

Cities and climate change under the UNFCCC

ITU Forum on “Sustainable smart cities: from vision to reality”

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Cities are at a great risk to climate change

1. More than half of the global population lives in urban areas, and urbanization continues to expand;
2. Many large cities are vulnerable to climate change impacts, further given their dense and complex systems of interconnected services;
3. The numbers of urban poor are increasing, particularly in developing countries.



Cities as major players in finding the solutions to climate change

1. Cities are centres of innovation;
2. Many cities and subnational authorities are already taking ambitious steps to capitalize on opportunities they face in contributing to global efforts to address climate change;
3. Despite their living conditions, the urban poor have a proven capacity to improve and invest in their communities.

“National governments and institutions increasingly recognize the successes of cities in the climate arena and are increasingly turning to them for solutions to climate change”



Emphasis on the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders at the core of the adaptation and mitigation actions at the national level:

1. Government agencies and ministries
2. Municipalities
3. Communities
4. Private sector
5. Non-governmental organizations,
6. Etc.

The **national adaptation plan (NAP)** process for example, emphasizes the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders in the process of planning and implementing adaptation activities to ensure that the assessment and subsequent results are understood and are useful in decision making



Facilitating discussions on cities and climate change under the UNFCCC process

Parties are increasing the focus on exploring the opportunities offered by cities in relation to scaled-up climate action. Developments include:

1. First ever **Cities Day** at COP 19 in Warsaw (November 2013), providing unprecedented opportunities of interaction with the Parties within the official negotiations;
2. ADP **technical expert meeting** on Urban Environment during the June 2014 ADP sessions;
3. A **Forum** on experiences and best practices of cities and subnational authorities in relation to mitigation and adaptation, also during the June 2014 ADP sessions.



The need to recognize the role of cities and subnational authorities

Deliberations from the June 2014 Forum emphasized the role of city and subnational authorities in driving the full range of climate actions given that:

- a) Political leadership at the local level can effectively shape attitudes and behaviour;
- b) Action planned at the local level can be closely aligned with the needs of citizens;
- c) Local representatives can be directly accountable for the timely and efficient delivery of action;
- d) Local policy design and implementation provides an essential testing ground for policy innovation as many climate change related mandates lie within local jurisdictions.



Future role of UNFCCC process in the engagement of subnational authorities

The June 2014 Forum expressed a need for enhanced structure in the engagement of subnational authorities in the UNFCCC process, including for:

- a) **Recognition of action** – the need to understand the diversity of locally designed responses to climate change, ..., and to promote such action;
- b) **Facilitation of interaction** – enhanced interaction of the UNFCCC process with subnational authorities ... to facilitate: (i) engagement on means and impacts of coordinating and facilitating action at subnational level, ... (ii) sharing of experiences;
- c) **Supporting implementation** – potential of establishing an Action Programme under the COP to support integration of action through established governance structure.



Raising political will and mobilizing action among cities

The UN Secretary General appointed Michael Bloomberg Special Envoy on cities and climate change early this year

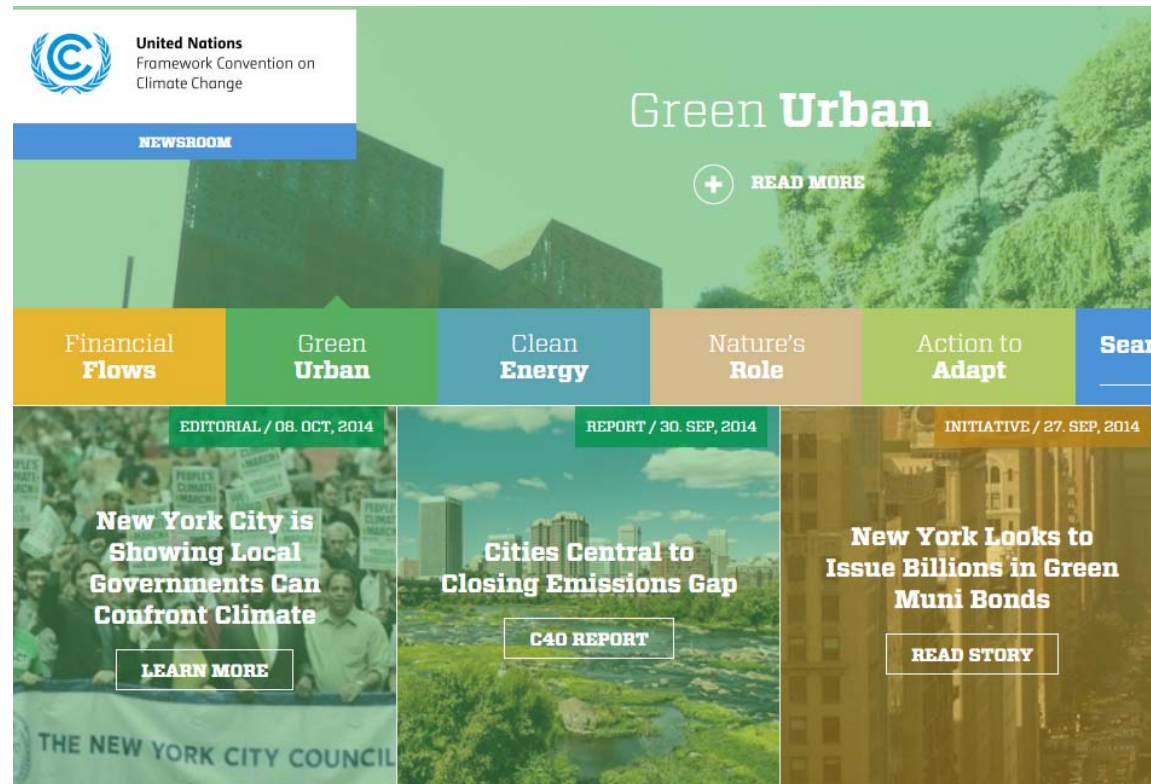


To galvanize city action ahead of the 2014 Climate Summit and the 2015 climate change conference



“Green Urban” section under the UNFCCC Newsroom

A dedicated page “Green Urban” featuring stories on climate actions being undertaken taken by cities all over the world



newsroom.unfccc.int



“Urban Poor” pillar under the Momentum for Change Initiative

Momentum for Change			
Urban Poor	Women for Results	Finance for Climate Friendly Investment	ICT Solutions
Lighthouse Activities	Activity Database	Advisory Panel	Events

Highlights activities that address climate change while improving livelihoods and living conditions in urban areas of developing countries. Sample activities include:

- Community based micro climate resilience
- Waste, sanitation, hygiene
- Clean energy innovations
- Bus Rapid Transit Systems, etc.

More information at unfccc.int/7370



2014 Sustainable Innovation Forum



Will bring together

- World leaders
- CEOs
- Senior executives
- National, regional and city leaders
- Investors and industry experts

to share ideas and accelerate innovative solutions to address climate change, accelerate green growth and sustainable development

<http://www.cop20lima.org/about/cop20>



Thank you

