



BACKGROUND

In September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of 17 transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to set the world on a path towards a more equitable, just and environmentally secure future. One of these goals focuses on urban development and specifically seeks to promote sustainable cities and human settlements. This became possible through the global campaign for an UrbanSDG. The campaign was initiated and anchored by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network's expert, thematic network on Sustainable Cities. The campaign sought to coordinate international organizations, global urban networks, national and subnational governments around one common purpose; to advocate for a standalone Goal to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."



THE SDSN

The SDSN expert thematic network on Sustainable Cities and the Urban SDG Campaign were housed and anchored by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). SDSN was established in 2012 by the UN Secretary General, as a global academic, expert network which promotes practical problem solving around sustainable development challenges. Since 2012 the SDSN has been actively involved in supporting the Secretary General's office, the UN system and national governments on the design (and now the implementation) of the SDGs. Our work also spans the SDG knowledge creation and education process, offering open online course materials and disseminating evidence of good practice and sustainable development solutions.

Spanning six continents, the SDSN draws upon: the knowledge and educational capacity of over 350 universities and knowledge institutions; the experience and convening power of key public figures and political leaders; the innovation capacities of some of the world's largest private sector institutions committed to sustainability; and the authority of key representatives of social movements. They work together to direct a multidimensional global network that attempts to address some of the world's most pressing problems.

SDSN - C

SDSN-C is a new initiative of the SDSN which seeks to build upon and expand our implementation work in support of Sustainable Cities. Our aim is to identify practical solutions for improving urban management on a global scale.

SDSN- C aims to support the global urban community with knowledge creation, education, and data and monitoring in support of the implementation of the SDGs within urban environments. It has at its core a network of 125 universities and knowledge institutions across multiple geographies and themes, with specialist expertise in urban sustainable development, policy and planning. To this are added representatives of key institutional groups that have an urban focus or interest: UN agencies, urban movements, scientific and social science networks across the global north and global south.

Our ambition is to grow this pool of researchers and practitioners around the world so that we have a global network of sustainable urban development researchers who can translate current research and science into policy-relevant tools, using a wide variety of media. This includes peer-reviewed literature as well as wider and more participative forms of engagement like MOOCs and webinars.

SDSN-C's focus on implementing the SDGs will continue through developing and expanding various supportive tools such as the urban SDG Handbook, briefs and educational curricula on financing for sustainable urban development, and manuals concerning the collection of sustainable development data. SDSN will continue to run specific pilot projects, in partnership with key cities worldwide to test out these approaches, techniques and media, building on ongoing work under the existing Sustainable Cities Initiatives (SCI) which works in cities across the United States, Brazil and other countries worldwide, in partnership with SDSN's national chapters. See for example SDSN Brazil.

In addition to continual support to urban climate change dialogues under the IPCC, SDSN-C will position itself as the global scientific leader on cities and climate change. We will do this by bringing together DDPP, ARC3 and UCCRN as inputs to the IPCC cities discussion.



SHORT TERM SDSN - C OBJECTIVES

In 2016-17 SDSN-C will focus on the immediate needs of the global and regional urban community to consolidate monitoring of the SDGs, to identify new financing arrangements, and to develop educational curricula and technical support materials. Specifically, we will seek to:

1. Build the SDSN-C network to include 100 key universities and knowledge partners and organise at least one annual face-to-face convening,
2. Provide support to Habitat III mobilisation, and a greater outcome and implementation focus, with specific attention to the financing and monitoring recommendations,
3. Develop National Planning, Regional & City Planning & Implementation Handbooks for the Urban SDG and the subnational implementation of all of the SDGs, with partners (additional specific outputs will relate to municipal financing and monitoring of sustainable development),
4. Develop and support a Sustainable Cities MOOC series for delivery via SDSN.edu,
5. Support city and regional implementation around Goal 6: Clean water & sanitation,
6. Develop City & Regional Deep Decarbonisation & Transformative Adaptation Pathways and provide support to the IPCC AR6,
7. Mobilize and effectively manage the urban scientific community through a global knowledge network.

LONG TERM SDSN - C OBJECTIVES

The SDSN-C envisages the following mid-term objectives over the 2016-20 period, in partnership with network members, national, regional and city governments and other stakeholders, across multiple geographies:

1. Assisting in the independent monitoring of progress and impact of SDG 11 and other subnational implementation of other goals and their convergence with the new Urban Agenda
2. Curating and documenting solutions around SDG 11 and other Urban SDGs,
3. Developing educational and technical support materials to assist in implementation of the urban SDGs,
4. Exploring fiscal and financing arrangements to enable implementation of the urban SDGs, in coordination with other SDGs and targets,
5. Developing fit-for-purpose institutional design and support for SDG implementation,
6. Facilitating the integration of urban climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction initiatives into SDG implementation,
7. Providing knowledge support to urban networks, local and regional governments to further the process of national and regional devolution.

BECOMING A MEMBER

The first SDSN-C secretariat is currently hosted out of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) where one of the co-chairs from SDSN-C is based. The hosting organization of SDSN – C, is supported by the SDSN global secretariat and universities acting as regional hubs in their respective continent to enable a geographic and thematic spread.

The integration of anchor local, regional, national or international and thematic institutions will be based on five broad criteria*:

- Ability to convene and support implementation in their geography of work
- Institutional capacity to undertake research and education
- Capacity to engage with UN and other international processes
- Administrative capacity to support and manage the network and special projects
- Willingness and ability to raise financing to support the SDSN-C.

*it is not necessary that all applicants cover all criteria – membership is free & accessible through membership of UN-SDSN which is open to institutions, including universities, research institutions, foundations, civil society, and other organizations.

To join the SDSN please submit an application on <http://unsdsn.org/get-involved/join-the-sdsn/> or directly to <https://icsd.submittable.com/submit>

UNIVERSITY MEMBERSHIP MAP: CURRENT URBAN SCHOOLS



CONTACT INFORMATION

General Enquires:

sdsn-c@unsdsn.org

www.unsdsn.org



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