

MALAYSIA SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION TO ACCELERATE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

by

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Abstract

The world is experiencing an unprecedented transition from predominantly rural to mainly urban living, with more than 55 percent of the world's population already living in urban areas and this figure is set to rise to 70 percent by the middle of 21st century. Cities will be key to achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs come into effect in a world that is increasingly urban, with a little over half the global population. Urbanization has thrown up some of the world's greatest development challenges, but it also has tremendous opportunities for advancing sustainable development. Cities are synonyms of progress and growth, but some have become niches of poverty and inequality presenting city authorities with complex challenges. Cities are constantly evolving and are transitioning faster than at any point in history and managing this change is becoming a difficult proposition. City authorities are closest to the citizens and ground level realities and therefore play a key role in providing the impetus for progress. It is fundamental that city authorities are empowered, to enable them to meet their obligations and reach the objectives to realize sustainable urban development. The SDGs recognize the importance of urban development in providing a better quality of life to people across the globe. SDG 11 provides guidance to city authorities to renew cities and human settlements that promote community cohesion, employment, sense of security, well-being for all and better environment management. It has close relevance to the New Urban Agenda and presents an opportunity to complement and integrate efforts to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The participation of city authorities is vital in evaluating the results, the outcomes and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The New Urban Agenda is an ambitious agenda which aims at paving the way towards making cities and human settlements more inclusive and ensuring that everyone can benefit from urbanization. The strategies embodied in the New Urban Agenda comprise national urban policies, rules and regulations, urban planning and design, financing urbanization and of course, their local implementation. These five strategies are the key principles for achieving sustainable development and growth. Now is the time for transformational urbanization to be promoted as a centrepiece of development policy at the international, national and local level. Malaysia recognises that a comprehensive implementation of SDGs will require the mobilisation of resources, including manpower, capacity building, and physical spaces as well as funding. Since Malaysia's national development plan has always been geared towards economic, social and environmental agenda, the implementation of SDGs in Malaysia is aligned with the five-year national development plan, which utilises the government development budget. Thus, allocation of resources and funding are readily made available. However, the SDG Decade of Action got off to one of the roughest starts imaginable. As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, governments scrambled to redirect resources to the immediate health and socioeconomic crises before them. For many countries, the current national priority is to rebuild their battered economies while fending off potential new waves of infection. Localization relates both to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy and to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Urbanisation, Stakeholders, SDG Cities

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015 the United Nations Member States adopted a comprehensive Development Agenda, incorporating universal aspirations that go beyond what were the traditional areas of development. The 2030 Agenda has been shaped by relevant United Nations (UN) agreements and Conventions as well as the experiences and achievements gained through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the global development agenda spanning the period 2000-2015. The 2030 Agenda was the result of two years of intensive public consultation and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders around the world. It transcends the MDGs to include wider economic, social and environmental objectives, and with a greater focus on peace, participation and inclusiveness.

It establishes new sets of goals and targets addressing emerging concerns including elements that are today fundamental part of everyone's lives while focusing on the root causes of poverty and inequality which undermine the achievement of the full human potential in harmony with a healthy environment. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, aiming at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all, for the first time is truly universal and stresses the point that everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector and the civil society; putting the people at the centre. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as our collective blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The new Goals

are unique in that they call for action by all countries (poor, rich and middle-income countries) to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. It challenges to get serious about delivering an integrated and balanced social, economic and environmental agenda. SDGs express a wide recognition of the spatial dimension of development. This is clearly translated in the incorporation of SDG11 "Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Other Goals, SDG1 End Poverty; SDG5 Gender Equality; SDG8 Sustained Economic Growth and Employment; SDG10 Reduced Inequalities; SDG12 Sustainable Consumption and Production; SDG13 Combat Climate Change and its impacts, and SDG15 Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biodiversity, also have important urban dimensions to be considered and addressed to ensure and sustain their achievement.

With the adoption of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Member States have not only taken stock of the scale of the phenomenon of urbanization which now affects more than fifty per cent of the world population, but also the role of cities in the global economy, the climate change agenda, the use and consumption of natural resources, as well



as their contribution to social advancement and innovations. Other international frameworks addressing global concerns, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, are strongly interlinked with the dynamics of urban development. With reference to these milestone commitments, the recognition of the key contribution of sustainable urbanization to achieve development culminated with the historical adoption of the New Urban Agenda in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

The New Urban Agenda is an action oriented 24-pages document that provides the global principles, policies

and standards required to achieve sustainable urban development, to transform the way we construct, manage, operate and live in our cities. It will guide the efforts around urbanization for a wide range of actors including nation states, city and regional leaders, funders of international development, the private sector, the United Nations programmes and civil society for the next 20 years. The New Urban Agenda takes into account the synergies that exists with other global agreements to provide a holistic transformation approach for addressing urbanisation namely

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The global climate agreement reached at COP21 in Paris;
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;



- e. The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries; and
- f. SAMOA and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

The New Urban Agenda, grounded on bold transformative commitments articulated across the three pillars of sustainability, provides a blue-print towards the achievement of sustainable urbanization and a qualitative roadmap for its effective implementation. It reasserts a positive notion of cities, demonstrating that if well planned and managed, urbanization can be a transformative force for inclusive prosperity and well-being, addressing climate change. It also provides implementation tools for resilience building and the while protecting the Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat

III aligns with many of the SDGs, including SDG 11 on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In preambular text, the New Urban Agenda also sets out aims to end poverty and hunger (SDG 1 and 2), reduce inequalities (SDG 10), promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), achieve gender equality (SDG 5), improve human health and wellbeing (SDG 4), foster resilience (SDGs 11 and 13), and protect the environment (SDG 6, 9, 13, 14 and 15).

The Agenda promotes a vision for cities that is grounded in human rights, and recognizes the need to give particular attention to addressing multiple forms of discrimination, including discrimination against people in slum settlements, homeless people, internally displaced

environment and operationalization of the humanitarian- development nexus. The shifts of paradigm provided by the New Urban Agenda, when translated into policies and integrated actions at all levels, is expected to contribute to the realization of the Agenda 2030 including the achievement of SDG11 as well as other goals and targets.

Using the impetus and compass of the New Urban Agenda, the cities of the future can be epicentres of an integrated territorial approach towards sustainability, where urbanization and high concentrations of people provide large efficiency benefits and generate jobs and opportunities for all, while serving as centres of production, services, knowledge and innovation. The New

persons and migrants, regardless of their migration status. The “Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda” comprises the major part of the outcome document. The Plan includes three sections: transformative commitments for sustainable urban development, effective implementation; and follow-up and review. The section on implementation emphasizes the need for establishing strong urban governance structures, planning and managing urban spatial development, and accessing means of implementation.

BUILD BACK BETTER CITIES

The SDGs now offer a ‘ready-made’ roadmap to recovery. They are also the closest thing to a global strategy that 193 governments have agreed. While progress towards achieving the SDGs has



been threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to 're- set' from its effects offer an opportunity to ensure delivery of the SDGs are a global priority. Prioritising key areas of economic and sustainable development will support and enable the achievement of the SDGs, especially if the leave no one behind principle is integrated into these approaches. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on cities highlight the critical role that local governments play as "front-line responders" in crisis response and recovery, and the potential of cities to lead efforts to build back better from the pandemic.

The four thematic pillars and related policy pathways outlined in The Future of Cities in Asian & Pacific Cities report, together with the key recommendations from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)'s recent expert group meetings and analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on cities and prospects for local climate action in light of recoveries, provide a robust framework and some practical insights as cities plan ahead for their recovery. Key elements of the four thematic pillars in the report follow.

Urban and Territorial Planning. COVID-19 has stimulated the need to strengthen urban and territorial planning, including through integration of public health in planning processes. In doing so, local governments in the region must make concerted efforts to address the deeply rooted urban inequalities stemming from unequal access to basic service provisions. This should be achieved through the integration of sustainability

and quality-of-life targets into urban and territorial planning processes at all levels of governance, creating a "spatial vaccine" that encourages physical activity, reduces pollution and facilitates social inclusion whilst respecting physical distancing.

Changing urban dynamics, including potential shifts in work modalities must be considered in urban and territorial planning efforts to effectively consider investments in transport and telecommunications infrastructure and strengthen urban, peri-urban and rural linkages. Recovery efforts need to focus on developing effective city-region strategies to coordinate the provision of affordable housing for all, and to reverse car-dependent urban sprawl through compact urban development with walkable access to services, producing multiple benefits such as efficiencies in infrastructure investments and resource consumption and the potential to reduce urban air pollution. To tackle a lack of tenure security for the urban poor during and after crises, governments must provide guidance to prohibit evictions, subsidize residents, owners and renters who are worst hit financially and to provide alternative shelters for those evicted as short-term measures. In the medium- to long-term, there should be structural public funding allocated to affordable housing and slum upgrading.

Urban Resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a need to better integrate public health priorities into urban resilience efforts. Not only would this strengthen the overall public health system, it would also create an



enabling environmental condition for all to lead healthy lifestyles. Adequate housing, basic water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and integrating nature-based solutions into the built environment should be at the core of cities' resilience and recovery efforts to improve health through providing a more liveable and greener urban environment, and to mitigate against the risk of climatic and health threats.

Breaking down institutional siloes, as well as meaningful community participation are also core elements to be integrated into disaster preparedness and broader urban resilience development. This also entails the vertical integration of public health considerations into urban resilience planning across all levels of governance - which is crucial to the implementation of localized actions against climate change and associated development challenges. When cities do not have authority to fully mobilize all levels of governance, their ability to execute authorized actions and to act proactively to mitigate against climate change would be severely hampered. Aside from a need for governance reform, the pandemic also exposed significant urban data gaps. Efforts should be made to improve the collection of gender and age disaggregated data at the local level to inform decision-making processes for national and local governments, and to identify risk areas that require intensified allocation of resources.

Smart and Inclusive Cities. There is an urgent need to build more digitally connected cities in order to provide equitable opportunities to all, including

access to health services. As much as cities need smart applications facilitated by big data collection and information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, smart city planning that is intrinsically linked to the health and wellbeing of urban residents proves to be even more crucial - as witnessed by COVID-19 experience. The promotion of urban health options within smart city governance structures, and accommodation for peer-to-peer learning networks as a repository for COVID-19 best practices to inform future outbreaks are all examples of smart city planning. This is demonstrated in the case of the Thai municipality of Khon Kaen, where a Smart Health project has been adopted aiming to help citizens prevent and better manage chronic illnesses - ultimately reducing the need for costly hospital visits. The scheme employs smart wristbands and smart home solutions to collect health data of citizens integrated with electronic medical records of citizens and providing necessary health guidance.

Likewise, the development of two-way open data dashboards, facilitated by social enterprises or like-minded tech companies, would allow for the real-time monitoring of health data. For example, throughout the pandemic, many Asia-Pacific cities employed contact tracing applications - mobilizing new data sources to locate COVID-19 hotspots and vulnerable populations. Yet, there are public concerns of the potential invasion of privacy and issues surrounding cybersecurity. Hence, in order to ensure smart technologies are used in a transparent manner and respective to principles of privacy, these technologies



should be paired with transparent data sharing agreements to ensure data collection without compromising cybersecurity.

Urban Finance. With an estimation of up to 15 per cent contraction in local government revenues in Asia-Pacific in 2020 due to COVID-19, and the worst of the impacts to be felt far into 2021, 7 governments must reconsider existing relationship between health and urban finance. To build back better and leave no one behind, it is important for urban finance systems to adopt new spending schemes that are designed to reach into informal settlements and labour markets - where it became increasingly evident during the pandemic that emergency fiscal support and social protection measures in the region fell short to reach these urban populations. Yet, urban informal workers play a vital role in driving local economies of cities by supplying essential services during the pandemic - including the production of food and personal protective equipment, and the operation of public transport.

Furthermore, in order to avoid long-term economic contraction, cities must accelerate investment into a broader set of urban infrastructure sectors - particularly traditional sectors such as affordable housing, water and sanitation, in order to secure improved environmental and public health outcomes. Given the significant increase in multi-dimensional poverty caused by the pandemic, benchmarks for housing affordability are likely to change. Moreover, national governments should include affordable housing in private-

public partnership portfolio reviews - to encourage projects that have not broken ground to revisit feasibility studies under the guidance of finance ministries and national authorities as a future-proofing precaution.

Since the onset of the pandemic, land-linked financing mechanisms have increasingly been recognized for their potential to finance nature-based and biophilic solutions to encourage green economic recovery and to create more liveable and climate resilient cities, whilst enhancing the value of urban land. Another urban economic instrument is to incentivize the use of environmental user fees to combat traffic congestion and air pollution levels. Governments will need to refine national regulations to facilitate for their accelerated deployment, especially in fast growing intermediary cities with rising car ownership

MALAYSIA PERFORMANCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Malaysia's development journey has been truly remarkable since the country's formation in 1963. Despite being a relatively young nation, various actions have been taken across a spectrum of development areas, guided by long- and medium-term plans and policies. Malaysia continued to record significant growth in subsequent decades by addressing wider economic, social and environmental objectives. The New Economic Policy, formulated in 1971, focused on the philosophy of growth with equity, based on a two-pronged strategy of poverty eradication and restructuring of society. The importance of environmental sustainability was



highlighted in the Third Malaysia Plan 1976-1980, and it mainstreamed sustainable development into national development agendas. In 1991, Malaysia launched Vision 2020, the national aspiration of becoming a fully developed country by 2020, in economic, political, social, spiritual, psychological and cultural terms alike. This set the tone for a broader development focus that is grounded on people, growth and equity.

In 2009, Malaysia formulated the New Economic Model (NEM) which further cemented its commitment to pursue sustainable development based on three goals, namely, high income, inclusivity and sustainability. These mirror the three elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda), encompassing economic, social and environmental elements. The NEM provides the basis for Malaysia's development plans until 2020. The current plan, the Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020 (11MP), is thus premised on the three goals of NEM. The 11MP theme is "Anchoring Growth on People," where people are the centrepiece of all development efforts, complemented by ensuring that no section of society is left behind in participating and benefiting from the nation's development. Critically, the 11MP is aligned to most of the global agenda 2030.

Having reduced absolute poverty to less than one per cent, we are now focusing on uplifting the quality of life of the bottom 40 per cent of households (B40). By 2020, we aim to double the average income of B40 households, from US\$700 in 2014 to US\$1,500, thereby raising them

into the middle class. This will be done through outcome-based support and productivity-linked assistance, including entrepreneurship, skills training, technology adoption and asset ownership. We also are improving B40 access to affordable housing, quality health services and basic amenities. Malaysia is committed in carrying out its poverty eradication efforts. However, despite the many policies and programs that we have introduced, poverty remains a growing concern to us. With the recent revision of the National Poverty Line Income (PLI) from RM980 to RM2,208, more than 400,000 households have fallen within this level i.e. 5.6% of Malaysians. The revision of the National PLI now takes into consideration optimum food requirements as well as quality and healthy eating unlike in the past where we used to only consider the concept of 'minimum'.

This is important as a strong nation builds upon a healthy nation. Hence, we must ensure our people have sufficient quality and nutritious food. Since the pandemic, we have seen relentless efforts in urban farming carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Housing and Local Government as well as by the local communities. We hope these good efforts will continue as we focus on 'food to table' to ensure no hunger and malnutrition amongst Malaysians and to help reduce the burden of our poor households, especially those living in urban areas. Recognising the role of women, Malaysia has consistently shown its commitment to achieving gender equality and promoting the rights of women and girls. Among other achievements, the female labour



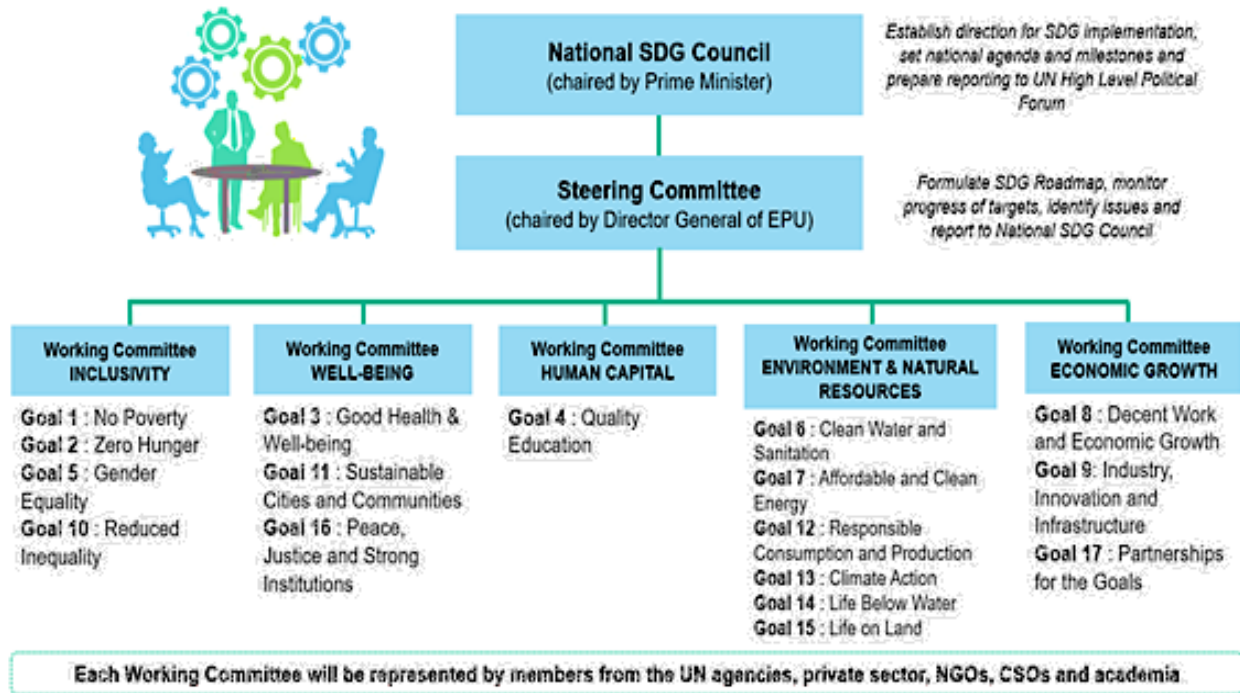
participation rate has increased to 54 per cent.

MALAYSIA INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as our collective blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries (poor, rich and middle-income countries) to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. SDGs recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. It challenges to get serious about delivering an integrated and balanced social, economic and environmental agenda. While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection.

Economic Planning Unit (EPU) is the focal point for Sustainable Development (SD) and act as a coordinating agency on the initiatives related to SD including SDGs. SDGs was one of the outcome of the Rio+20, which was held in Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil in 2012. The SDGs was later being accepted as a global agenda for SD and known as 2030 Agenda in 2015, replacing the MDGs. At the apex of the SDGs governance structure is the National SDG Council, chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia. This Council plans and monitors the SDG implementation. The Council is supported by a National Steering Committee (NSC), chaired by the Director General of the EPU, as illustrated in Figure The National SDG Council reports to the UN via the High-level Political Forum. The NSC consists of five SDG Cluster Working Committees (CWCs), under which are Task Forces for each of the Goals. The five CWCs and their respective SDGs are shown in Figure 14. The CWCs are tasked with identifying indicators for each SDG, as well as with developing and implementing programmes and reporting progress to the NSC. Each CWC is led by a Section Head in EPU and includes representatives of Government Ministries/agencies, civil society, the private sector, academics, United Nations agencies and youth representatives. In this regard, the central agency, EPU, has an overall view and is able to monitor implementation. Critically, the inclusive and participatory approach used in this governance structure is in line with the 11MP, which focuses on a paradigm shift towards more participatory government by citizens, including NGOs/CSOs, as partners in service design and delivery. Greater engagement of NGOs/CSOs thus is envisaged. The SDG governance structure in Malaysia is shown in below diagram.



Source : EPU 2017

Women in decision-making positions in the public sector exceeds 30 per cent, while those in top management positions in public-listed companies comprise 26.3 per cent. Lastly, in our effort to manage our natural resources and conserve the environment while mitigating the effects of climate change, Malaysia is implementing a Green Growth strategy under the 11th Malaysia Plan. Government has made significant progress on all other dimensions of the SDGs as well and have put in place concrete measures to take them forward. improvement of one right facilitates advancement of the others. With its multitude of connections with various organizations and think tanks across the country, the Alliance has its advantages in engaging the grassroots for local development and empowerment. Their efforts in policy advocacy are crucial to bring influence and meaningful impact to policy making in Malaysia.

MALAYSIA LOCALISING SDGs

The Agenda 21 or widely known as Local Agenda 21 (LA21) was established in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or “Earth Summit”. Held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil it contains the blueprint and commitment towards sustainability for the 21st century. The LA21 aimed for the development of global societies and economies by focusing on the conservation and preservation of the environmental and natural resources. This is to tackle the issue of climate change, environmental degradation and global population growth which bring an effect into the development. This collective agenda has encouraged the involvement of everyone emanated from international, national and local levels. Localising is the process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of



implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.

Localisation relates both to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy and to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy. Recently, Former Prime Minister Tun Mahathir officiated the National SDG Summit 2019, held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The summit carried the theme, "Accelerating Progress on the SDGs: Whole of Nation Approach". This indicates a positive sign that the government will contribute ideas and strategies to move the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development forward, and energise partnerships through a whole of nation approach in attaining the SDGs.

However, given that global politics are intertwined with power relations, the SDGs face challenges as a non-legally binding document. Some common challenges are the lack of cooperation and engagement among different stakeholders including the private sector and also a dearth of funding. In another

recent development, Malaysia's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (SPV2030) was formulated in line with the sustainable development spirit of the SDGs. The 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) is also expected to include a focus on sustainability. The first Malaysian All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on SDG has also been formed to lead to clearer actions and recommendations on policies and laws. The establishment of the APPG on SDG is an indication of the first progressive step in bringing the discourse of SDGs not only at the national level that confines only with the policy-makers, but also a reflection on the localization approach by including the members from the Alliance. The formation of the APPG is a move towards the implementation of the SDGs at the local level, where the responsibilities are no longer country-centric but each state must also find the most appropriate means consistent with their needs and resources. Such a step will hopefully contribute to living up to the spirit of "leave no one behind. In the human rights context, all clusters are relevant since human rights are crosscutting issues. Table below shown the 17 SDGs, that require effectiveness of service delivery at local level to be achieved.

SDGs Outcome		
Outcome 1 Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All	Outcome 2 Enhance to Quality Services to Address Disparities	Outcome 3 Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change
<p>SDG1 takes a multi-dimensional view of poverty and therefore requires multiple, coordinated responses. Local governments are in the ideal position to identify people living in poverty on the ground, and to target resources and services to help them escape it. Our responsibilities for local basic services, such as water and sanitation, make us key partners in the achievement of SDG1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere: Cities governance includes delivery of services such as: health, education, infrastructure, information, law and order, justice, energy, water, water and sanitation etc, which services when effectively delivered contribute to fighting poverty in many of its forms,</p>	<p>SDG5 - Local governments can act as a model for gender equality and the empowerment of women through non-discriminatory service provision to citizens and fair employment practices. Local governments are on the frontline of identifying and tackling violence and harmful practices against women. Urban planning (particularly the creation and maintenance of public spaces) and local policing are both essential tools in tackling these issues. Local governments also have a role to play in providing services to women affected by violence. Regional and governments and rural municipalities can identify and tackle barriers to women’s equal access to land control and ownership.</p>	<p>SDG11 - This goal directly calls on mayors and city governments to play our role in the Post-2015 Agenda. The rapid urbanization of many cities in the global south has led to the growth of slums. City governments must develop strategic urban plans to prevent their growth and work with slum-dwellers to improve conditions and provide basic services where slums already exist. Access to affordable housing is also an issue in many of the richest cities in the world; city governments must regulate land and housing markets to guarantee the right to housing to their poorest residents. City governments have responsibility for promoting the use of public transport in urban areas in order to improve road safety and reduce emissions.</p>
<p>SDG2 - Local governments’ management of natural resources in rural areas, particularly land and water, underpins food security for the surrounding territory. Local governments can support agricultural production and local economic growth by strengthening transport infrastructure and markets to promote local food chains. In urban areas, local governments must ensure that people are able to purchase and cook safe, affordable, nutritious food. Urban planning can play a major role in waste reduction and food security by facilitating effective food-related transport and storage, access to clean water and sanitation. They can also promote urban agriculture on both public and private land. Local governments can use healthcare services and schools</p>	<p>SDG8 - Local governments can generate growth and employment from the bottom up through local economic development strategies that harness the unique resources and opportunities in our territories. Local governments can identify children at risk of child labour and work to ensure they attend school. We can also work in partnership with the informal sector to improve their working conditions and social protections, and to encourage formalisation where appropriate. Local governments can act as an example in providing safe and secure working environments, and in guaranteeing equal pay for equal work. We can also include these practices as part of our procurement criteria when working with the private and third sectors.</p>	<p>SDG12- Local governments can support short supply chains, thereby reducing transport and carbon emissions, through land management, infrastructure, urban planning, education and training, and public markets. We have a particular role to play in fostering the sustainable consumption and production of energy and water, which we can do using a wide variety of tools, from urban planning to the use of block unit pricing mechanisms. As consumers of goods and services, local and regional governments can establish procurement criteria that take waste and carbon emissions from potential providers into account.</p>

<p>to identify and tackle child malnutrition.</p>		
<p>SDG3 - The provision of clean water and sanitation is essential to lowering infant, child and maternal mortality. Local governments in urban areas must be particularly vigilant as urban rates of child mortality areas are stagnating in many countries. Local governments can address this by slum improvement programmes and by increasing access to basic services for the urban poor. HIV/AIDs are increasingly being understood as a local governance issue. Urban areas are often the nexus for the spread of HIV/AIDS because of their high population density, transport hubs, and prevalence of vulnerable groups. Local governments can play an important role in identifying local needs, mainstreaming HIV/AIDS activities across departments, and coordinating prevention and response activities.</p>	<p>SDG9 - Local governments are particularly important in developing and maintaining infrastructure to serve urban areas and to link them up with their surrounding territories. Local governments can include the promotion of small-scale industry and start-ups in their local economic development strategies, considering local resources, needs and markets. We can identify gaps in access to ICT and the internet in our communities and take steps to bridge them, particularly through provision in public spaces such as libraries. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation: Cities governance includes, transport infrastructure eg road networks in urban areas, industrial parks, innovation incubation centres etc.</p>	<p>SDG13 - Local and regional governments, especially in cities, are often on the frontline of dealing with the effects of climate change. It is vital that our capacities to deal with climate related hazards and natural disasters are strengthened so that we can protect our communities, particularly the most vulnerable. Local leaders have a history of leading from the bottom up in combatting climate change and of raising awareness at local level. It is essential that local governments, particularly in the most vulnerable cities, integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into urban and regional planning to reduce the emissions of our cities and increase their resilience to environmental shocks. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts:</p>
<p>SDG4 - Education, particularly at primary level, is a direct responsibility of local governments in many countries. This means local governments will be called on to help achieve SDG4. Local governments are well-placed to identify and tackle the barriers to school attendance in our communities. Local governments can integrate technical and vocational training programmes into local economic development strategies, making sure training is valuable to labour market opportunities into account. Local governments are particularly well-placed to reach out to vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities and to ensure they have access to education and training that meet their needs.</p>	<p>SDG10 - Local governments are essential to the reduction of inequality within countries. It will be vital to channel resources to local governments in the most deprived areas, and to build our capacities to identify and tackle poverty and exclusion. Local governments have a particular role to play in political inclusion at local level. We can promote the participation of minority and traditionally underrepresented groups in public consultation processes, and in standing for elected office. Local governments can implement best practices in terms of equality and non-discrimination in our own institutions and operations, as well as making these criteria in our procurement of goods and services.</p>	<p>SDG14 - Almost 80 per cent of the pollution in the oceans comes from land-based activities, both in coastal areas and further inland. Many of the world's largest cities are located on the coast and many coastal cities discharge sewage, industrial effluent and other wastewater directly into their surrounding seas. However, protecting our oceans and coasts is not just the responsibility of coastal cities. Any urban activity within river basins can affect the oceans, such as the discharge of sewage or industrial wastes into rivers. Worldwide, two-thirds of the sewage from urban areas is discharged untreated into lakes, rivers and coastal waters. Urban sanitation and solid waste management are essential to reducing coastal zone pollution, as is collaboration between municipalities and at regional level.</p>
<p>SDG6 -Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation is usually a responsibility of local governments,</p>	<p>SDG16 - This goal calls on local governments to become more effective and accountable to our</p>	<p>SDG15 - Local governments' role as service providers (especially of water, sanitation, and solid waste</p>

<p>and relies on effective local governance, natural resource management, and urban planning. The challenges involved can vary hugely at sub-national level, particularly between urban and rural areas. In urban areas, the main challenge is often a lack of access to basic services in informal settlements, or high prices and a lack of quality control of water from private vendors. In rural areas, water may be free, but it may involve long journeys to and from the source, and may be contaminated. Local governments have a role to play in improving water quality through environmental protection measures and sustainable solid waste management. Integrated water resources management requires horizontal cooperation in planning and environmental policy between municipalities and regions across borders.</p>	<p>citizens. This requires us to tackle corruption and increase the public's access to information. For decades, local governments have led the way in experimenting with new forms of participatory decision-making, such as participatory budgeting and planning. This goal calls on us to expand these efforts and become even more responsive to our communities, making sure no group is excluded. In an increasingly urbanizing world, reducing violence in urban areas will be increasingly important in the quest for global peace and security. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels:</p>	<p>management), coupled with our ability to incentivize behavioural change in our communities, puts us in a unique position to protect natural resources and habitats. We are in a unique position to coordinate the partnerships with the private sector and communities that are necessary at local level for the complex task of integrated water resources management. Local and regional governments should ensure that biodiversity conservation is an integral part of urban planning and development strategy. We should also use our local knowledge to help to implement the 'polluter pays' principle on the ground. Biodiversity conservation often requires cooperation between municipalities across their borders, for example in the creation of trans-boundary, biodiversity and wildlife corridors.</p>
<p>SDG7 - Local governments are often best placed to identify gaps in access to affordable energy among vulnerable groups in our communities. Local governments can contribute to energy efficiency directly by investing in energy efficient buildings and green energy sources in public institutions (government offices, schools, etc.) and by introducing sustainability criteria into our procurement practices. Such initiatives can have the added advantage of reducing public spending on energy. In cities, local transport and urban planning policies, as well as new 'smart city' technologies, can have a significant impact on energy efficiency and carbon emissions. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all: Cities governance includes ensuring lighting cities, heating and cooling, etc.</p>	<p>SDG17 - Local tax and revenue generation must play its part in financing sustainable development. It is at the local level that coherent policies can be developed to address the multiple challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Local governments are in the ideal position to encourage and facilitate partnerships between public bodies, the private sector and civil society in our communities. Local governments have been collaborating internationally for over one hundred years as part of the international municipal movement. We are ready and willing to take a seat at the global table. Reliable local data will be an essential tool to monitor sub-national variations in progress and in targeting resources to make sure that no one is left behind. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>	

Table below shown the SDG goals and related policies and priorities

Outcome 1 : Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All

SDGs	Corresponding Malaysian Policies and Plans	Priorities for Achieving Goal
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 1 and 3 and Game Changer "Uplifting B40 towards a middle-class society" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the income and economic potential of B40 households • Enhancing social protection system
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 1, 2 and 6 • National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia III 2016-2025 (NPANM III) • National Agrofood Policy (NAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching pockets of remote communities that have food and health care needs • Reducing the incidence of obesity, which is a growing issue • Ensuring food security in the face of climate change • Accelerating the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1MP Strategic Thrust 2 • National Strategic Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases 2010-2014 • National Strategic Plan for Tobacco Control 2015-2020 • National Strategic Plan for Communicable Diseases • National Strategic Plan for Ending AIDS in Malaysia (NSPEA) 2016-2030 • National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia III 2016-2025 (NPANM III) • National Reproductive Health Education and Social Education (PEKERTI) Policy and Action Plan • Health Human Resource Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching the pockets of communities that have health needs • Promoting a healthy lifestyle for Malaysians • Addressing health financing • Achieving cost-effective health care system
Goal 4: Ensure Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrust 3 • Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025 (MEB) • Malaysia Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2015-2025 • National Higher Education Strategic Plan • Blueprint on Enculturation of Lifelong Learning for Malaysia 2011-2020 	

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 1, 4 and 5 • National Water Resource Policy (NWRP) 	
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 4 and 5 • National Renewable Energy Policy and Action Plan 2009 • National Green Technology Policy 2009 • National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2015 	

Outcome 2 : Enhance to Quality Services to Address Disparities

SDGs	Corresponding Malaysian Policies and Plans	Priorities for Achieving Goal
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 1 and 3 and Game Changer "Uplifting B40 towards a middle-class society" • National Policy on Women 1989 • Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women 2010-2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring gender empowerment • Reducing all forms of gender discrimination • Reducing gender-based violence
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 3, 4 and 6 and Game Changers "Embarking on green growth" and "Unlocking the potential of productivity" • Occupational Safety and Health Master Plan 2016-2020 • SME Master Plan 2012-2020 • Malaysia Productivity Blueprint 	
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Game Changers "Translating innovation to wealth" and "Embarking on green growth" • National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (NPSTI) 2013-2020 • Strategic Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Roadmap • National eCommerce Strategic Roadmap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding elements of sustainability in the development of infrastructure and industry in pursuit of green growth • Gearing up for the "Industrial Revolution 4.0" and cutting-edge technologies • Strengthening human capital development for economic transformation • Promoting sustainable consumption and production
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrust 1 • National Policy on Children and its Plan of Action • National Child Protection Policy and its Plan of Action • National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020 • Minimum Wage Policy 	
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 1 and 2 and Chapter 9 on "Transforming public service for productivity" 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy on Children and its Plan of Action • National Child Protection Policy and its Plan of Action • ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children • Plan of Action on Child Online Protection (PTCOP) 	
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrust 6 • Malaysia's foreign policies and trade policies • AEC Blueprint 2025 • ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving inclusive development at regional and international levels through partnerships • Pursuing closer trade networks • Continuing to promote and maintain global peace and security

Outcome 3 : Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change

SDGs	Corresponding Malaysian Policies and Plans	Priorities for Achieving Goal
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 1, 2, 4 and 5 and Game Changer "Investing in competitive cities" • National Physical Plan 3 (NPP3) • National Urbanization Policy 2 (NUP2) • Competitive Cities Master Plans • National Environmental Health Action Plan • National Housing Policy (DRN) 2013-2017 and DNR 2.0 2018-2022 • Road Safety Plan of Malaysia 2014-2020 • National Solid Waste Management Policy 	
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production pattern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 4 and 6 and Game Changer "Embarking on green growth" • National Ecotourism Plan 2016-2025 • National Policy for Biological Diversity 2016-2025 • National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) • National Solid Waste Management Policy 2006 • Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation Strategic Plan 2014-2020 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of National Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan 2016-2020 • Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) 2016-2020 	
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrusts 2, 4 and 5 • National Policy on Climate Change 2009 • National Urbanization Policy 2006-2020 • National Physical Plan 3 • National Green Technology Policy 2009 	
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrust 4 and Game Changer "Embarking on green growth" • National Plan of Action for the Coral Triangle Initiative (NPOA-CTI) 2009 • National Policy for Biological Diversity 2016-2025 • National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) • National Coastal Zone Physical Plan • National Ocean Policy 2011-2020 • National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing • National Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity in Malaysia 2014-2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving holistic marine and coastal management at both federal and state levels • Strengthening monitoring, surveillance and enforcement capacities • Enhancing knowledge on marine resources • Minimizing impact of climate change on the marine and coastal ecosystem
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of territorial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11MP Strategic Thrust 4 and Game Changer "Embarking on green growth" • National Policy for Biological Diversity 2016-2025 • National Tiger Conservation Action Plans 2008-2020 • Elephant Conservation Action Plans 2013-2022 • National Forestry Policy 1992 • National Action Plan on Peatlands 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening institutional and regulatory framework for forest management • Increasing capacity of related agencies • Strengthening monitoring, surveillance and enforcement capacities • Intensifying reforestation efforts nationwide • Strengthening partnerships with indigenous and local communities

Source: Adapted from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15881Malaysia.pdf>

MALAYSIA URBANISATION AND SDGs

Malaysia, a regional powerhouse that achieved incredible economic prosperity and a relatively high level of wellbeing

among its population in the last few decades, has a huge responsibility in paving the way for the entire South East Asia to achieve a more prosperous, equal



and sustainable future. For the Sustainable Development Goals to work, cities as key development actors need to apply integrated approaches. Different actors and levels of government must be provided with opportunities to collaborate in order to ensure inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable urban development. Furthermore, coordinated territorial planning and cross-sectoral cooperation are significant for an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The world is getting more urbanized every day.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it is crucial that cities are strengthened in their role as key development actors. The urban goal, SDG11, underlines the need to “Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Given the strong interlinkages between the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, it is clear that an integrated approach is needed to put the urban goal into practice and to effectively implement the SDGs at local level. This holds particularly true in the face of core urban challenges: lack of basic urban services, socio-economic disparities and environmental degradation. These challenges do not follow spatial or administrative boundaries, nor can they be addressed by single sectors or actors alone. For instance, since cities account for 80% of global GHG emissions, implementing SDG13 “to combat climate change and its impacts” at local level does not only and inevitably require assessing its interlinkages with the urban goal.

It also calls for acknowledging how SDG13 relates to the goals on clean energy (SDG7), resilient infrastructure and innovation (SDG9), and sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12) and for putting these interlinkages into practice. Developing and strengthening capacity on all levels and among all urban stakeholders is a prerequisite for integrated urban development. To be effective, it must combine individual, institutional and policy dimensions. Hence, individual capacity development has to accompany and reinforce policy reforms that are directed at integrated urban development, inclusive and participatory approaches to urban development as well as appropriate legislative frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.

Suitable capacity building measures may include trainings that strengthen interdisciplinary skills in order to enable people to transfer knowledge on available instruments and good practices. New training concepts have to be developed to overcome professional segregation by disciplines and for bringing together different actors. Furthermore, cooperation between local governments, civil society, the academia and the private sector needs to be strengthened. Only then can effective capacity development programs be delivered that focus on peer-to-peer learning, subject-matter related partnerships as well as the communication and dissemination of relevant results and lessons learnt. Especially the exchange between cities, for example through inter-municipal cooperation, has proven to be a powerful



tool in building capacities and spreading knowledge and experiences. Hence, international development cooperation should not only provide capacity building for cities and local governments, but also facilitate new alliances between actors at different levels and stakeholder groups for implementing integrated solutions.

MALAYSIA SUSTAINABLE URBAN NATION

With growing urbanisation the sustainability of cities has become increasingly important. Although cities have been using indicators for a long time it is only in the last decades that attempts have been made to collate indicators into sets that reflect the many different aspects required to assess the sustainability of a city. The review reveals that previous indicator sets emphasised environmental sustainability, health and economic growth. It is also shown that indicator sets that pre-date the SDGs lacked dimensions such as gender equality and reduced inequalities. In all, the SDG indicators provide the possibility of a more balanced and integrated approach to urban sustainability monitoring. At the same time, further research is needed to understand how to adapt the SDGs, targets and indicators to specific urban contexts. Challenges of local application include their large number, their generic characteristics and the need to complement them with specific indicators that are more relevant at the city level.

The UN SDGs have been introduced to augment global sustainable development. Although the goals were not intended as a framework to assess sustainable development, they are

increasingly being used for this function, especially at the local level. The SDGs themselves cover sustainability aspects that have not been covered previously, namely aspects of gender equality and reduced inequalities, thereby balancing aspects that have been overly covered in previous indicator sets, such as environmental aspects, aspects of health and aspects of economic growth. Overall, the SDGs may make policy integration across sectors easier. The high number of SDG indicators can facilitate a stronger cooperation across sectors where universities, NGOs and the private and the public sector need to contribute with data to be able to monitor development and thus report in line with the SDG requirements.

However, in order to capture the complexity of urban systems, monitoring also needs to include qualitative aspects of development. A number of the SDGs and targets are formulated qualitatively rather than quantitatively. However, it is unclear how far the SDGs and other indicator set cover the qualitative sides of sustainable development. In the process of localising the SDGs, it becomes increasingly important to monitor city-specific conditions, thereby increasing the need to identify relevant qualitative indicators that enable the monitoring of soft aspects of sustainable development. Cities will be key to achieve the global SDGs. The SDGs come into effect in a world that is increasingly urban, with a little over half the global population. Urbanisation has thrown up some of the world's greatest development challenges, but it also has



tremendous opportunities for advancing sustainable development.

SDG11 recognizes the central role of urbanisation in sustainable development, and calls for ‘making cities and human settlements inclusive, Urbanisation has thrown up some of the world’s greatest development challenges, however it also has tremendous opportunities for advancing sustainable development. “Localising” is the process of considering subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress. Localisation relates both to how SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy and to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy.

Malaysia Sustainable Urbanisation Framework define relationship between SDGs and New Urban Agenda to address more specifically the means and approaches on how cities need to be planned, designed, managed, governed and financed to achieve sustainable development goals. The framework has two trust focusing on the three transformative commitments: Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty; Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All; and Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development. In order to achieve its commitment for Cities for All there are two main enablers need to implement

such development enablers which include National Urban Policies and Urban Economy and Municipal Finance. Operational enablers play significant role in this commitment which involve urban design and urban planning, rules, regulations and urban legislation and local implementation. The framework also reaffirmed the power of cities in achieving and contributing to the success of the Agenda 2030 and NUA targets. It is worth noting that the framework does not have a stand-alone framework for monitoring the targets, but serves as a framework for the means of implementation for global agendas in cities. Diagram 1 shown the roadmap of SDG and New Urban Agenda implementation in Malaysia.

To date, 77 per cent of the Malaysian population reside in the urban areas and this is expected to increase to 80 percent or 26 million people by 2030. With such large population in the cities, we will be even more challenged to provide for the needs of our urban societies - manage the waste generated, overcome increasing traffic problems and air pollution, provide affordable homes, provide quality infrastructure and telecommunication. We are also challenged by the change in demographic profile where Malaysia will become an ageing society by 2045 and where 14 percent of our population will be 65 years and above. This will bring about new challenges in health services needs and physical environment. Hence, our cities and urban environment must be aged and gender-friendly as we prepare ourselves for this change in social profile. It is time we address ageing society in our national development plans and relook at our planning and physical development



in order to meet the needs of the elderly community. SDG11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities requires its adopters to ensure safe, accessible and inclusive city spaces. We must not compromise these spaces. We need them even more today where the role of urban public spaces in our health, well-being and social life has become more significant. The needs of

the disabled to live independently and have equal opportunity is equally important. Thus, our cities must be people-friendly and barrier-free and if our cities are to be truly sustainable, they must be truly equitable. Diagram below shown the integration SDGs and New Urban Agenda.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 SDGs and 169 Targets

Qualitative measure to achieve sustainable development

3 Key Outcomes

Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All	Enhance to Quality Services to Address Disparities	Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate climate change

NEW URBAN AGENDA

Trusts

Transformative Implementation			Effective Implementation	
<p>Urban Prosperity</p> <p>Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with full and productive employment and decent work for all, is a key element of sustainable urban development where can people live healthy, productive, prosperous, and fulfilling lives</p>	<p>Social Inclusion</p> <p>Development must protect the planet and enable all inhabitants, whether living in formal or informal settlements, to lead decent, dignified, and rewarding lives, and to achieve their full human potential</p>	<p>Environmentally Sustainable</p> <p>Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, loss of biodiversity, pressure on ecosystems, pollution, natural and man-made disasters, and climate change and its related risks, undermine efforts to end poverty and to achieve sustainable development</p>	<p>Governance Structure</p> <p>The NUA is anchored in participatory urban policies that mainstream sustainable urban and territorial development as part of integrated development strategies and plans, supported by institutional and regulatory frameworks linked to transparent and accountable finance mechanisms</p>	<p>Spatial Development</p> <p>Balanced territorial development that accounts for different scales of cities and human settlements, strengthens their role in food security and nutrition systems, puts housing at the centre, builds infrastructure and services, facilitates trade, and connects farmers and fishers across value chains and markets</p>

Tools and Enablers

To achieve its commitment for Cities for All

Development Enablers		Operational Enablers		
<p>National Urban Policies</p> <p>Inclusive formulation and implementation of National Urban Policies help to frame and guide the development of integrated national systems of cities and human settlements, towards the achievement of national visions and priorities for a balanced territorial development.</p>	<p>Urban Economy and Municipal Finance</p> <p>Major efforts should be made to create sustainable and inclusive urban economies by leveraging the agglomeration benefits of well-planned urbanization, including high productivity, competitiveness and innovation, by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all. Value generated by the urban economy needs to be equally shared through innovative, integrated financial mechanisms to ensure a sustainable flow of finance necessary for cities to meet the needs of, and provide opportunities for all.</p>	<p>Urban Planning and Urban Design</p> <p>Long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design is required to optimize the spatial dimension of the urban form and to deliver the positive outcomes of urbanization. This should be context-based, though grounded on key principles of connectivity and proximity, appropriate density incorporating a mix of uses, inclusivity and resilience, promoting high quality urban spaces that attain economies of agglomerations and provide equal opportunities for all.</p>	<p>Urban Legislation, Rules and Regulations</p> <p>Urbanization, as a complex social and collective project, must be governed by the principle of the rule of law and supported by legal and regulatory frameworks that are adequate to implement urban plans, policies and strategies, including regulating land use and development. Urbanization should be governed through a democratic, long-term and integrated, multilevel, proficient governance system that takes full advantage of the digital age.</p>	<p>Local Implementation</p> <p>Through engaging local communities and considering local knowledge as an important asset, local implementation brings together local stakeholders to approach targeted, place-based, project-oriented urban development in a way that is sustainable, people-centered, responsive and integrated. It will allow urban extensions for new areas to be developed and existing areas to be retrofitted or regenerated in accordance with the principles of the New Urban Agenda.</p>

Source : Urbanice Malaysia, 2020



Diagram show the matrix of the implementation of SDGs and New Urban Agenda

NEW URBAN AGENDA TRUSTS		URBAN PROSPERITY				SOCIAL INCLUSION				ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY				GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE				SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT				
		DEVELOPMENT ENABLER		OPERATIONAL ENABLER		DEVELOPMENT ENABLER		OPERATIONAL ENABLER		DEVELOPMENT ENABLER		OPERATIONAL ENABLER		DEVELOPMENT ENABLER		OPERATIONAL ENABLER		DEVELOPMENT ENABLER		OPERATIONAL ENABLER		
NUA TOOLS / SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		NATIONAL URBAN POLICY	URBAN ECONOMY & MUNICIPAL FINANCE	URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN	URBAN LEGISLATION & REGULATION	LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION	NATIONAL URBAN POLICY	URBAN ECONOMY & MUNICIPAL FINANCE	URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN	URBAN LEGISLATION & REGULATION	LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION	NATIONAL URBAN POLICY	URBAN ECONOMY & MUNICIPAL FINANCE	URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN	URBAN LEGISLATION & REGULATION	LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION	NATIONAL URBAN POLICY	URBAN ECONOMY & MUNICIPAL FINANCE	URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN	URBAN LEGISLATION & REGULATION	LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION	
Enhance Inclusive Growth and Development for All	1 END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE																					
	2 END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE																					
	3 ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES																					
	4 ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL																					
	6 ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL																					
	7 ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL																					
	5 ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS																					
Enhance to Quality Services to Address Disparities	8 PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL																					
	9 BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION																					
	10 REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES																					
	16 PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS																					
	17 STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT																					
Promotes Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change	11 MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE																					
	12 ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS																					
	13 TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS																					
	14 CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT																					
	15 PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS																					



MALAYSIA SDG CITIES

With just 10 years to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we should not only address the challenges and aspirations mentioned, but we need to report and show our action plans, progress and efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs in view of the vision for Malaysia to be a Sustainable Urban Nation. All these, undoubtedly, require concerted efforts by Ministries and agencies at the National, State and Local levels to work together to align our policies and strategies to ensure that our future growth will take place in a more responsible, integrated and sustainable manner. We must strengthen our bottom-up feedback system to ensure integration and co-operation on policy matters and better co-ordination of action plans to reduce mismatch between real needs and plans.

The formulation of Malaysia SDG Cities as the key outcome of KL Declaration 2018 at the World Urban Forum 9, which Malaysia hosted in 2018, is an action plan roadmap framework for cities. This is timely and important as Malaysian cities need to address local challenges and set their own pathways and targets guided by the SDGs and aligned to our national policies on sustainability. The Malaysia SDG Cities is developed by Urbanice Malaysia, a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia. Urbanice Malaysia advocate the agenda for a sustainable urban nation for Malaysia and its aim is encourage all Malaysian cities to prepare its own sustainable development roadmap and action plans to meet their local needs and challenges. Urbanice

Malaysia also promotes the development of integrated urban solutions to create liveable cities by focussing on;

- a. Providing various platform for knowledge sharing and pooling of resources from all partners on sustainable solutions;
- b. Providing advisory services on related urban planning, urban development and urban management agenda to the various stakeholders; and
- c. Collaborations and partnerships to implement projects and programs by bringing diverse expertise and resources together to address current and future urban challenges in Malaysia.

To accelerate the Malaysia SDG Cities, Urbanice Malaysia has drawn up a 3 + 1 step process as a guiding framework to support cities and regions to deliver the 2030 Agenda. The process is to encourage cities to establish its roadmap and action plans that covers a range of strategies, programs and initiatives that is aligned to the SDGs goals and targets. Malaysian cities are also encouraged to prepare its Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to record and share its commitments, strategies and roadmap. This VLR can be tabled and shared at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainability. Local Leaders" play an increasingly important role here as they are connected directly to the communities and are involved in the planning, development and management of cities. It is therefore crucial for local leaders, be it their community representatives or local governments or the local authorities, to operate in a more engaging manner as this will lead towards a more effective and efficient



management system. Strong partnerships between all levels is vital, including with the communities, NGOs, professionals, business and the private sector as well as the government machinery. The private sector plays an important role where they can help in strengthening the local economic growth and providing employment. Hence, partnership to implement sustainable agenda and transform the business environment is vital to overcome poverty and financing of sustainable development.

In contrast, the concept of sustainability is rarely heard beyond urban areas, and the perception persists that the SDGs are a lofty set of objectives for the authorities to deal with. To make sustainable development efforts appear relevant to the public, outreach programmes should be conducted in languages that are accessible to local communities. Not only will this increase the chances of the message being picked up, but it also sends positive signals to the public that their participation in sustainability efforts is valued. Outreach efforts also involve understanding the views and concerns of local communities. These communities should be engaged in the process of

developing localised sustainability-related programmes, as well as the monitoring and subsequent evaluation of programme effectiveness.

Following the earlier lesson of decentralised collaborations, each stakeholder has a different role to play in community outreach efforts. Academia and think tanks are best positioned to engage potential stakeholders and provide technical training for community leaders. Civil society organisations and religious institutions should capitalise on their strong relationship with local communities. Financial assistance for relevant programmes can be in turn sourced from local governments and the private sector. There are crucial lessons in long-term sustainability to be learnt even as we rebuild from this unprecedented crisis. A holistic whole-of-society approach is the best strategy for making tangible progress towards important national agendas. More than ever, we need to draw on the same collaborative and innovative spirit displayed during the crisis to reach our national goals of sustainable development. Table below shown the process 3+1 Malaysia SDG Cities.

Table below shown the process 3+1 Malaysia SDG Cities.

STEP 1 City Profiling and Diagnostic	STEP 2 City Visioning	STEP 3 City SDG Local Actions and Roadmap	STEP 4 City Voluntary Local Review
1. City Baselines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Database • Stakeholder Mapping • Key Challenges and Opportunities 	1. Key Stakeholders Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand issues faced and priority areas of concerns. • Collective review of current city's policies and strategies 	1. SDG Local Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop action plans according to city's vision, goals and priorities that match to the SDGs. 	1. Commitment for VLR Identify Local Commitments to SDGs that is shared for VLR.
2. City Planning and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Blueprints • Existing Policies, Strategies, Programs and Initiatives • Status and Phase of Implementation 	2. Setting Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective View on priority SDGs for implementation and best approaches to accelerate progress and initiatives. 	2. Integrate and Synchronize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vertical integration or synchronization between local with state and national development agendas. 	2. Mapping local needs to global goals An opportunity to share city's programs, initiatives and achievements with global cities.
3. Mapping and Alignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and align city planning and development with SDGs and NUA and recognized efforts that are already in placed with 2030 agenda. 	3. Revisit City Vision, Setting Goals and Key Targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit current visions and align to the SDGs. • Set a Shared Vision approach. • Set achievable goals and targets for the city 	3. Roadmap and Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop timeline and implementation model for the local actions • Identify partners for implementation • Identify key outcomes for City Programs and Projects 	3. Setting up formal/informal mechanism for continued integration of SDGs Highlights specific local challenges and how the actions overcomes them
4. Gap Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Gaps between Plan, issues and programs. 		4. Monitoring and Accreditation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a reporting system for monitoring • Local accreditation for SDG localisation 	

Source : Urbanice Malaysia, 2020



THE IMPLICATION OF COVID-19 TO SDGs PERFORMANCE IN THE CITIES

The COVID-19 crisis is likely to have a profound and negative effect on sustainable development efforts. A prolonged global economic slowdown will adversely impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Diagram below illustrates some of the expected first and second order effects of the pandemic on SDGs implementation.

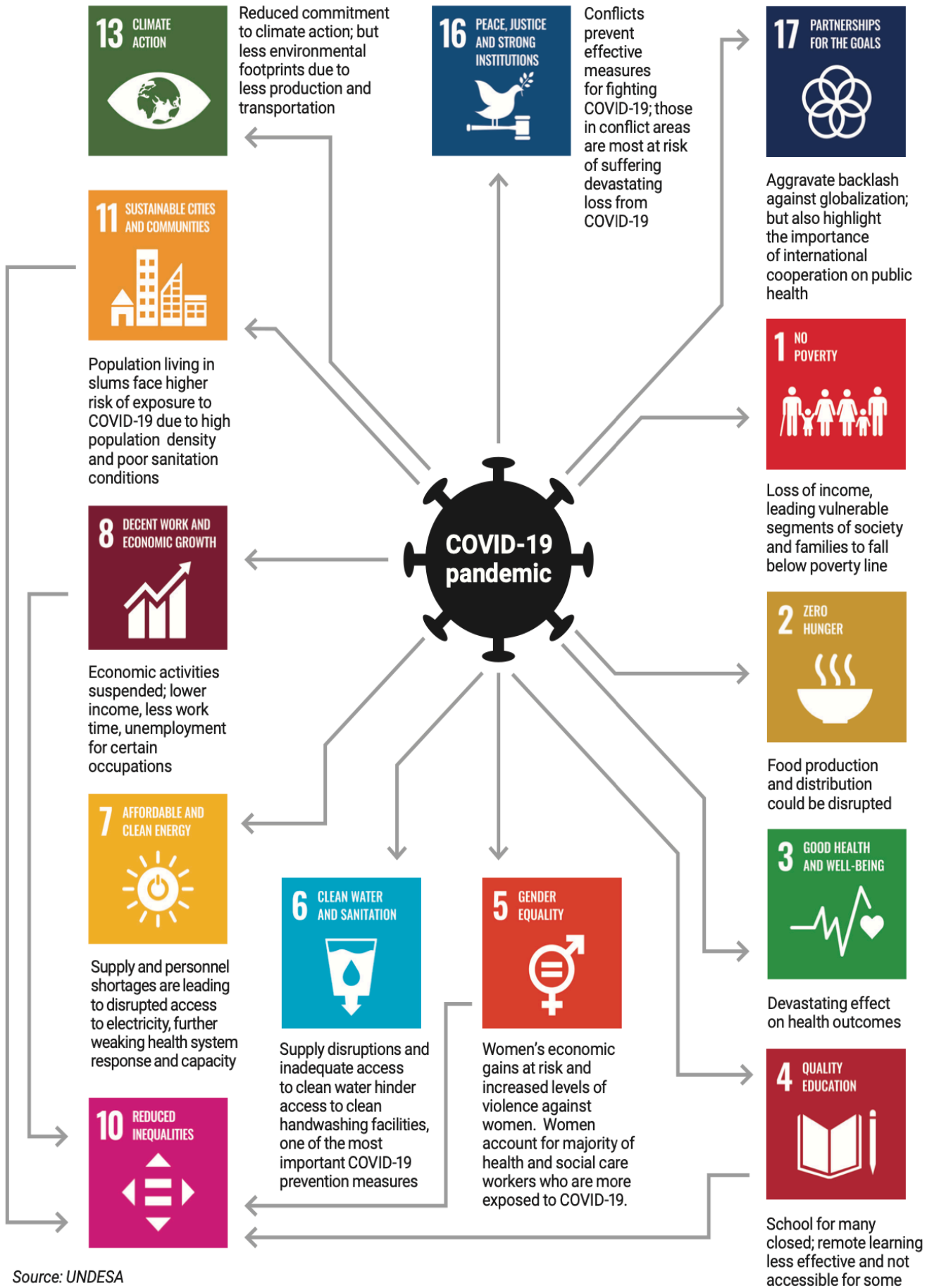
The most vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly, and informal workers, will be hit the hardest. The impact on the environment, on the other hand, is likely to be positive on the short term, as the drastic reduction in economic activity brought about by the crisis has reduced CO2 emissions and pollution in many areas. Such improvements are destined to be short-lived, unless countries deliver on their commitment to sustainable development once the crisis is over and the global economy restarts.

However, because of the size, scope and pace of the pandemic, and the sizable capital outflows from developing countries, there is currently a significant risk that most political capital and limited financial resources be absorbed by the response and diverted away from the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions to achieve climate targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is vital that in the response to the crisis, countries keep the sustainable development goals and climate commitments in focus to hold on to past gains, and in the recovery, to make

investments that propel us toward a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.

The COVID-19 crisis is threatening social cohesion within countries, as its impact reaches deep into our society, on the behaviour of individuals, and affects our well-being and mental health. Crucially, there is a risk for stigmatization of some groups wrongly considered “responsible” for the diffusion of the virus, and episodes of violence have been reported. Depending on the perceived effectiveness of the authorities’ response to the crisis, trust in the institution of government and the political leadership may be eroded.

The use of emergency powers and tools of surveillance technology to track the spread of COVID-19 must be non-intrusive, limited in time and purpose and abide to strictest protections and international human rights standards. While the risk of social disorders and riots is low, as economic and social conditions deteriorate, these are not to be ruled out, particularly in situations where social relationships are already strained by persisting income inequalities. Close attention should be paid to the impact of COVID-19 in fragile political transitions and in countries already facing a rapid deterioration of security conditions, on top of weak health systems and climate change. This is particularly severe in Africa. The course of the disease is already impacting electoral calendars, including in settings where the UN is providing electoral assistance, with challenges in technical preparations, campaigning and/or polling. D



Source: UNDESA



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SDGs

While in these years since 2015, the world has seen some good progress in terms of success in the achievement of SDGs, this pandemic will clearly have an adverse impact on the momentum of achievement. The possible impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs could be three-fold: **First**, it will erase some of the commendable achievements made so far regarding some goals which have been directly affected; **Second**, it will slow down the progress of some other goals in the coming months due to resetting of priorities; and **Third**, resources might be reallocated to the immediate priority sectors. All these might cause delays in the achievement of SDGs; some analysts are even foreseeing a re-evaluation of the timeline for achieving SDGs. COVID-19 has shown how a common global challenge can have differential impacts on different countries/regions based on their socio-economic realities.

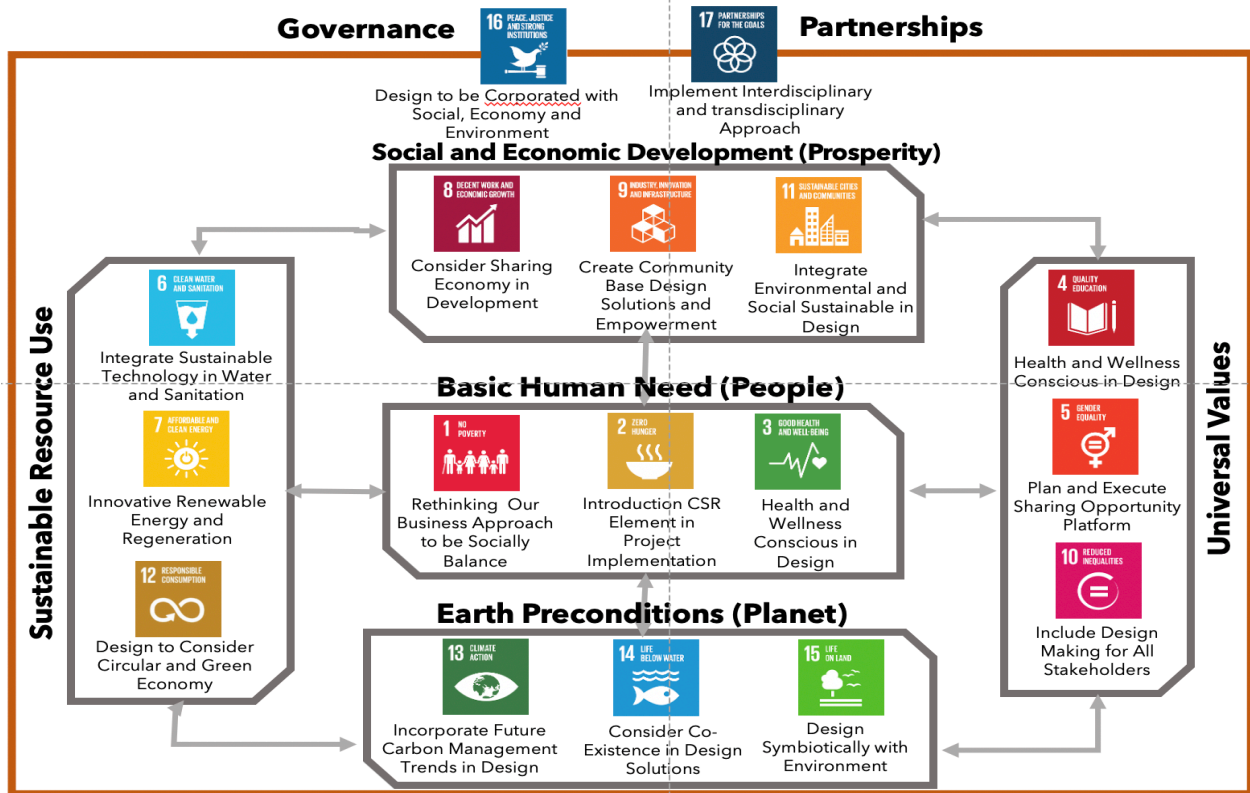
So, what are our major lessons from this pandemic and how do we proceed from here vis-a-vis sustainable development?

First and foremost, the world must take lessons from this crisis and envisage building more resilient and stronger societies to absorb such external shocks in future so that there is no further hindrance to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs). **Second**: A thorough assessment of, and research on, how far the pandemic is going to affect the achievement of SDGs in the short, medium, and long run and formulation of a clear roadmap for recovery are needed.

Third: 'Shared responsibility', 'global solidarity' and 'acting together' should be the basic principles for responding to the

socio-economic challenges posed by COVID-19, and the world must learn from this human crisis to 'build back better', rightly identified by the UN in its recent report on COVID-19 impact.

Fourth: Redefining the roles of different stakeholders within the 'New Normal': the responsibilities have to be extended from the governments to the international community, multilateral organizations, private sector, civil society and even individuals, if we want to put up an effective and meaningful fight against the pandemic and its effect on sustainable development goals. **Fifth**: COVID-19 has shown how small-scale humanitarian and philanthropic approaches at the micro-level can have a huge impact in fighting the challenges in difficult times, particularly in terms of resource mobilization. We need to translate the same spirit in our approach towards achieving the SDGs in the post-COVID period. **Sixth**: In keeping with the core principle of the SDGs, the world must continue taking special care of the most marginal and vulnerable segment of the society to ensure 'no one is left behind'. SDG17 is to reformulate our strategy in participation with all the stakeholders, e.g., governments, the international community, multilateral organizations, private sector, civil society, individuals, and philanthropic minds to deliver the 2030 promise. While we focus on strengthening the health sector and reviving our economies in the pandemic days, we must not take our eyes away from our commitment to the achievement of SDGs. Diagram below shown the way forward of the SDGs implementation for cities during Post COVID-19.



CONCLUSION

Cities need the right values and strategies to thrive in the new normal of uncertainty and constant change in urban dynamics. Faced with recurrent budget cuts and a relentless focus on value for money, city authorities must seek and adopt a new set of core competencies required to address society's needs. For the cities of tomorrow, collaboration as well as co-creation and co-design capabilities are the new "must-have" competences, while city leaders need such characteristics and skills as agility, innovation, connectedness and transparency. Urbanization dynamics have evolved over time and call for a transition from a business-as-usual approach to one that is highly collaborative, enabling the private sector and civil society to participate and build sustainable urban transformation agendas. As highlighted in this report, city authorities must take into consideration value created by all the stakeholders

along the urban value chain. They must develop progressive agendas and establish the recommended enabling environment for effective public- private cooperation in order to meet the global priorities and targets set out in the Habitat III New Urban Agenda, SDGs, COP 21, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 2015.

The recommended actions in this report appear simple to adopt but are challenging to implement. Cities, the private sector and civil society must work together and proactively play their part to make it happen. The agenda for action for these stakeholders is provided in subsequent table. Every nation is different, with varying needs and requirements, scenarios, political structures, government capabilities and readiness. Not all the identified actions can be addressed simultaneously or



applied equally, so priorities will depend on a city's unique context and values. Complementing the prioritization, cities must initiate pilots for proof of feasibility to validate the proposed urban frameworks and to gain more experience to better shape outcomes and enable proper scaling. Prioritizing the recommendations that are most relevant and feasible, governments can do much to attract private-sector investment and build confidence and trust, setting the foundations for long-term, successful public-private cooperation for sustainable urban development.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships and other cooperative arrangements are

considered important to support the implementation of global agendas. For example, the New Urban Agenda recognises international cooperation and partnerships among governments at all levels, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors (Res. 71/256, para. 126). SDGs target 17.16 in particular calls for multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs. Partnerships are also crucial for sustainable urban development, and in this context, should involve both local and regional governments, local actors, and global urban actors.

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