



A FULL DAY FORUM OF THREE INTERACTIVE SESSIONS LED BY EXPERT PANELLISTS AND SPEAKERS

An initiative of the United Nations Association of Australia Peace Program, FOCUS SDG11- THE FUTURE WE WANT will be held to mark World Habitat Day in Sydney, Australia on Wednesday, 5 October 2016. The forum will focus on Sustainable Development Goal 11 and will be based on the general consensus on climate change which has identified sustainability as the world's most critical issue. Central to this will be tackling issues concerning the natural and built environment from macro to micro levels.

FOCUS SDG11- THE FUTURE WE WANT Sustainability Forum will contextualize why, and how, global societies and governments will need to act in order to better manage our world habitat to ensure the viability of the human race. It will offer practical solutions to reconnect with our surroundings, to make a difference and to turn knowledge into action. Shall we look into the past to provide answers to our future survival?

A panel of specialists from diverse fields of expertise has taken the challenge of proposing creative ideas to mitigate one of the most urgent issues facing our planet. The forum will challenge prevailing assumptions, monitor trends and devise strategies on how to put all these into action. It will discuss the problems affecting countries and how they are being addressed. It will focus the spotlight on specialised and proactive sustainability programs being implemented all over the world.

The first session will focus on the orbital perspective and the blue marble sustainable futures; the second session will focus on the global compact of sustainable cities and the concluding session will focus on the human habitat and the existential imperative of sustainable communities. We will compile all the key points that have been put forward in these sessions to provide a communiqué to be sent to the United Nations and relevant government bodies.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2016 TO MARK WORLD HABITAT DAY

VENUE: THE MINT, 10 MACQUARIE STREET, SYDNEY

TIME: 9.00AM-5PM



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
Peace Program**

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DRAFT AGENDA

SESSION ONE: ORBITAL PERSPECTIVE – THE BLUE MARBLE’S SUSTAINABLE FUTURES



"The Blue Marble" is a famous photograph of the Earth taken on December 7, 1972, by the crew of the Apollo 17 spacecraft en route to the Moon at a distance of about 29,000 kilometres (18,000 mi). It shows Africa, Antarctica, and the Arabian Peninsula.

NASA/Apollo 17 crew; taken by either Harrison Schmitt or Ron Evans -

http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/115334main_image_feature_329_ys_full.jpg Alt:<http://grin.hq.nasa.gov/ABSTRACTS/GPN-2000-001138.html> (direct link)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER - RON GARAN

Astronaut and author of *Orbital Perspective*

As I looked back at our Earth from the orbital perspective, I saw a world where natural and human-defined boundaries shrank. I saw a world becoming more and more interconnected and collaborative — a world where the exponential increase in technology is making the "impossible" possible on a daily basis. Thinking about the next fifty years, I imagined a world where people and organizations set aside their differences and their destructive competitive inclinations — such as striving to maximize economic growth at all cost, or pillaging society for the personal gain of a few — and instead work together toward common goals. After all, we are all

riding through the universe together on this spaceship we call Earth. We are all interconnected, we are all in this together, and we are all family.

I imagined a world where open, transparent collaborations become the engines that fuel tremendous economic growth and help us obliterate many of the problems facing our planet. I imagined that individuals and organizations that currently engage in destructive competition, secretive dealings, or corruption would begin to see themselves being left behind and would be compelled to adapt, evolve, and take on a much more effective collaborative focus in order to keep up with the economic growth that collaboration would bring. I imagined a world where we are all unified in the belief that by working together we can accomplish anything.

For almost all of human history, the vast majority of people believed that it was impossible to fly to the moon — simply because it had never been done before. Human ingenuity and human determination proved that it was possible.

*Astronaut Ron Garan, *The Orbital Perspective**

SESSION TWO: SUSTAINABLE CITIES, THE GLOBAL COMPACT



Photo: Eugene Sergeev 123rf.com

Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. At their best, cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically.

However, many challenges exist to maintaining cities in a way that continues to create jobs and prosperity while not straining land and resources. Common urban challenges include congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure.

The challenges cities face can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty. The future we want includes cities of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more.

SESSION THREE: THE HUMAN HABITAT: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND THE EXISTENTIAL IMPERATIVE



'Beach Camp' for Refugees, Gaza City, UN Photo/Shareef Sarhan

SDG11 STATISTICS

- Half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – lives in cities today
- By 2030, almost 60 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas
- 95 per cent of urban expansion in the next decades will take place in developing world
- 828 million people live in slums today and the number keeps rising
- The world's cities occupy just 3 per cent of the Earth's land, but account for 60-80 per cent of energy consumption and 75 per cent of carbon emissions
- Rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health
- But the high density of cities can bring efficiency gains and technological innovation while reducing resource and energy consumption

BRIEFING NOTES



"World leaders have an unprecedented opportunity this year to shift the world onto a path of inclusive, sustainable and resilient development" - Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as the Global Goals, build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015. The MDGs, adopted in 2000, aimed at an array of issues that included slashing poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and access to water and sanitation. Enormous progress has been made on the MDGs, showing the value of a unifying agenda underpinned by goals and targets. Despite this success, the indignity of poverty has not been ended for all.

The new SDGs, and the broader sustainability agenda, go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark noted: "This agreement marks an important milestone in putting our world on an inclusive and sustainable course. If we all work together, we have a chance of meeting citizens' aspirations for peace, prosperity, and wellbeing, and to preserve our planet."

The Sustainable Development Goals will now finish the job of the MDGs, and ensure that no one is left behind.

What is UNDP's role with the Sustainable Development Goals?

All 17 Sustainable Development Goals are connected to UNDP's Strategic Plan focus areas: sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding, and climate and disaster resilience. SDGs Number 1 on poverty, Number 10 on inequality and Number 16 on governance are particularly central to UNDP's current work and long-term plans.

Having an integrated approach to supporting progress across the multiple goals is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and UNDP is uniquely placed to support that process.



Women and children search a garbage dump for cans to sell, 09 January 2009, Dili, Timor-Leste UN Photo/Martine Perret



SDG 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The majority of the world's population is urban, and it's easy to understand why: Urban settings often offer better economic opportunities and better access to essential services (such as healthcare and education), as well as a wider variety of entertainment and leisure options.

But urban environments are also uniquely vulnerable to disasters. Many towns, cities, and urban sprawls stand in coastal zones, on riverbanks, or in mountains— settings that are exposed to geological and hydro-meteorological hazards like earthquakes, storm surges, and cyclones. In addition, rapid urbanization often brings poor land use planning, unsafe construction practices, and damage to natural resources (like waterways and mangroves).

Urban centers can suffer from 'intensive risk,' because a large number of people, facilities, services, and assets are condensed in one place and at risk of substantial losses and damages from a disaster.

As the world becomes more and more urbanized, urban risk reduction becomes more and more of a necessity. The post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, which will emerge at the upcoming UN World Conference on Disaster Risk

Reduction in Sendai, Japan, can help elevate this concern at the highest levels and push for disaster risk reduction to be built into urban planning and development.



International Day of Peace, Sudan, UN Photo: Isaac Billy

SDG 11 TARGETS

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

- By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

We know that we cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without strengthening global peace and security, building resilience, and reducing risk.



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