGs and deliver the Paris Agreement. Commitment is also required to institutionally recognize links between the agendas through coherent policies, an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, as well as creating synergies across stakeholders, including sub-national governments and to create robust local partnerships and collaborations. Greater efforts – including scaling up and speeding up climate action – are needed to accelerate progress on the transport and building elements of SDG 11 (targets 11.1 and 11.2).
2. Planning for compact and high density cities will help ensure that the cities we want are the cities we get by 2050. Since local governments are the implementers of such policies, they need to be engaged and to have their goals aligned with national targets, as cities are where the momentum exists.
3. Capacity building and resource availability (including knowledge) is crucial at all levels of governance and implementation. It is therefore essential for government officials to strengthen institutions to devise and enforce policies, for accessing and using finance instruments, for creating a common language around standards and comparable performance data (e.g. through certification and labelling) and to enhance capacity of workers across the value chain of climate action. Knowledge sharing platforms are crucial for the exchange of best practices, for inspiring scaled ambition and action.

## **New initiatives or commitments on climate action announced at COP 23**

- To support implementing the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GABC) roadmap, a dedicated energy-efficient buildings facility, the Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (PEEB), was launched at COP23 under a French-German co-operation (AFD-ADEME-GIZ).
- As part of the C40 Deadline 2020 programme, the mayors of 25 pioneering cities, representing 150 million citizens, have pledged to develop and begin implementing more ambitious climate action plans before the end of 2020 in order to deliver emissions neutral and climate resilient cities by 2050, in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy announced a new global standard for reporting city and local governments' greenhouse gas emissions inventories. This reporting framework is a harmonized protocol for local-scale GHG reporting, and allows for tracking the contributions and impacts of cities and local governments in a transparent, quantifiable and meaningful way.



## Annex

### Details of the high-level engagement on climate action and SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities

#### **Session: Transforming markets for buildings to deliver against SDGs 11, 7, and 13: A high-level dialogue**

**Short-term (2018) and mid-term (2020) priority actions that could have significant impact and deliver concrete results aligned with the long-term aims of the Paris Agreement and feed into the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue are:**

Buildings and construction is a critical sector in the SDG implementation, not only because it is responsible to date for 36% of final energy use and 39% of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and buildings need to withstand natural disasters to reduce vulnerability of inhabitants, but also from a perspective of resource efficiency, human health and addressing poverty, inequalities. The sector uses some 40% of natural resources and is responsible for a similar amount of waste generated. Indoor air quality and thermal comfort are critical, with different root causes depending on context, ranging from firewood and kerosene for heating, cooking and lighting, all the way to material emissions in heavily insulated buildings. The sector is a huge employer, including of unskilled workers in informal construction, but at the same time providing huge potential for green jobs. If designed well, the market transformation in the buildings and construction sector delivers against several SDGs, including SDGs 11, 7 and 13, but also 12 and 15, 8, 9, 1 and 3.

It is no longer about the 'why and what' but about the 'how'. Technologies and solutions exist, but need to be brought to scale.

The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction was asked to consider work areas on low-income housing, vernacular architecture particularly for hot climates, education of the workforce from architects to installers and builders.

#### **Short-term:**

1. Policies and Regulation: Support governments to heighten the importance of energy efficiency in buildings in NDCs, set national and local level targets to provide a framework that triggers market response.
2. Policy Integration: Support governments to integrate key sectoral policies, looking at buildings from a systems perspective, with energy systems, transport and open space in mind, and combining climate mitigation and adaptation with circular economy actions.
3. Lead by example: Develop pilots that inspire replication, use purchasing power of governments through public procurement nationally and locally, and particularly in Low-Income Housing Development.

#### **Mid-term:**

4. Build Capacity: of government officials to strengthen institutions to devise and enforce policies, for accessing and using finance instruments, and of workers across the value chain.
5. Creating a common data language: Enable comparison of performance through use of a common language e.g. on how we calculate energy efficiency through standards (such as ISO 52000) and use of certificates and labelling



## New initiatives or commitments on climate action announced at COP 23

**Note: These are new commitments, initiatives, and reports released, enhanced, or announced over the past year.**

Regarding buildings and construction, global progress is advancing, supported by multiple global and regional initiatives, such as the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GABC).

The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, for which UN Environment hosts the Secretariat issues a **yearly Global Status Report** tracking progress, highlighting evolution of public policies, good practices and finance, and new commitments. The Global ABC also produced a shared **Global Roadmap for the decarbonisation of the building sector in 2050**. Specific implementation plans have been developed by 30 globally active building efficiency organisations through the Sustainable Energy for All Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA). The Sustainable Energy for All District Energy Accelerator connects buildings with the energy system, allowing for greater efficiencies as well as more renewables into the system, while harnessing important air quality benefits. Roadmaps such as these are helping in setting the direction for implementation. **Private sector engagement** for sustainable buildings and construction has also increased in 2016 and 2017, with the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) call to have all new buildings operate at net-zero carbon from 2030, and buildings meeting net-zero carbon by 2050. Investment is also needed at the level of individual energy efficient buildings and is being facilitated by initiatives such as the Investor Confidence Project which has developed a **new procedure and certification with Green Buildings Certification Inc.** This Investor Ready Energy Efficiency certification enables investment through the use of industry best practices and standards for baselining energy usage, savings calculations, commissioning, operations and maintenance, and buildings measurement and verification. 132 of the 193 NDCs submitted to date explicitly mention the building sector. Yet, if NDC pledges were achieved in addition to existing policies, only about 60% of buildings-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be covered. However, nearly one-third of NDCs mentioning buildings do not indicate specific actions on how to achieve ambitions. That is the reason why the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction set up a roadmap to help countries move toward towards energy efficiency, low-carbon and resilient buildings and construction sector. To support the implementation of the GABC roadmap, a dedicated energy-efficient buildings facility, the **Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (PEEB), was launched under a French-German co-operation (AFD-ADEME-GIZ)**. PEEB has announced working with its first partner countries: Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia and Vietnam. At present, it addresses energy efficiency in buildings in six countries. In Europe, the **Energy-efficient Mortgages Action Plan (EeMAP) Initiative** aims to create a standardised “energy efficient mortgage” to improve the energy efficiency of buildings or to acquire an already energy efficient property by way of preferential financing conditions linked to the mortgage. Lastly, **green bonds for sustainable buildings and construction have grown substantially in recent years**. Annual issuance of green bonds was over USD 80 billion in 2016 with the Climate Bonds Initiative expecting 2017 issuance to reach at least USD 130 billion.

## Session: Creating Green and Inclusive Transport for Liveable and Resilient Cities

Transport plays a significant role in shaping cities and as the urgency to develop liveable and resilient cities grows, it is increasingly important to implement green and inclusive transport measures. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out a shared vision to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It acknowledges that this goal can only be achieved if there is access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, and children, persons with disabilities and older persons.



## **Short-term (2018) priority actions**

- Urban transformation will be crucial to the decarbonisation of transport and SDG 11. There is a need to facilitate the meaningful engagement between Parties and non-Party stakeholders from the urban transport sector to allow the expertise and experience of the sector to inform the development and implementation of National Sustainable Development Strategies and NDCs in advance of COP24, in both developing and developed countries.
- The urban transport initiatives under the MPGCA need to be fully exploited at the 2018 High Level Political Forum, where it should provide opportunities to advance efforts on SDG 11 monitoring, reporting and implementation. This can help advance the necessary urban transport transformations needed and provide much needed insight on how to scale up ambition at COP 24.

## **Mid-term (2020) priority actions**

- The interlinked challenges of climate change and sustainable development must be urgently addressed to deliver a stable and secure world to future generations.
- Despite some positive developments, a stronger commitment for partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the SDGs. That effort will require coherent policies, an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, as well as creating synergies across stakeholders, including sub-national governments and to create robust local partnerships and collaborations. Greater efforts – including scaling up and speeding up climate action – are needed to accelerate progress on the transport elements of SDG 11.
- Planning for compact and high density cities will help ensure that the cities we want are the cities we get by 2050. Since local governments are the implementers of such policies, they need to be engaged and to have their goals aligned with national targets, as cities are where the momentum exists.
- The identification of the right kind of investment is critical for cities to decarbonise transport. As cities are different across the world, the speed at which they will decarbonise their transport sectors will also vary. However, with the right partnerships, there will be a platform to share knowledge, data and good practice, which will help accelerate the decarbonisation process for transport.