

Stakeholder Forum

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Vurehout 373 • 1507 EC Zaandam • NL & 2 The Links • Herne Bay • Kent • CT6 7GQ • UK
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Concept Note for a Webinar on SDG 11, Make Cities & Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient & Sustainable, and SDG 12, Ensure Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns

This webinar - in the countdown to the 2023 SDG Summit - is the sixth in SF's series of webinars that will review two SDGs each month to see where we are in their implementation, examining interdependencies across goals, and what that means for accelerating implementation. The series, which is supported by UNEP, the EU, and in cooperation with UNDESA, is bringing together a wide range of experts, policymakers, and practitioners with knowledge of the SDGs' interlinkages and insights on integrated approaches that can help to develop recommendations on transformative actions for the SDGs, with an emphasis on strengthening the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Our focus will be on SDG 11, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, and on SDG 12, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. The series will continue to explore different ways to enable integrated approaches to SDG implementation. A key aim of the series will be to identify ways to exploit positive interactions and mitigate trade-offs, including by forging multistakeholder coalitions behind programmes of accelerated action. Good practices will be identified for empowering communities, sectoral actors, and cross-sectoral alliances at multiple levels. The intention is to promote the establishment of communities of practice that will continue to collaborate in the lead-up to the SDG Summit and beyond.

The world's population continues to grow, albeit at a slowing rate, and to migrate to cities at a rapid rate in the expectation of a better life. More than half the world's population currently lives in cities. By 2050, an estimated 7 out of 10 people will live in urban areas. Cities are drivers of economic growth and contribute more than 80 percent of global GDP. Cities also account for more than 70 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. In most countries, the top three urban areas drive more than one-quarter of national emissions.

Large numbers of city dwellers live in substandard housing in informal settlements with little if any modern infrastructure (roughly one in four, overwhelmingly in developing countries). Poor sanitation and air quality contribute to a heavy preventable disease burden among low-income city dwellers. Urban populations and especially the poor are vulnerable to extreme weather events and natural disasters. With climate change, urban planners and inhabitants are having to strengthen the resilience of infrastructure and dwellings, to adapt to changing climatic conditions.



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Despite these challenges, many cities and localities work against the odds to improve their citizens' lives with limited resources. There are success stories from around the world, showcased in Voluntary Local Reviews prepared to assess progress towards local achievement of the SDGs [for example, in 2022 Barueri, Brazil, and Bonn, Germany].

As urbanization proceeds, will consumption and production patterns become more or less sustainable? Without conscious effort, planning, and policies, almost certainly less. Yes, cities concentrate populations, conserving land and nature, but the lifestyles of the urban middle class and especially the elites are very resource- and energy-intensive. Population concentration can in principle allow for greater reliance on public (increasingly carbon-free) transport, but this requires large investments and forceful policies to acquire the necessary land for sustainable infrastructure development and encourage a rapid modal shift from private vehicles.

Sustainable consumption and production also call for a change in consumer behavior, notably a willingness to pay a price premium for guaranteeing responsible production and supply chains. Urban elites and middle classes tend to be more educated than the general population and thus more amenable to science-based arguments for behavioral change. Yet, there is much inertia in consumption patterns. Private labeling schemes can be effective in strengthening sustainable supply chain governance, but government policies can help nudge and facilitate consumers' faster shift towards a circular economy. The Global Circularity Report urges a transformation of our relationship with materials, away from the linear "take-make-waste" economy toward one of reducing, reusing, and regenerating.

This sixth webinar will take place on 27 April 2023 at 8 am EDT / 2 pm CEST and will last for up to 90 minutes. The recording of the webinar and an audio podcast will be available soon after on the Stakeholder Forum website. A summary will also be produced and will serve as a contribution to the 2023 SDG Summit.

The following agenda is being proposed:

8:00 - 8:05 - Welcome and introduction: Charles Nouhan, Chair of the Board, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

8:05 - 8:15 - The interlinked challenge of the SDGs: Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, Senior Adviser, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

8:15 - Introduction to the Panel, with Moderation by Dr. David O'Connor, IUCN Permanent Observer at United Nations



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8:30 - Keynote: Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat and former Mayor of Penang, Malaysia

8:40 - 9:50 - Discussion on SDGs 11 and 12 with experts, and Q&A

On SDG 11:

- Juliana Oliveira Cunha, Policy Economist, International Growth Centre, London School of Economics
- Maruxa Cardama, Secretary General, Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)
- Fernando Ortiz-Moya, Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan

On SDG 12:

- Zeenat Niazi, Sr. Vice-President, and Chief Knowledge Officer, Development Alternatives Group, India
- Ramona Liberoff, Executive Director, PACE (Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy)
- Gemma Scott, Recycling & Circular Economy Specialist
- Jan-Anton van Zanten, SDG Strategist, Robeco: The Investment Engineers, The Netherlands
- Dr. Luca Coscieme, Programme Lead Sustainable Lifestyles, Hot or Cool Institute, Berlin
- Fabienne Pierre, Programme Management Coordinator, One Planet Network, UNEP

9:50 - 9:55 - Summary remarks by Irena Zubcevic, Director, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

9:55 - 10:00 - Closing and thanks by Charles Nouhan, SF



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