

## **Urban and Rural Linkages Statement Submission to the Open Call to the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB)**

London, 26th February 2019

The panel of the UNFCCC COP24 PCCB Capacity-Building Hub session on 12th December 2018 welcomes the opportunity to make an Open Call Submission to the PCCB and indirectly to the Parties of the UNFCCC Convention on the topic of urban and rural linkages.

The Participants of the session recognized growing pressures on the planet's ecosystems emerging from uncontrolled urbanization, population growth, voluntary and involuntary migration and impacts on land degradation and livelihoods especially in the rural areas. There is a gap in looking at urban and rural linkages in a holistic way, and in fostering mechanisms of implementation at the national and local government levels.

Acknowledging the foundations of the frameworks of climate change and sustainable development defined in all Three Rio Conventions:

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- and
- The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (SDGs)
- The Paris Agreement;

the panel also recognised new and emerging work carried out on urban and rural linkages by:

- UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Framework (LDN)
- UN-HABITAT in "Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial Development: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action" and
- Legislative frameworks for local governments by IUCN Environmental Law Centre (IUCN-ELC)
- Non-party stakeholders' contributions focusing on Governance & Policies for Sustainable Development (GPS-Dev), and the adaptation of indigenous knowledge systems in cross-sectorial approaches by both the Representatives of Indigenous Peoples, and by 3 ideas Ltd.

The urgency driven by rapidly disappearing equilibrium between urban and rural areas brings a need for the Parties to consider including in their Nationally Determined Contributions measures aimed at unlocking opportunities for stronger connections between cities and rural areas, such as integrated spatial planning, the use of Nature-Based Solutions and valuing ecosystem services. This in return would enhance resource based economic activities, innovations, re-emergence of circular economy patterns and social stability, whilst strengthening mitigation and adaptation measures.

The emergence of enabling environments in line with post-COP24 UNFCCC Strategic Partnerships themes focused on 'Cities and Local Action' and 'Resilience and Adaptation' would foster Mechanisms for Implementation including financial mechanisms to enhance economic, environmental and social connectiveness.

A special emphasis was made on the Sustainable Development Goals Targets:

- 11.A “Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning”
- 15.3 “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”
- 16.7 “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”.

It is proposed that a series of steps are taken to summarise these opportunities to the Parties and they may include (subject to funding):

- 1) Workshops (independent of or coinciding with other major events)
- 2) Visual communications
- 3) Effective governance arrangements
- 4) Best practice examples
- 5) Recommendations including the Implementation Mechanism Road Map under the UNFCCC framework
- 6) Other measures

Signatories to the proposal in alphabetical order:

- Dr Marzena Chodor - Co-Chair of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) of UNFCCC
- Mr Luc Gnacadja – former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Founder and President of GPS-Dev (Governance & Policies for Sustainable Development)
- Ms Lorena Martínez Hernández - IUCN Environmental Law Centre (IUCN-ELC)
- Ms Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim - Indigenous People Representative
- Professor Dr Barron Joseph Orr - Lead Scientist at the Science Policy Interface (SPI) at UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality
- Mr Marcus Mayr - Climate Change Planning Unit (CCPU), Urban Planning and Design Branch (UPDB), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Dr Sandra Piesik – Director of 3 ideas Ltd (the Panel Convenor)

Relevant links:

<https://www.unccd.int/publications/scientific-conceptual-framework-land-degradation-neutrality-report-science-policy>

<https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/events-meetings/pccb-at-cop-24/pccb-capacity-building-hub-programme/3-ideas-ltd-0>

<https://unhabitat.org/books/implementing-the-new-urban-agenda-by-strengthening-urban-rural-linkages/>

<https://unhabitat.org/developing-the-guiding-principles-for-urban-rural-linkages/>

<https://urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/>

Note:

This submission to the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building is made jointly by the panel of the session and is being facilitated by the Panel Convenor and PCCB Stakeholder Dr Sandra Piesik of 3 ideas Ltd.

For further information please contact:

PCCB Co-Chair Dr Marzena Chodor e: [marzena.a.chodor@gmail.com](mailto:marzena.a.chodor@gmail.com) and

Dr Sandra Piesik e: [sandra.piesik@3ideasme.com](mailto:sandra.piesik@3ideasme.com).