

Ref: UNH-SGC-O-160209

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Sweden to UN-Habitat and has the honour to refer to the Swedish Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation, reference number Dnr UD 2016/09273/IU and to forward the attached document providing information which the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden may find useful in its consideration and finalizing of the Swedish Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation.

UN-Habitat would be grateful for the assistance of the Permanent Mission in forwarding the document to the Unit for International Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sweden, if possible.

UN-Habitat takes this opportunity to convey its gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for its continuous support to the Organization.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Sweden to UN-Habitat the assurance of its highest consideration.



1 July 2016



Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Sweden
to UN-Habitat
Nairobi, Kenya

Nairobi, July 1, 2016

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Unit for International Development
Cooperation**
ud.policysamverket@gov.se

**Re: Swedish Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation –
Dnr UD 2016/09273/IU**

With respect to *Swedish Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation – Dnr UD 2016/09273/IU* – currently being considered by the Swedish Government, UN-Habitat wishes to provide information which may be useful in its finalization. UN-Habitat recognizes the Swedish position of relating the government's proposed Policy Framework to the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the obvious link to the Swedish Government's Policy for Global Development (PGU).

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was established on 19 December 1977 by the General Assembly of the United Nations through Resolution 32/162, first as a Centre, and then elevated to a fully-fledged programme through General Assembly Resolution 56/206 on 21 December 2001. UN-Habitat has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and is the focal point for human settlements activities within the United Nations System, including global monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with governments, also actively promotes collaboration with partners, including local authorities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and relevant goals and targets of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 11 of "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

UN-Habitat is encouraged by the continuous support and commitment by Sweden to improving human settlements and to promoting sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat is also grateful to Sweden for its support with expertise and know-how in various sectors and at different levels of intervention and for continued sharing and exchange of knowledge.

Well-planned and managed urbanization has been a major driver of development, contributing to the reduction of poverty in many countries. National and local governments have a unique opportunity to address poverty and other key development challenges by promoting sustainable urbanization. Today, cities and towns only occupy approximately 2% of the total land (globally) but contribute 70% of the world's GDP, consume some 60% of energy produced and generate around 70% of the world's waste. Significantly, cities currently contribute between 37% and 49% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions and it is projected that, by 2050, they will be responsible for more than 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. It is therefore imperative that these challenges, and opportunities, are addressed by integrating all aspects of sustainable development in order to promote prosperity and socio-economic equity. These issues not only concern large cities,

but more importantly medium and small towns, which have the fastest rates of growth and where the interface between urban and rural settings is also more evident.

More than 50% of the global population today lives in cities and towns, compared to only 20% in the last century, and it is estimated that some 70% of the world's population will be urbanized by 2050. Over 90% of this urban growth is expected to occur in the developing world. Urbanization and development are highly interlinked, and no country has achieved high levels of income with low urbanization levels. Capturing the potential of rapid urbanization as a source for development will inevitably lead to significant changes in levels of access to jobs and modern services and, ultimately, to poverty reduction and the improvement of lives of.

Urbanization is also highly connected to climate change and to opportunities to improve the environment, for example with regard to transforming societies towards fossil free and climate resilient development. Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies need to be developed further, especially at the city level, but also methods and principles for the improvement of air quality and reduction of noise pollution need to be integrated in the development of cities and towns. This in turn, will also benefit the health of human beings. The impacts of climate change are now visible in various ways, but cities and towns in coastal regions are especially vulnerable due to rising sea levels, floods and other extreme weather events. Sweden's comparative advantage in supporting innovation and the development of smart and sustainable cities can be very useful in addressing urban environment and climate related challenges globally. Green urban planning and design as well as green building are yet other areas to be further explored in an international context in order to develop efficient and sustainable urban settlements.

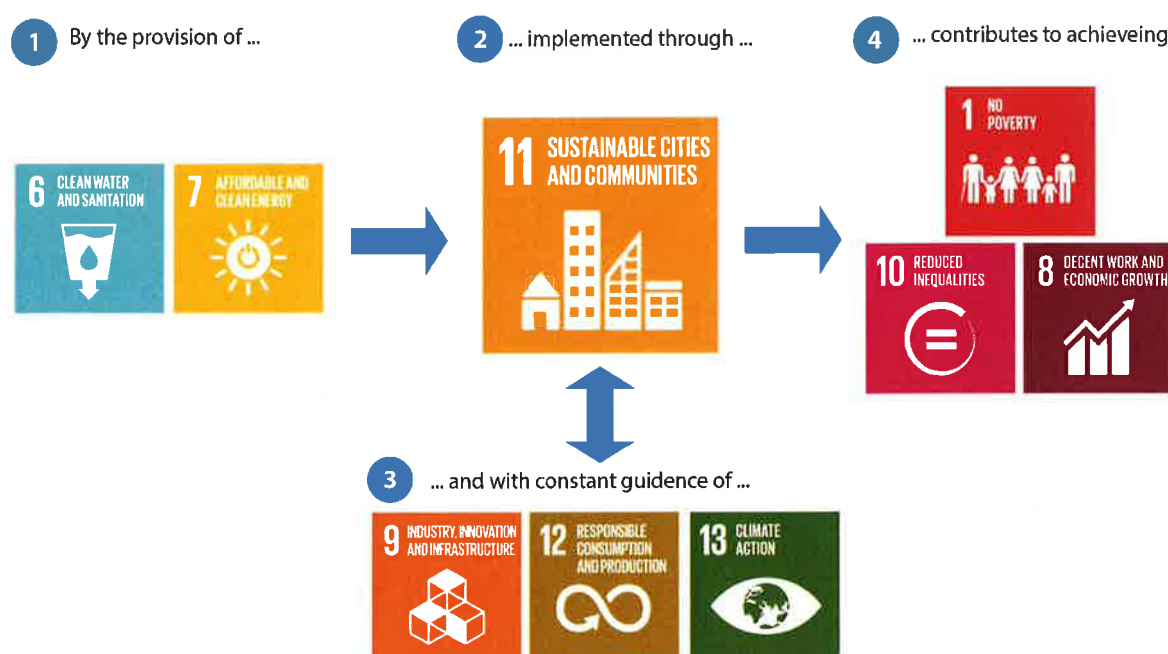
While urbanization has the potential to generate economic growth, resource efficiency and general well-being, cities and towns can also be the source of high concentrations of poverty and inequality. Cities and towns also offer opportunities to achieve political stability. Intra-national and international migration, especially of internally displaced persons and refugees seeking shelter and running away from vulnerable situations, poses yet undefined challenges. Thus, the human rights perspective in urban areas must also be addressed. By integrating equity into the development agenda, issues of social justice can be addressed to ensure access to the public sphere, extend opportunities and increase the commons.

As urbanization increases, it is imperative that both national and local governments are prepared with sound and functional institutions and systems for governance and management of urban areas. Decentralizing the mandate to govern and manage urban areas is an ongoing process, with some countries progressing further than others. Although national constitutions and legal frameworks are in place in most countries, UN-Habitat's experience is that the institutional frameworks still need to be built up, strengthened and capacitated, especially at the local government level. Within this context, issues of democracy, corruption and technical know-how need to be addressed. On the same note, while many local governments are able to establish systems to harness the economic potential that urbanization brings, many others cannot. Thus, in many countries, local financial systems, revenue enhancement and fiscal systems need to be improved in order to redistribute the wealth generated by urbanization, together with systems for increased trade, financial flows and prosperity. Within this context, the urban-rural nexus in many countries is key to develop and sustain both social and economic systems.

Looking at the current and future population concentration trends, international development cooperation will need to address more vigorously the challenges of populations living cities and towns as well as the opportunities that urbanization offers for overall sustainable development. In

view of the above, UN-Habitat suggests that, to a higher degree, the Policy Framework also addresses urbanization with regard to both the opportunities and challenges it poses. Sustainable Development Goal 11 – ‘*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*’ - needs to be incorporated into the Policy Framework so as to enhance the impact of development cooperation. Of particular relevance and importance are areas related to environment and climate change, inclusive economic development, research and innovation, inclusive and just societies, human rights and democracy, migration and development, all of which have been identified in a number of international development frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The diagram below (with inspiration from a UN member State), illustrates a simplified but important relationship between SDG 11 and a number of other related goals.

Relationship between different Sustainable Development Goals.



In view of Sweden’s historically strong global position on urban development, UN-Habitat is grateful for Sweden’s continuous commitment to addressing current and future urban challenges. Given its continuing comparative advantage, Sweden could continue to be a strong voice, filling gaps where other countries or multinational organizations might lack the capacity.

UN-Habitat sincerely hopes that its present contribution will support the finalization of the Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation, which is expected to lay the ground for a prosperous and sustainable urban future.

The End.

Jane Viol

Från: Fredrik Folkunger
Skickat: den 1 juli 2016 12:55
Till: UD Policyramverket
Kopia: Ulrica Reuterwall; Johan Borgstam; Ylva Norén
Ämne: FW: SWEDEN: UN-Habitat's Input into the Swedish Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation,
Bifogade filer: UNH-SGC-160209.pdf; Sweden Policy Framework response - UN-Habitat.pdf

Följande remissvar från UN-Habitat på regeringens skrivelse: Policyramverk för det svenska utvecklingssamarbetet, UD2016/09273/IU verkar inte ha skickats direkt till er. Ambassaden Nairobi vidarebefordrar därför de här synpunkterna, förstås är det dock inte ambassadens kommentarer utan UN-Habitats. Som ni ju vet ingår inte UN-Habitat som officiell remissinstans utan organisationen har tagit tillfället i akt skicka sina synpunkter ändå.

Vänliga hälsningar/Fredrik

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GLOBAL COMMITMENT. INDEPENDENT VOICE.
SWEDEN FOR THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL 2017-2018

From: Bridget Oballa [<mailto:Bridget.Oballa@unhabitat.org>] **On Behalf Of** UN-Habitat GC Secretariat
Sent: den 1 juli 2016 13:12
To: Ambassaden Nairobi; Fredrik Folkunger; Jescah Ngosia; Jenny Andersson; Fidelis Mburu; Hans Daag; Ulrica Reuterwall
Cc: Aisa Kacyira; Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza; Andrew Cox; Chris Mensah; Jane Nyakairu; Kazumi Ogawa; Laura Petrella; thomas.melin@unhabitat.org; Klas Groth
Subject: SWEDEN: UN-Habitat's Input into the Swedish Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation,

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward the attached Note verbale and related document, regarding UN-Habitat's input into the Swedish Policy Framework for International Development Cooperation. I would be most grateful for your assistance in transmitting the document to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

Chris Mensah
Secretary to the Governing Council

