"It is clear that transforming our world for the better means transforming our towns and cities"
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

Introduction:

Urbanization will be the defining trend over the next several decades.
As of 2016, 54% of the world's population live in cities. By 2030, this number is predicted to rise to 60%. By 2050, it is thought to reach ⅔.

Cities face many economic, social and environmental issues.
Roughly ¾ of global economic activity is urban. Middle classes that either already exist or are emerging have a strong impact on consumption and production patterns. Cities are places where inequalities are dominant, and roughly 850million people live in city slums. As cities grow to accommodate the increasing population, real estate bubbles often appear, increasing exclusion of poorer people (70%) to quality housing.
Cities are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions due to energy consumption with transport and housing. Rather than increasing their efficiency and sustainability, cities are responding by losing density and locking themselves into patterns of rising transportation costs, congestions, and segregation of socio-economic groups.

Therefore, sustainable urbanization is a crucial issue for the upcoming years, particularly for low to middle-income countries, which is why it is the UN's 11th Goal.
As all countries seek to expand and develop, well-managed urbanization is key, with an emphasis on the need to overcome the dichotomy of rural versus urban sectors.

The solutions that are to be implemented by cities will not only have an impact of energy production and people's lifestyles but will also tackle inequality, sustainable consumption and production, as well as fight climate change.

A reminder;
● A sustainable urban area must be liveable to all.
● A sustainable urban area must be resilient, environmentally friendly and healthy.
● A sustainable urban are must be dynamic and integrative so as to allow innovation, firm creations and decent work.
● A sustainable urban area must not develop itself at the cost of other regions and rural surroundings connected to them.

Facts and Figures:
- 3.5 billion people currently live in cities.
- Cities occupy only 3% of Earth's land but account for 60-80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions.
- 95% of urban expansion will take place in the developing world
- There are 28 'mega-cities' (2014)
- As of 2016, 90% or urban dwellers have been breathing unsafe air, resulting in 4.2million deaths due to air pollution.
- More than half of the global urban population were exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times higher than the safety standard set by WHO.

UN Targets for Goal 11, Sustainable cities:
- **11.A** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- **11.B** 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
- **11.C** Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials
- **11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.
- **11.2** 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
- **11.3** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- **11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- **11.5** 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
- **11.6** 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

- **11.7** 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

Current events;

- US: June 2017: President Donald Trump, USA, announced that he would begin the process of withdrawing the US from the Paris Agreement.
  - [Paris Agreement](#)

- China: China has set targets to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 40-45 percent from 2005 levels by 2020, and 60-65 percent by 2030.
  - Committed to increase the share of non-fossil fuels used in its primary energy consumption to about 20 percent by 2030.
  - In 2014 China was the world's number one investor in renewable energy (83.3 billion dollars).
  - Plans to establish a national emissions trading system starting in 2017 (dated 2015 report).

- Indonesia: Indonesia is committed to cut emissions by 29 percent from normal levels by 2030
  - Aims to achieve 87 percent of its 2020 mitigation target by reducing emissions from deforestation and peat land conversion
  - Has targeted 12.7 million hectares for social forestry and ecosystem restoration by 2019 as part of its national development plan.

- India: India has set targets to substantially increase its renewable energy capacity, including increasing its solar capacity twentyfold by 2022, as well as increase wind power capacity.
  - Committed to increase its non-fossil fuel energy source to 40% o total energy sources by 2030.
  - First developing country to adopt a market based mechanism, "perform, achieve and trade" to improve energy intensity in industries so as to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.
  - Ministry of Power set average fuel consumption standard for passenger cars in January 2014 to take effect in April 2017 to reduce fuel consumption.

- Mexico: Mexico is committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 22 percent and its black carbon by 51 percent by 2030.
  - In 2012 passed one of the first climate laws in a developing country, outlining the country's transition to low-carbon economy with a 50 percent reduction in emissions from 2000 levels by 2050.
  - Set a target for 40% of its energy to come from low-emission sources by 2035, and 50% by 2050.
  - Set a target to cut deforestation rates to zero by 2030

- European Union: The EU has adopted policies to reduce emissions by at least 40% by 2030 and has established a target t reduce emissions by 80-95% by 2050.
  - Aims to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy consumption mix to at least 27% and increase energy efficiency by 30% by 2030.
  - The European Union emissions Trading Scheme launched in 2005, is operational in all 28 EU members states, + Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. Covers 45% of Greenhouse gas emissions.

Further Information

Past Events/Further Reading:
- **1970 - [Environmental Magna Carta](#) (NEPA)**
- **1987 - [Montreal Protocol](#)**
- **1992 - [Rio Earth Summit](#)**
- **1997 - [Kyoto Protocol](#)**
- **2015 - [Paris Agreement](#)**

Sources:

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