

Seoul Communiqué on Urban Policy for the SDGs

We, the Cities attending the first International Forum on Urban Policy for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In doing so, we recognize the following principles relevant in implementing policies for the sustainable development of cities.

I. Local Government Leadership for Sustainable Development

We recognize that cities have a key role to play in the pursuit of sustainable development and the attainment of many goals and targets depended on their localization and ownership. Local governments are a critical part of that process; they are at the coalface of achievement and have a vital role to play. The successful implementation of the SDGs will greatly depend on local action and leadership to forge local partnerships and manage concerted and cohesive efforts.

II. Citizen Participation is at the Heart of Sustainable Urban Development

We believe that the main actors and ultimate beneficiaries of sustainable development policies should be citizens. Cities are sustainable only when citizens are actively engaged partners in full recognition of their responsibility towards both present and future generations. To include them, cities should engage in participatory deliberative processes to build a shared vision and values that incorporate the wisdom of citizens into the planning for sustainable development.

III. Smart Planning for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development

A smart city is inclusive and enables citizens to benefit from tailored and appropriately applied smart technologies. The quest for sustainable development requires policies, programs and open platforms that ensure sustained civic engagement. We encourage open platforms be promoted in order to monitor progress, and strengthen citizen communication to enhance participation.

IV. Multilevel Partnerships Promote Implementation

To implement the required policies, common goals should guide all actors at different scales. We recognize the need for communities, private sector, local governments, the civil society and regional networks of cities to communicate and develop a common vision to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Building up on the diversity of strengths, cooperation should promote shared development.

V. Knowledge Sharing among Cities

We recognize that sustainable development cannot be achieved through the effort of a single city, local government or citizens alone. Cities may develop solutions on their own; however, sharing best practices through platforms, learning from partner cities and replicating successful urban solutions can certainly accelerate regional sustainable urban development. Thus, networks of cities should be encouraged to share knowledge and experiences that promote cooperation, including through the 'Urban SDG Knowledge Platform'.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a shared challenge that can be resolved only by cooperation among all cities and citizens. We call for cities to pursue sustainable development and shared prosperity by combining input from smart citizens from innovative cities around the world.

No one shall be left behind – no city shall be left behind.