

NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster 2019 Position Paper

1. INTRODUCTION:

The **NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster** (the “**Urban Cluster**”), in recognition that the majority of the world’s population lives in places that extend from urban to rural, addresses SDG #11 (“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable”), its integration with the other 16 SDGs and the other global agreements from the civil society perspective. In particular, the Urban Cluster aligns with the *New Urban Agenda* and the documents developed for its localization, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework.

SDG # 11 means ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading slum settlements. It also involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, protecting natural and cultural heritage, reducing adverse effects of natural disasters and adverse environmental impacts of cities while improving urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive of gender, age, and ability.” The Urban Cluster holds that balanced territorial development should guide national, regional and local policies in fulfillment of SDG 11 and other relevant targets and insists on broad and inclusive stakeholder participation in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of such policies.

2. KEY MESSAGES RELATED TO THE SDGs UNDER REVIEW:

- **SDG 4** - Provide adequate educational facilities in underserved rural and urban areas especially in informal settlements.
- **SDG 8** - Since 60% of the world’s employed population earns their livelihood in the informal economy, support and recognize informal employment seeking to provide safe working conditions with decent pay; since cities produce 80% of the world’s GDP, seek means to contribute to the circular economy by eliminating waste in all areas of production;
- **SDG 10** - Since the reciprocal and repetitive flow of people, goods and financial and environmental services between specific rural, peri-urban and urban locations are interdependent, connect these communities with resilient infrastructure to enhance economic prosperity for inclusive employment in all sectors.
- **SDG 13** - Since cities produce 80% of GHGs through their use of fossil fuel-based energy in their transport and building systems, promote compact and transit-oriented development, with such benefits as reduced use of private vehicle emissions and advocate for the adoption of renewable energy generation areas using, for example, solar rooftop panels on public and residential buildings; wind farms whenever possible and converting municipal waste to energy.
- **SDG 16** - Strengthen urban governance, with sound institutions and mechanisms that empower and include representatives of urban stakeholders and constituencies, and offer checks and balances, providing predictability and coherence in urban development plans to enable social inclusion, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and environmental protection.
- **SDG 17** - Recognize the necessity of engaging stakeholders cross sectoral partnerships to achieve sustainable urban development.

3. CONCLUSION:

The Urban Cluster brings attention to the importance of promoting sustainable urbanization and balanced territorial development throughout the SDGs as a critical driver of the ambitious agendas set out in the suite of global agreements signed between 2015 and 2016, To this end, it emphasizes the need to build cohesive and inclusive partnerships to support the spatial, social, and economic aspects of the SDGs.