



ROMUN

STUDY GUIDE

ROUNDTABLE 4

MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE WITH URBAN INNOVATION AND CITIZEN'S LIFE

Green economy and smart cities for a sustainable future



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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Distinguished participants to ROMUN2015,
Honourable delegates,*

It is with pleasure and a great sense of responsibility that I welcome you to ROMUN2015! ROMUN2015, the most prestigious Model of the United Nations Organisation in Italy, is organised by the Italian Society for International Organisation/United Nations Association of Italy in partnership with the United States Diplomatic Missions in Italy, and will be held from 16 to 20 October in Rome, Italy. Its main theme is food security and sustainability. This is not a coincidence, as 2015 is an exceptional turning point for the international agenda on both issues.

Since the Millennium Declaration in 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the United Nations are specifically working to raise awareness on the paramount importance of developing a sustainable way of life at all levels and addressing those critical matters, old as humanity itself, which are connected with the idea of a fully sustainable planet: granting basic education, reliable health services, and access to nutritious food for all.

The amazing technological shift, particularly in the field of communications, and the massive geopolitical changes of the past few years make it necessary to continue to work hard to overcome the challenge laid down 15 years ago with an effective and well-balanced agenda from today to 2030.

In recent months, great efforts have been made to develop a responsible and effective Post-2015 Development Agenda and in one week's time, from 25 to 27 September, world leaders will meet in the international UN Headquarters in New York in order to finally adopt a resolution for a sustainable development agenda which encompasses the next 15 years, setting 17 goals and 169 targets.

Italy is currently at the frontline of this international debate and, thanks to the EXPO2015 in Milan, a world exhibit wholly focused on food and sustainability, it is currently one of the most inspiring places to be worldwide. Rome, which houses the Headquarters of International Organisations such as the FAO, the IFAD and the WFP, provides the best location for a youth conference on food security and sustainability.

From Tuesday 15 September, we will launch, in collaboration with MunPlanet, an innovative Internet-based platform for Delegates to start negotiation over one month before the actual conference. Each of you will receive a personal invitation by email. All you need to do is to click on the link, log in, and start negotiating with young people from all over the world, both in your assigned Roundtable and in the General Assembly. In your Roundtable you will be responsible for representing your interests and proposals related to a specific topic, while in the GA you will be called to give your contribution to the draft ROMUN2015 Youth Roadmap. This is a unique opportunity to multiply the results of your efforts and proactivity, virtually extending the length of the overall experience from less than one week to over one month. Chairs and Rapporteurs will direct and guide you along the track.

Delegates and participants to ROMUN2015, you have a real chance to participate in human enhancement through the only worthwhile way: dialogue and mutual understanding. Don't miss it, make it count! I am looking forward to meet you all on 16 October in Rome!

*Edoardo Morgante
Secretary General of ROMUN 2015*

Greetings from the Staff of Roundtable 4!

Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2015 ROMUN Conference in Rome, Italy! The Staff for the Conference is: Chairs Tomás Ocampo & Claudia Ribalta, and Rapporteurs Imran Ali & Kara DeSanna.

We are delighted that you have chosen to attend ROMUN, and more importantly, that you are embarking on this road of discovery in Model United Nations. Needless to say, this experience will be rewarding for all delegates, but us as well. With that, it is important that we remind you to get engaged with the topic, and in committee. We expect to see you all participating to the best of your ability in drafting your solutions to the topic at hand. Of course, that all begins with research first!

We hope you will find this Study Guide useful in learning more about the topic of discussion for the Roundtable: Make a real difference with urban innovation and citizen's life: Green economy and smart cities for a sustainable future. However, it is merely the first step in a long journey of discovery. We advise delegates to complete further research on the topic to understand it in depth and make meaningful contributions to the Roundtable. Further, we encourage delegates to explore their Member State's policies and actions to determine what direction their State would chose in regards to the topic. As well, the end of the guide offers References for more information, and a list of Mandatory and Recommended readings for delegates. These documents are vital to an understanding of the topic, and we highly encourage delegates to take a look at as many of them as possible.

Prior to the conference, each delegate will submit a Position Paper based on their Member State's policies on the topic (due September 30th). Please see the Position Paper Guidelines section for more information. We recommend that delegates work together in their delegations to better understand what policies and ideas their Member State/international organization would support (without doing each other's work that is).

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the Roundtable or Conference, feel free to contact the Chairs at: RT4.romun2015@gmail.com; or contact the Secretary-General at edoardo.morgante@gmail.com.

We wish you the best in preparing for the conference and look forward to seeing all of you in October!

Cordially,

*Tomás Ocampo, Chair - Roundtable 4
Imran Ali, Rapporteur - Roundtable 4*

*Claudia Ribalta, Chair- Roundtable 4
Kara DeSanna, Rapporteur – Roundtable 4*

HIGH LEVEL PLENARY MEETING

From September 25th – 27th, 2015, Member States, world leaders, governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, civil society members, and many more will come together at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York. This summit will open the General Debate of the UN General Assembly, and is also known as the **High-Level Plenary Meeting**. At ROMUN 2015, delegates will participate in their own High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) which will bring together all delegates from all Roundtables in producing an outcome document, the **ROMUN 2015 Youth Roadmap on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. **Roundtables** are informal sub-groups of the HLPM which will cover more specific topics. At their respective Roundtables, delegates will carry out the bulk of negotiations, discussing their country or organization’s policies and ideas in regards to their assigned topic. A first draft of the Roadmap has been developed by the Secretariat and is available online at the ROMUN Online Platform.

INTRODUCTION

Estimates from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) indicate that more than half of the world’s population currently lives in cities and towns, and by 2030, it could grow to 5 billion. As the world grows to become more globalized and interconnected, it is in cities where the bulk of economic growth has occurred in the last century. With this growth, however, high levels of poverty, violence, hunger and malnutrition, and inequality are also present, and form major challenges for cities. As the trend towards urbanization continues, so too will the persistence of meeting the demand for a better quality of life for all persons who live and work in cities. Interestingly enough, it will be in cities where the solutions to meet this challenge will develop. Cities across the world are a testament to this, creating sustainable waste and recycling, water management, and public transit systems, lowering emissions, improving air quality, access to housing and affordable services, engaging citizens in arts and culture, and more, to meet the demand of better, more sustainable cities. Leveraging the vast potential of cities will be the key to creating “smarter” cities where each person can have a better quality of life.

Historical Background

The growth and development of cities over the last few decades is part of a process called urbanization. **Urbanization** “describes a shift in population from largely being dispersed across small rural settlements, in which agriculture is the dominant economic activity, towards one where the population is concentrated in larger, dense, urban settlements characterized by industrial and service activities”. Urbanization has been fueled by many “push” and “pull” factors, one of which has been both: globalization. **Globalization** is the increasing interconnectedness of peoples, national systems, institutions and economies as a result of international trade and technology. Indeed, it is globalization which has contributed the most to swelling populations in cities from Guangzhou to Mexico City. In a more globalized world, products can be made and assembled far more cheaply and efficiently in one country, from resources extracted in another area, and sold in yet another far off place. The rise of **Multilateral/Transnational Corporations (TNCs)** has facilitated the relative ease in managing such complex supply chains, and their development has been endorsed by not just national governments, but also with assistance from the United Nations (UN). Though TNCs have produced much of the wealth in the last few decades, it is the extraction processes in oil, gold, timber, precious minerals, and metals – as well as large scale agricultural enterprises in products from soybeans to coffee and palm oil – of several TNCs which has led to polluted environments, land cleared for agriculture, and contributed to deforestation. The conditions created by such environmental destruction have endangered the way of life of many rural persons, as well as their means to a living, access to food, and clean and safe drinking water, among other things.

Migration: From Rural to Urban Areas

Environmental push factors such as these are a reason large numbers of persons migrate from rural areas to urban areas, however, conflict and violence equally contribute to “pushing” persons towards cities in order to escape the violence, find better opportunities, and protect themselves and their families. **Migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees** are groups of people the UN has placed special focus on as a result of environmental and conflict-related push factors. Whether they have travelled across the country to seek opportunity, or across borders to seek safety, the UN Population and Social Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) estimates that **in 2013, over 240 million people were considered migrants or**

refugees. The numbers of IDPs are harder to pinpoint for several reasons, but the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that **over 26.4 million people have been internally displaced** due to conflict, humanitarian crises, and natural disasters. The link between migration from rural to urban areas, or **rural-urban linkages**, is one that the UN is constantly exploring in order to produce effective policies to prevent increasing inequality, violence, exploitation, and violence against persons who are classified as migrants, IDPs or refugees.

Of course, migration is not only the result of **“push” factors** (conditions which force out of necessity or “push” people towards urban areas), but also many **“pull” factors** (conditions which draw or pull people towards urban areas). Cities provide a vast array of opportunities, from employment, services, access to resources, arts and culture, information, and more. Many of these “pull” factors draw people from across borders for better job prospects, higher wages to provide for families in the countryside, and to access services and information not available in rural areas. Globalization is thus a main driver of these pull factors, along with TNCs which open up factories, businesses, and other employment opportunities which require a large workforce. Though cities provide opportunities, unemployment, exploitation, poor working conditions and inadequate working standards continue to pose a problem for cities worldwide. Often it is the most marginalized (religious and ethnic minorities, the youth, the disabled, migrants, women and girls, for example) that face such obstacles, and which require special attention by policymakers and governmental agencies.

Cities and Informal Settlements

Cities come in an array of types, which the Population Division of the UN-DESA, in its 2014 *World Urbanization Report*, discusses, and range from large metropolitan cities to informal settlements at the edge of urban centers. **Informal settlements**, or slums, in particular are key areas of concern to the UN, as residents often have severely restricted access to water and sanitation, social services, durable housing, suffer from increased health risks from pollution, are more vulnerable to disasters, and are among the poorest, most marginalized, and food insecure. The **UN-Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** estimates that in some cities, up to 80% of persons live in slums. UN-Habitat has also provided the following estimates for the number of people living in slums: 199.5 million in sub-Saharan Africa; 190.7 million in South Asia; 189.6 million in East Asia; 88.9 million in Southeast Asia; 35 million in West Asia; 11.8 million in North

Africa; and 110.7 million in Latin American and the Caribbean. Housing, UN-Habitat proposes, “is a basic social condition that determines the quality of life and welfare of people and places”. Everything, from where houses are built, to their design, and where they fit into the environmental, social, cultural, and economic fabric of communities, influences the well-being, security, and daily life of residents both presently and in the future. As such, adequate housing, which is inclusive, affordable, socially-enhancing, and environmentally conscious, is necessary for sustainable development. With urbanization expected to be highest in developing countries, and much development taking place to fulfill rapid population expansion, it is critical to consider housing and informal settlements in the sustainability discussion.

Climate Change and Cities

No discussion of sustainability is complete without examining the role of climate change. **Climate Change** increases particular risks within cities, exacerbates the effects of natural disasters and places greater strains on resource systems which provide for the essential needs of cities (water, food, etc.). Particular risks and hazards include more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, tropical storms, wildfires, flooding and sea level rise, which are damaging in it of themselves, but also strongly affect the most vulnerable populations (the poor, elderly, etc.). Stronger droughts places strain on the water supply of cities which adversely affects access to water for daily needs, businesses, and agriculture. Increased risks which damage infrastructure, energy and transport systems, agriculture, homes, and the lives of residents can become a new normal across the world if carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise, and cities fail to address their carbon footprints, ecological damage, and insufficient investment in clean and renewable energy, more efficient systems, technology and climate adaptation mechanisms.

Path towards Sustainable Development

With such growing concerns over climate change, the environment, and the use of resources, in addition to concerns over future financial crisis, discussions on sustainability – and sustainable economic growth – have permeated among policymakers, institutions, governments, civil society, and the UN over the last few decades. However, the discussion of **sustainable development**, which refers to development which provides for the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations, began in 1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm. The conference gave birth to the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** and

numerous environmental protection agencies at the national level. From there, the UN convened the World Commission on Environment and Development which produced the **Brundtland Report, “Our Common Future”**, a landmark publication in the environment movement which provided a stark outlook on the environment should policies remain unchanged, and the momentum for further action. The foundation was laid for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, and resulted in the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, as well as Agenda 21 – an international plan of action for sustainable development. From the conference stemmed the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, and the **Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**. These bodies have since provided guidance to Member States and the UN on forming sustainable development policies, addressing climate change, and meeting the needs of present and future generations.

Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development

With the turn of the century, more concepts arose which reflected the same desire to create more liveable, sustainable communities, such as the green economy. **Green economy** largely refers to an economy which “results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities”, as defined by the UN Environment Programme in its report *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*. Reductions in carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced efficiency in energy and resource-use, and prevention of biodiversity loss all form staples of the green economy, which in turn improve economic growth and funnel investment in the public and private sector to continue growth. The UNEP contends that the concept of a green economy is not meant to replace sustainable development, but provide the argument for sustainability from the financial and business sectors, which mostly view sustainable development as an environment-led approach. En route to the Rio+20 Conference, which marked the 20th anniversary since the 1992 conference, the debate over green economy continued. Member States from the global south, China and the Group of 77 members, cautioned that the green economy concept should not take away from the global consensus on sustainable development, the international framework in place that supports sustainable development, and attempt to subvert the social and environmental aspects of sustainable development for the economic at the benefit of the global North. As the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio+20 Conference) approached, Member States had the

chance to discuss the “green economy in the context of sustainable development” and the concerns of developing and developed parties were taken into consideration for the final draft outcome document.

On June 2012 UNCSD adopted the final outcome document “**The Future We Want**” which reaffirmed the international community’s dedication to sustainable development, and a world that is “just, equitable, and inclusive”. The more than 40-page-long document outlines many points, in particular towards cities: sustainable human settlements; affordable housing and infrastructure; the importance of public participation and the role of civil society; information and communications technology (ICT) improvements; access to safe and clean drinking water; sustainable transportation systems; access to sustainable modern energy; inclusivity and equality (gender and racial/ethnic minorities, for example); engagement of the public and private sector; corporate sustainability; employment and social protections; participation of unions and workers; cross-regional initiatives and partnerships for sustainable development; and engage local stakeholders and government actors. It refers to the green economy as a “tool” to assist in improving sustainable development efforts and that it should: promote sustained and inclusive economic growth; foster innovation and opportunities; avoid unwarranted conditions in official development assistance (ODA); not constitute unfair or arbitrary means in international trade; enhance the welfare of women, children, persons with disabilities, and so forth; promote sustainable consumption and production patterns; and strive to overcome poverty and inequality.

UN Resolutions on Cities and Sustainability

Many of the points in “The Future We Want” were further reiterated in recent UN resolutions, which add to the basis of the outcome document. **A/RES/68/210** *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development* reminds Member States that eradicating poverty and improving human well-being is at the center of sustainable development and that it requires examining the environmental, social and economic aspects, and also provides guidelines to further implement Agenda 21 and other commitments from the World Summit on Sustainable Development. **A/RES/68/223** *Culture and Sustainable Development* highlights the connection between human development and culture, as it provides a source of identity, innovation and creativity, and is critical for social inclusion.

A/RES/65/165 *Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)* calls for sustainable urbanization to continue being a topic of discussion in future conferences, and Habitat III in 2016. **E/RES/2014/30** *Human Settlements* urges Member States to further sustainable urbanization and include it in national development plans. **A/RES/69/233** *Promotion of Sustainable Tourism, Including Ecotourism, for Poverty Eradication and Environmental Protection* recognizes that sustainable tourism can increase employment, local governance, and contribute to economic growth, all while improving sustainable development efforts. **A/HRC/RES/28/11** *Human Rights and the Environment* reiterated the clear connection between environmental protection and sustainable development to human well-being and full enjoyment of human rights, and that the unsustainable management of natural resources can interfere with such rights.

Path towards the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Beyond the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, as the 2015 deadline to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approached, the UN organized an open-working group in order to discuss the post-2015 development agenda. This working group laid the groundwork for the 17 currently proposed **sustainable development goals (SDGs)** – which hope to address many of the problems within cities discussed earlier – by building on the Rio+20 Conference, the “Future We Want” outcome document, and working with recommendations from the following: a High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; an Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); workshops on the subject of development, transfer, and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies in developing countries; and high-level meetings and thematic dialogues organized by the President of the General Assembly. Each group or body provided a report with details as to how to proceed with a sustainable development agenda. The High-Level Panel for example published their report *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development* in 2013 with 12 suggested goals each with measures to complete which at their core aim to promote sustainable development and end poverty.

From these preliminary discussions leading up to the opening session of the UN in September 2015 came the 17 SDGs, which apply in one shape or another to the discussion on sustainable cities. Each goal attempts to address each of the three pillars of sustainability (economy, environment and society), which is why a fruitful discussion on sustainable cities will require delegates to understand all 17 in the context of cities. Poverty and hunger, gender inequality, unsafe drinking water, faulty infrastructure, restricted access to social services, unemployment, overconsumption, and waste – all problems within cities – must be addressed in order to create better, inclusive and more sustainable cities. And the work must happen at all levels, in each country, and city, by governments, agencies, the private sector, civil society and the UN. There must be a sustained and measureable effort which takes place locally, but within the paradigm of creating a better future for every citizen of the planet.

Think Global, Act Local

When it comes to meeting the challenges of sustainability, local and regional governments, groups and agencies have begun to take action where national governments have been unable to. Several groups include: ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability; Sustainable Cities Collective; the League of Cities; and C40 Cities. **ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability** is a network of more than 1,000 cities and local municipalities which are committed to building a sustainable future. They began a *Local Agenda 21* program to monitor local actions which complied with sustainable development, a *Cities for Climate Protection (CCP)* initiative which assists cities in planning action on climate emissions reduction. The **Sustainable Cities Collective** and the **Sustainable Cities Institute** of the **National League of Cities** are other networks which provide information and resources for cities and city leaders in urban planning, implementing sustainable development, community development, transportation, education, water and health. **C40 Cities** is a global network of the world's largest cities which have committed to taking action to address climate change. Since 2005, more than 75 cities have joined and taken steps to improve their carbon footprint in regards to energy, water, waste management, transportation, planning, financing, and creating sustainable communities. It is actions taken by cities towards sustainability that can have the greatest yields to the improvement of human lives and communities.

In order to approach the vast array of concepts around sustainability and devise effective solutions for our cities, it is important to discuss them in the context of **three key areas** that Member States can address with policy at the local level: the use of energy and resources (**environment**); management of the private sector (**economy**); and the lives of residents in their communities (**society**). Although it must be acknowledged that no one solution falls entirely into only one key area (many overlap intentionally or not), the following sections provide such emphasis and real-world examples for other cities to follow (but are by no means exhaustive).

RESOURCES & ENERGY

Efficiency is vital for sustainable development and a green economy. Efficient and sustainable water and energy systems, buildings, infrastructure, waste minimization, and recycling all form part of improving efficiency standards. In Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, the city implemented plans for more energy efficient homes beginning in 1992, with more than 14 million Euros provided as subsidies for home insulation and energy efficiency from 2002-2008. In 2008 it drew up plans to implement from 2009-2011 a new standard which could make homes use up to 80-90% less energy than homes not designed as such. Freiburg has also implemented a strong waste management program, complying with “product responsibility” which requires manufacturers to collect, recycle and/or reuse packaging from products, and makes recycling easier for consumers. In 2007 Germany recovered over 88% of all packaging waste. Similarly, Curitiba, Brazil implemented sustainable solid waste programs which help poorer areas recycle more than one thousand tons of metal, plastic, glass and paper every month in exchange for specific incentives, such as school supplies for children, transport tokens, and entertainment tickets. In regards to energy efficiency and efficient buildings, the European Commission passed the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive which will require all new buildings to be nearly zero-energy by 2020, and public buildings by 2018. Many European countries have taken steps to meet this goal by retrofitting homes to become more energy efficient. In the community of Novy Loskovec in Brno, Czech Republic, residents of a housing collective came together to retrofit and insulate their units, 384 by 2006, and 672 by 2010. With these efforts, the average annual energy consumed fell by 80%, truly a testament to the power of collective action and the pooling of resources by a community.

Natural Resources include local bodies of water, wind and solar potential for energy, forests, minerals/metals, land, and the local ecology. To ensure a sustainable city, the resources a city uses and provides for its citizens must be well-managed and extracted. Adelaide, Australia, for example, implemented its Million Trees Program in 2003 with the goal of planting one million native trees and shrubs in the city. Land clearing had damaged the populations of native animals and plants, and affected the watershed, however, with the initiative and the support of many local volunteers, the goal was met in 2006 which helped offset 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year, improved the local ecology, and provided new parks and reserves for citizens. Adelaide had also taken steps to increase its renewable energy portfolio by investing in wind and solar power, placing solar panels on public buildings ranging from museums to government offices and schools. The City of Oakland, USA initiated an “Adopt a Spot” program which, with the efforts of citizens and community groups, has ensured 400 sites across the city are well-managed. More than 170 community groups clean parks, storm drains, litter containers, manage trees, creeks and shorelines, to improve the spaces, make them more live-able for humans and animals, and remove unsightly trash and waste.

Climate Change is becoming an increasingly important part of sustainable development. Measures to address climate change include climate adaptation, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and implementing climate neutral technology/systems. Some initiatives can not only accomplish this, but also meet other key areas of sustainability. For example, Mexico City’s *Plan Verde* has improved bicycle access to cut down on congestion, improve air quality, and lower emissions, while also enhancing the experience of residents by providing new ways to connect to the city via biking. To mitigate carbon emissions, as well as improve mobility in cities with a high population living in slums, UNEP and UN-Habitat supported the efforts of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Nairobi, Kenya, and Kampala, Uganda, in implementing public transport services, improved infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. While such projects target emissions reduction, they also improve economic generation within the city, and provide access to services at a reduced cost to citizens, including the poorest and most marginalized. Also, considering climate change has the potential to exacerbate the damage from natural disasters, resilience planning is thus critical for sustainable cities, and Oakland received funds from the Rockefeller Foundation to implement its resilience strategy to overcome environmental, social, and economic threats.

GREEN ECONOMY

Business Development is part of the green economy. It involves developing a green market, focusing on a local economy, and small businesses development to achieve these aims in order to promote social inclusion and environmental stability. In Freiburg, tax credits and subsidies have allowed for citizens to purchase investments in renewable energy, which not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also provide for the employment of 10,000 people in over 1,500 small businesses. State-of-the-art manufacturing is local, trains and employs local residents, and works with local research institutions. In Oakland, several initiatives by the city have improved small business development, and locally-produced food. More than 30 businesses which produce locally-made food for commercial sale have started up, with the assistance of the Sustainable Economies Law Center. With the Hope Collaborative and the Food Policy Council, healthy, fresh food is then made available in low-income neighborhoods. In 2013, Oakland became a Kiva Zip Trustee which provided microloans to assist small businesses. More than 90% of the businesses in Oakland comprise of 20 or fewer workers, and yet Oakland has thrived with a local, green economy.

Workforce Development is as equally important to a green economy. It involves producing quality jobs, stemming unemployment, improving public transportation, and investing in workforce readiness for the sustainable development of workers and their social inclusion. In Curitiba, the city implemented a public transport system that improved access to low-income groups, connected vital service areas for the most vulnerable groups, reduced traffic congestion, and lowered emissions from less vehicles on the road. The per-capita income is also 66% higher in Curitiba than in other cities in Brazil, which help the city fund health centers, libraries and schools, investing in the city's future. An Open University in the city also allows for citizens to learn new skills from mechanics to hair styling at an affordable price. In Norra Alvstranden, Sweden, when the ship building industry hit an economic low, and many businesses began closing, the local government – working with labor unions – lowered the pension age so that older employees could take early retirement, as well as assisted younger employees in finding employment in similar industries. As well, training programs were devised by the city and the Labour Market Board to help them gain new skills and/or find educational opportunities for advancement.

Collaboration is the final pillar for a green economy and involves sharing best practices, promoting public-private partnerships, strengthening inter-city/region collaboration, and fostering local innovation. When it comes to financing, collaboration is certainly necessary to mobilize capital and coordinate plans. Public-private partnerships have the potential to mobilize capital and financing for sustainable initiatives, ranging from universal access to electricity in Viet Nam to improved infrastructure in Cairo, Egypt from the leasing of land, as discussed in the report *Towards Sustainable Cities*. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, waste, urbanization, development and population growth were becoming problematic, until the government formed a partnership with Waste Concern (a local non-governmental organization), the private sector, international agencies, and local communities to implement a waste collection project. Utilizing a low-cost door-to-door service, waste collected was processed to be sold as compost, which reduced the landfill, increased local revenues by the sale of compost for sustainable farming, employed up to 800 people, and made the community aware about the value of recycling and managing waste. Working with the Asian Development Bank, (ADB) cities in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Myanmar were selected to improve sustainable development and become “green cities”. The ADB provided the lead in financing and technical assistance, which can be possible for many other cities around the globe. Lastly, measuring and sharing success is also critical to sustainable development, which usually requires some level of collaboration. Several important measures include the STAR Rating in the United States, the Sustainable Development Index in the United Kingdom, and UN-Habitat’s City Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI in particular focuses primarily on **five dimensions** critical to sustainable cities, which include Productivity, Quality of Life, Infrastructure Development, Environmental Sustainability, and Equity & Social Inclusion, and is worth exploring for both policymakers and respective governmental agencies.

CITY = COMMUNITY

Community is the key pillar for cities. No city is truly alive without a vibrant community that enjoys living and thriving within its bounds. Public spaces for citizens to enjoy, walkability (or a greater degree of being able to walk to any place within a reasonable distance), social and cultural diversity, civic engagement, arts and culture, and historic preservation, are all important aspects to a vibrant, sustainable community. One city, Freiburg, has implemented a traffic management plan

which works in conjunction with urban planning to make large stretches of the city walkable, and accessible by environmentally-friendly modes of transportation – walking, cycling and public transit. The walkability factor has improved access to many services, but also to historic places, arts and culture, and opportunities for civic engagement. Further, mixed-use development has improved walking and biking, and made more areas available for green spaces, which was the result of collaborating with citizen working groups. Also, Oakland’s Broadway-Valdez District Specific Plan will promote retail and mixed-use development which will promote walkability, social and cultural diversity, create public spaces, and still remain committed to affordable housing for mixed units.

Equity is the foundation for the entire sustainability agenda. This comprises of affordable housing, equitable services and access, educational opportunities and attainment, and poverty prevention/alleviation. Curitiba has implemented “Citizen Streets”, neighborhoods which provide citizens with close access to governmental services, employment and housing assistance, subsidized services and more by being placed within each district close together. Providing educational and training opportunities to workers who may face unemployment, as in the Norra Alvstranden example is crucial for social sustainability. Lastly, In 2013, Oakland passed an affordable housing ordinance to provide safe, new, affordable housing for lower-income residents and families, which can have positive measureable impacts in communities across the globe. Further, Oakland initiated Operation Ceasefire, a community-led plan with the assistance of criminal justice agencies, and the involvement of youth and faith leaders, aims to reduce incarceration rates, improve police-community relations, improve safety and reduce violence. Plans like these improve conditions for many persons below the poverty line, racial/ethnic minorities, and disadvantaged youth.

Health is the final area which comprises a community. An active lifestyle, access to sustainable and nutritious food, health centers, access to health services, open spaces, parks and recreation, all comprise this aspect of sustainability. In Oakland, the School District’s Wellness Champion program assists school staff in leading health and wellness programs for the community. School gardens, serving breakfast, making more fruits and vegetables available for students, exercise classes for families, and many other activities stem directly from the plan and have improved school performance and social inclusion. In the Brazilian state of Parana, the Public Policies

department of the Ministry of Social Development has established *Restaurantes Populares*, a program partnered with restaurants which is meant to produce and distribute nutritious, affordable meals for citizens experiencing food insecurity. The food comes from local, small farms which is organically grown, and has improved access to nutritious food for the most vulnerable population, including the elderly, children, unemployed and so forth. As discussed above, creating green spaces (such as in Adelaide) improves the chances of a healthier lifestyle, as does improving public transit and biking, which many of these cities have done to great effect.

CONCLUSION

All three areas above address the three key aspects behind sustainable development and the green economy: the balance among environment, economy, and society. It is cities which can fulfill this balancing act, and shape a new vision for our cities, as the examples provided above prove. In 2014, UN-Habitat's World Urban Campaign released an outcome document, *The City We Need*, which places these pillars and the 17 SDGs into perspective for a sustainable city: sustainable cities must be vibrant, walkable, economically and socially inclusive, provide a sense of identity, security, provide for health and well-being, well managed, and provide for the needs of all citizens by utilizing their potential to innovate and create effective solutions.

Questions for delegates to consider as they engage in fruitful debate: What ideas/solutions does my Member States/international organization support and can bring to the conference? What ideas/solutions can address multiple key areas, and how can they best be implemented? What resources are available for Member States to take advantage of in regards to financing innovative and sustainable solutions? How can developing countries best address the growth of informal settlements and provide a higher-quality of life for residents? How can cities, Member States, and/or regions collaborate to promote sustainable development and green economy?

REFERENCES

The links provided below comprise the backbone of the information provided in this Guide. However, the documents in the sections below also provide for the substance of this Guide and thus should be referenced as well. We also encourage delegates to keep up to date on daily news about the topic as the SDGs and climate change are often an ongoing topic of discussion.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>

<http://www.unfpa.org/urbanization>

<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/FinalReport/WUP2014-Report.pdf>

www.iisd.org/sd

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/wallchart/docs/wallchart2013.pdf>

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c146.html>

<http://www.iied.org/rural-urban-linkages>

<http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/housing-slum-upgrading/>

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/AboutGEI/WhatisGEI/tabid/29784/Default.aspx>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/greeneconomy>

https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GER_synthesis_en.pdf

<http://www.twn.my/title2/sdc2012/sdc2012.100502.htm>

<http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/>

<http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/cities.asp>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

<http://www.post2015hlp.org/>

<http://post2015.org/tag/zero-draft/>

<http://www.starcommunities.org/>

<http://www.iclei.org/about/who-is-iclei.html>

<http://www.c40.org/>

<http://www.sustainablecitiescollective.com/about>

<http://www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/>

<http://www.afdb.org/en/blogs/afdb-championing-inclusive-growth-across-africa/post/urbanization-in-africa-10143/>

<http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/>

<http://www.earthday.org/greencities/portfolio/mexico-citys-plan-verde/>

<http://newint.org/books/reference/world-development/case-studies/sustainable-urban-development-curitiba/>

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/get-involved/volunteering/volunteer-opportunities#plantingday>

<http://www.ecotippingpoints.org/our-stories/indepth/germany-freiburg-sustainability-transportation-energy-green-economy.html>

<http://citiesprogramme.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Case-Study-Parana-Social-Action.pdf>

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/pwa/documents/report/oak053497.pdf>

<http://urbed.coop/sites/default/files/Case%20Study%20of%20Norra%20Alvstranden,%20Gothenburg.pdf>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37315#.Ve2cuvZViko>

<http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/75442/46474-001-reg-tar.pdf>

<http://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2014/jun/03/10-lessons-europe-energy-efficiency>

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/energy-efficiency/buildings/nearly-zero-energy-buildings>

<http://www.communitypower.eu/en/inspiring-stories.html>

MANDATORY READING

Below are several documents and resolutions critical to a more thorough understanding of sustainability, and the progress the international community has made towards sustainable cities.

- A/HRC/RES/28/11 *Human Rights and the Environment*, Human Rights Council
<http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=144099362747B.31343&profile=bib&uri=full=3100001~!1054409~!2&ri=1&aspect=subtab124&menu=search&source=~!horizon>
- A/RES/69/233 *Promotion of Sustainable Tourism, Including Ecotourism, for Poverty Eradication and Environmental Protection*, UN General Assembly
<http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=144099362747B.31343&profile=bib&uri=full=3100001~!1042777~!4&ri=1&aspect=subtab124&menu=search&source=~!horizon>
- E/RES/2014/30 *Human Settlements*, Economic and Social Council
<http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=144099362747B.31343&profile=bib&uri=full=3100001~!1035595~!16&ri=1&aspect=subtab124&menu=search&source=~!horizon>
- A/RES/68/223 *Culture and Sustainable Development*, UN GA
<http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=144099362747B.31343&profile=bib&uri=full=3100001~!1019748~!28&ri=1&aspect=subtab124&menu=search&source=~!horizon>
- A/RES/68/210 *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*
<http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=144099362747B.31343&profile=bib&uri=full=3100001~!1019542~!33&ri=1&aspect=subtab124&menu=search&source=~!horizon>
- A/RES/65/165 *Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)*, UN GA
<http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=144099362747B.31343&profile=bib&uri=full=3100001~!942971~!1&ri=3&aspect=subtab124&menu=search&source=~!horizon>
- A/66/700 *Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing*, Report by the High Level Panel on Global Sustainability
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/66/700
- UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda: Sustainable Urbanization
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/thinkpieces/18_urbanization.pdf
- “Towards a Green Economy”, UN Environment Programme
https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GER_synthesis_en.pdf
- “Sustainable Cities”, Global Compact Cities Programme
http://citiespro.pmhclients.com/resource_files/Sustainable_Cities_Vol1_small.pdf
- "State of the World's Cities 2012-2013", UN Human Settlements Programme
<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2917>
- World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Towards Sustainable Cities
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_current/wess2013/Chapter3.pdf
- A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development
<http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>

- *The Future We Want, The City We Need*, World Urban Campaign <http://unhabitat.org/the-future-we-want-the-city-we-need/>

RECOMMENDED READING

Below are several documents and articles that offer more information and different perspectives for delegates to consider as they conduct their research, and were consulted in this Guide.

- Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want”
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf>
- Beyond “Green Capitalism” <https://monthlyreview.org/2010/02/01/beyond-green-capitalism/>
- World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision Highlights
<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/FinalReport/WUP2014-Report.pdf>
- Risks and Uses of the Green Economy Concept in the Context of Sustainable Development, Poverty and Equity
http://www.twn.my/title2/uncsd2012/RP40_GreenEcon_concept_MKJul11.pdf
- Regional Balanced Urbanization for Inclusive Cities Development: Urban-Rural Poverty Linkages in Secondary Cities Development in Southeast Asia
<http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/161353/sewp-11.pdf>
- Employment and Social Protection in the Informal Sector
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb277/pdf/esp-1-1.pdf>
- Contribution to the 2014 UN Economic and Social Council Integration Segment: Sustainable Urbanization, ILO
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/integration/pdf/internationallabourorganization.pdf>
- Climate Change and Cities: First Assessment Report of the Urban Climate Change Research Network
<http://uccrn.org/files/2015/01/ARC3-Frontmatter-Final.pdf>
- Gender Equality and Sustainable Urbanization, UN Women Watch
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/urban/>
- Urbanization, Gender, and Urban Poverty: Paid Work and Unpaid Carework in the City, International Institute for Environment and Development
<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10614IIED.pdf>
- Innovative Policies for the Urban Informal Economy, UN-Habitat
<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2559>
- Streets as Urban Transformation in Slums, UN-Habitat <http://unhabitat.org/books/streets-as-tools-for-urban-transformation-in-slums/>

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

A Position Paper is a document divided into 3 parts (A, B, and C) in which you should present an elaboration of the topic of your Roundtable, a general stance of your assigned Country, International Organization, or NGO, and proposals for solution.

STRUCTURE

A. An overall analysis and elaboration of the topic itself. More like a breakdown. Students should go beyond the Study Guides. **Do not repeat what the study guide says, but tie the points together.**

B. The general stance of your country on the topic; mention any **treaties, agreements and policies** that your country follows with regard to the topic.

C. This part should mainly focus on the solutions that could be brought out to the committee. These proposals **do not** need to be explicitly followed by your country or mentioned in any particular source on the Internet. These can be your own ideas. Ideas you believe that you can present, representing your assigned Country, International Organization, or NGO. Delegates are **allowed to tweak** their foreign policy to come to a consensus, **however do keep in mind that foreign policy should not be consistently misrepresented.**

FORMATTING

The main text of the position paper (parts A, B and C) must stick to the following format:

- 1) Use font ‘**Times New Roman**’ and size **12**
- 2) Keep the margins to **1.5 cm** on **all sides**
- 3) Line spacing should be **1.5**
- 4) Character spacing should be **normal**
- 5) The body of the text should be **justified**

The citations must follow the following format:

- 1) Use font ‘**Times New Roman**’ and size **9**
- 2) Line spacing should be **single**
- 3) Character spacing should be **normal**
- 4) Body of text should be **left aligned**

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1) Word limit should be strictly followed (**1000 words including citations**)
- 2) Please cite sources you have used. **References should be included as footnotes.**
- 3) The country’s watermark can be used if the delegate wishes however this should not reduce the readability of the document.
- 4) Footer should have your **name on the right** and your **respective Roundtable on the left**
- 5) Save the document as a **pdf** with a name in the format:
“<Country/IO/NGO>_<Name>.pdf ”

The latest date for the submission of the Position Paper is **30TH SEPTEMBER MIDNIGHT CEST**. Delegates who submit their position papers after this deadline will not be eligible for awards.

All delegates should send their position papers to the following e-mail address of <RT4.romun2015@gmail.com>

Please find below a Position Paper template for you to use.

POSITION PAPER	
Name:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;">Country flag</div>
Country:	
School:	
 <u>TOPIC</u>	
A.	
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