NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG OWG-9)

Intervention of Local Authorities Major Group

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Mr. Co-Chair,

At the outset, as LAMG, we would like to express our sincere appreciations for your leadership in enabling us to engage actively in the whole process with the Member States, through inclusive, transparent and innovative modalities of interaction.

LAMG warmly welcomes both your Summary Paper and the Focus Area document.

We also happily acknowledge positive response in general from the Member States to consider this document as a basis on the way towards a Zero Order Draft, even though this does not necessarily guarantee the adoption of SDGs, as the birthday gift to Co-Chair Kamau, yet.

We are particularly pleased to read Focus Area 13 on Sustainable cities and human settlements and its numerous interlinkages with a great majority of other Focus Areas.

We are also happy to observe the great support received from a broad number of Member States and Major Groups so far, which definitely encourages us to remain positive for the next phases.

At this critical milestone in the course of negotiations, the LAMG strongly encourages Member States and global development community to adopt a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization (UrbanSDG) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We believe, an UrbanSDG will:

a) Provide holistic, integrated, territorial-based, inclusive, visionary and transformative solutions to address and meet the complex social, economic, environmental, cultural and institutional challenges of the "Urban World" of the 21st century.
b) Seize the opportunities that local and subnational governments entail as actors and governmental stakeholders of development and through urban areas as agents of national economic growth and as the locus of technological, social, and governance innovation.
c) Foster multi-level and multi-stakeholder collaboration, necessary for concomitantly managing and planning urban areas, urban-rural continuums, surrounding areas, communities and ecosystems.

The adoption of such a goal will demonstrate the integrating and interconnecting role cities and regions play, their importance in global resource footprints, and their key contributions in achieving long-term sustainability for all by translating broad global goals into concrete real-world implementation efforts.

We also would like to underline that whatever the result of the final decision on sets of goals, targets and indicators for the post2015 agenda, "Implementation" will be the key question that remains.

In that sense, local and subnational governments, as being governmental institutions that are closest to citizens universally, commit to remain a strong partner of Member States and all stakeholders at the national and global level, to ensure implementation of SDGs, pursuant to our role as governmental stakeholders as, foreseen in para. 42 of the Rio+20 Outcome document.

In this regard, we also welcome the vision laid out in Focus Area 19 that refers to strengthening local and subnational governments and rule of law at all levels.

Within this spirit, we look forward to expanding and deepening our dialogues and collaboration with all of you to advance in the process.

Position Paper of Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG) on SDGs[1]

Anchoring
a Goal on Sustainable Urbanization (UrbanSDG)[2]
in the heart of Post2015 Development Agenda

Delivered by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Organizing Partner of LAMG

[1] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=9500&menu=138&nr=3748

[2] process of ensuring well-planned, managed and governed cities and human settlements, universally

Why an UrbanSDG?

- Provide holistic, integrated, territorial-based, inclusive, visionary and transformative **solutions** to address and meet the complex social, economic, environmental, cultural and institutional **challenges of the "Urban World" of the 21st century**.

- Seize the opportunities that local and subnational governments entail as **actors and governmental stakeholders of development** and through urban areas as agents of national economic growth and as the locus of technological, social, and governance innovation.

- Foster **multi-level and multi-stakeholder collaboration**, necessary for concomitantly managing and planning urban areas, urban-rural continuums, surrounding areas, communities and ecosystems.

	Global Taskforce (GTF) of Local & Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III	Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions in the New UN Development Agenda	Joint Statement of Major Groups (endorsed by UCLG, ICLEI, MGCY, WFEO, ICC-France, 4D)	Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies - City of Bogota	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)	UN Habitat
Goal	**The goal should promote socially inclusive, economically productive and environmentally sustainable and resilient cities and territories, with participative, efficient and accountable city governance to support equitable urban development.**	**Achieve sustainable urbanization that is inclusive, productive and resilient**	**Urbanization at the heart of the challenge of sustainable development**	**Establishing a Sustainable Development Goal on Cities: inclusive, resilient and connected**	**Empower Inclusive, Productive and Resilient Cities**	**Achieve safe, inclusive, productive and resilient cities and human settlements**
Targets	**Poverty reduction and equality in urban areas** (e.g.access to basic needs and services, food security, housing and slums, land tenure)	**Cluster One: Fundamental Urban Patterns** (e.g. urban density, green space, travel duration)	**A - Develop strong and accountable institutions:** (e.g. decentralization, participatory democracy)	Increase access to public space and services	**End extreme urban poverty,** expand employment and productivity, and raise living standards, especially in slums.	**Cluster One: Improved Spatial Configuration** (e.g. urban sprawl, public space, public transport)
	More socially inclusive economic growth - (e.g. local economic development, informal sector, culture, heritage, job creation, young and women)	**Cluster Two: Urban Life of Dignity for All Within Planetary Boundaries** (e.g. access to affordable basic services, employement, ICT, social inclusion)	**B - Address poverty eradication, inequality reduction and well-being:** (e.g. access to basic services and jobs, gender, nature in urban space)	Deliver social protection to informal sector workers	**Ensure universal access** to a secure and affordable built environment and basic urban services including housing; water, sanitation and waste management; low-carbon energy and transport; and mobile and broadband communication.	**Cluster Two: Improved Living Conditions** (e.g.: slums, land tenure, access to water and sanitation)
	Sustainable and healthy urban environment - (e.g. urban pollution, energy, GHG emissions, resilience, national integration, waste, transfer of ITC)	**Cluster Three: Governance and Accountability** (e.g. participatory mechanisms, local monitoring, multilevel global governance)	**C – Develop strong capacity building framework to make sustainable urbanization a reality** (e.g. local technical and financial capacity, energy-climate, corruption, safety and resilience)	Reduce travel time	**Ensure safe** air and water quality for all, and integrate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efficient land and resource use, and climate and disaster resilience into investments and standards.	**Cluster Three: Enabling Urban Policies** (e.g. inclusive national planning, resilience, public expenditure)
	Urban management and governance - (e.g. accountability, multi-level governance, public participation, local government development cooperation and peer-to-peer learning, planning, public space)	**Cluster Four: Enabling Policies** (e.g. preemptive designs and plans for crises and disasters, fossil fuel subsidies, monitoring and peer review at the local level)	**D - Ensure a sustainable ecological footprint, taking into consideration common but differentiated responsibilities** (e.g. mobility, resilience, efficiency, waste reduction, biodiversity)	Limit the use of private vehicles		**Cluster Four: Targets Relevant to Other likely SDGs** (e.g. job creation, renewable energy and improved access to energy)
		Cluster Five: Territorial Dimension of Other SDG Themes (e.g. ecosystem based adaptation, city-region food systems and urban-rural linkages)	**E - Promote local and territorial economic development** (e.g. SMEs, labor rights, PPPs, informal economy)	Green the cities		
			F - Promote sustainable consumption and production (e.g.: overuse, lifestyles, penalties, lifecycle)	Measure the share of regionally grown food in urban citizens' diets		
			G - Culture as driver and enabler of development and people-centered societies (e.g. diversity, Agenda21 spirit, public space, education)			

UrbanSDG - Reflections to Focus Area Document

- FA13 – sustainable cities and human settlements AND strong support from a significant number of Member States and from all Major Groups:
  - a very positive start towards a stand-alone goal at the end

- Other Focus Areas: many interlinkages, opportunity for clustering/integration
  - translating broad global goals into concrete real-world implementation efforts.
  - to enable and empower action by all levels of government, in strong collaboration with civil society, the scientific community, the private sector, and the philanthropic world.
  - Integrating culture in SDGs