II. The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

"Cities are increasingly the home of humanity. They are central to climate action, global prosperity, peace and human rights. More than half of all people live in cities and human settlements, and that proportion is projected to grow to two thirds by 2050. To transform our world, we must transform its cities."[163]

Introduction

Urbanization is defined as an "increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas."[164] This phenomenon has become a rapidly growing force over the course of the past century, as an increasing number of people have begun to move to towns and cities.[165] Over the past 25 years, the global urban population has grown from just over 2.5 billion people in 1990 to just under 4 billion in 2015, which represents an increase from 43% to 54% of the global population.[166] During the 1990s, urban populations grew at a rate of 57 million people per year and from 2010 to 2015 that growth increased to 77 million people per year.[167] By 2030, 60% of the global population is anticipated to reside in cities.[168] While there are many advantages to urbanization, such as more efficient use of resources, there are also numerous challenges and threats associated with rapid urbanization and poor urban planning.[169] A major challenge is the growth of slums, which frequently form due to rapid urbanization and a lack of affordable housing and are more vulnerable to natural disasters and crime.[170] Another challenge is the high rate of discrimination and segregation that is commonly observed in quickly growing cities, leaving the urban poor out of the decision-making process despite their high stakes in urban planning and policymaking.[171] Moreover, access to education and healthcare becomes a challenge in poorly planned urban areas.[172] Middle and low-income countries have experienced the highest rate of urbanization since 1995, with continents like Africa and Asia experiencing 90% of urban growth.[173] As the rate of urbanization has increased, the international community has increasingly sought to achieve sustainable urban development, which "strives to meet the essential needs of all, without overstepping the limitations of the natural environment."[174]

The increasing role played by urbanization in sustainable development has been recognized by numerous recent documents, most recently with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016).[175] While numerous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relate to urbanization, goal 11 addresses this topic directly, as it aims to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and

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[163] UN Secretary-General, *Secretary-General's message on World Cities Day*, 2016.
[164] OECD, *Glossary of Statistical Terms: Urbanization*, 2003.
[165] Ibid., Population Reference Bureau, *Human Population: Urbanization*, 2016; UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 6.
[166] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 6.
[167] Ibid.
[168] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 1.
[169] Davenport, *More voices mean smarter cities*, 2015.
[170] UN ECOSOC, *Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2014/67)*, 2014, p. 11; UN-Habitat & UNDP, *Asia-Pacific Issue Brief Series on Urbanization and Climate Change No. 1: Urbanization and Climate Change*, 2014, p. 7; UN ECOSOC, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)*, 2017, p. 13.
[171] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 2; Davenport, *More voices mean smarter cities*, 2015.
[172] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, pp. 6-7; UN-Habitat, *Housing & slum upgrading*.
[173] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 7; UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 1.
[174] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, p. 38.
[175] UN Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21*, 1992; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 9, 21-22; UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017.

sustainable."[176] While SDG 11 and its targets are a crucial aspect of achieving sustainable development, the reaches of the role of urbanization in sustainable development are far greater.[177]

International and Regional Framework

In 1976, the first United Nations (UN) Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), convened in Vancouver, Canada, and adopted the first declaration pertaining to human settlements, known as the *Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements*.[178] This declaration recognized opportunities, threats, and solutions to the growth of human settlements, and created the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to address emerging issues related to urbanization.[179] Since Habitat I, the global community has reconvened in Turkey for Habitat II (1996) and in Ecuador for Habitat III (2016).[180] During Habitat III, Member States, international organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and advocacy groups adopted the *Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All* (New Urban Agenda), building on the outcome document of Habitat II known as *The Habitat Agenda: Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements* (1996).[181] The New Urban Agenda recognizes housing, basic services and infrastructure, access to healthcare and education, employment, food security, and safety as some of the most pressing issues facing cities in the 21st century.[182] Unlike the previous agendas, the New Urban Agenda approaches the question of human settlements and urbanization in the context of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 11.[183]

In addition to the actions taken by UN-Habitat, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development adopted the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) in July 2015, outlining a global financing framework to further reduce inequality, including that between urban and rural populations, which is often referred to as the rural-urban divide.[184] The AAAA aligns with the SDGs in its aims to end hunger and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, but specifically seeks to secure the financial support necessary for their achievement by mobilizing national and international funds.[185] Furthermore, it suggests cooperation between private and public sector, such as building rural infrastructure through public-private partnerships creating accountable blended finance instruments that mix public and private funds.[186]

Like the AAAA, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, the outcome document of the Third UN World Conference in March 2015, also highlights the vulnerabilities caused by the rural-urban divide and emphasizes that unplanned and rapid urbanization can cause or compound disasters.[187] The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which coordinates UN disaster reduction activities across the UN system, is tasked with the document's implementation and review.[188] The *Sendai Framework* promotes annual regional meetings and encourages governments to share concerns and risk reduction approaches with their regional neighbors.[189] Examples of this regional cooperation are the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 in New Delhi, India, the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas in Montreal, Canada, and the 6th Session of Africa Regional Platform and 5th High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Mauritius.[190]

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[176] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 14.

[177] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 11: Targets & Indicators*.

[178] UN Conference on Human Settlements, *The Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements*, 1976, pp. 2-3.

[179] Ibid., UN-Habitat, *History, mandate & role in the UN system*.

[180] UN-Habitat, *Habitat III*.

[181] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/71/235)*, 2017, pp. 3-4.

[182] Ibid., p. 11.

[183] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017, p. 12.

[184] UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015, p. 1.

[185] Ibid.

[186] Ibid., pp. 6, 8, 15-16.

[187] UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015, p. 10.

[188] Ibid, p. 5.

[189] Ibid.

[190] UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015; Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, *About AMCDRR 2016*, 2016; Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster

Role of the International System

As the principle Main Committee for addressing development, the General Assembly Second Committee regularly discusses issues related to urbanization and its effects.[191] During its 70th session in 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 70/189 and 70/214, on "Financial inclusion for sustainable development" and "Culture and sustainable development," both of which provide recommendations on reconsidering economic and financial instruments within the sustainable development framework and their effects on urbanization.[192] Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 70/189 highlights the inclusion of clauses pertaining to inclusive financial development as outlined in the AAAA, and focus on sustainable urbanization while solving food security issues from both a rural and an urban perspective.[193] Moreover, General Assembly resolution 70/214 contributes to financial inclusivity, by recommending a stronger focus on cultural relations in economic opportunities and financial development.[194] This has also been highlighted by the *World Urbanization Prospects*, a report published by the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA), which compiles economic, environmental and social data to enhance and support intergovernmental cooperation.[195] The Second Committee has also considered ensuring access to transportation, through resolutions 69/213 of 30 January 2015, titled "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development" and 70/197 of 16 February 2016, titled "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transport corridors."[196] These resolutions identify the need for safe and reliable transportation both within urban areas and internationally, highlighting the need for accessible, safe, and reliable transportation, which is important when considering urbanization, rapid urban growth, and the implications for achieving sustainable development.[197] Other General Assembly resolutions that deliberate on factors tying into the role of urbanization in sustainable development are resolutions 69/266 on "A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development", and 71/221, titled "Entrepreneurship for sustainable development."[198]

Under the auspices of the General Assembly and ECOSOC, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) convenes to discuss, among other things, the application of specific SDGs and to develop best practices for local communities in implementing and achieving the SDGs.[199] The 2017 HLPF focused on SDGs relating to providing basic human needs, such as food, environmental protection, gender equality, and economic opportunities.[200] Continuing with the focus on rotating SDGs, the 2018 HLPF will focus on a different set of SDGs including Goal 11.[201]

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[191] Risk Reduction in the Americas, *Virtual Brochure*, 2017; UNISDR, *6th Session of Africa Regional Platform and 5th High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

[191] UN General Assembly, *Financial inclusion for sustainable development (A/RES/70/189)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development (A/RES/69/266)*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/221)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/RES/71/315)*, 2017.

[192] UN General Assembly, *Financial inclusion for sustainable development (A/RES/70/189)*, 2015, p. 2; UN General Assembly, *Culture and sustainable development (A/RES/70/214)*, 2015, p. 3.

[193] Ibid., UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015, pp. 7, 16.

[194] UN General Assembly, *Culture and sustainable development (A/RES/70/214)*, 2015, p. 3.

[195] Ibid., UN DESA, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision: Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/352)*, 2014, p. 3.

[196] UN General Assembly, *Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development (A/RES/69/213)*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors (A/RES/70/197)*, 2015.

[197] Ibid., pp. 4-5.

[198] UN General Assembly, *A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development (A/RES/69/266)*, 2014, p. 3; UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/221)*, 2016, pp. 3-7.

[199] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: High-Level Political Forum*.

[200] Ibid., UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Themes of High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development decided for next three years*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level (A/RES/70/299)*, 2015, p. 2; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goals*.

[201] UN General Assembly, *Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level (A/RES/70/299)*, 2015, p. 2; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Themes of High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development decided for next three years*, 2016; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goals*.

As part of its role as the UN agency responsible for sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat published the *World Cities Report 2016, Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures* in the lead up to Habitat III.[202] The report highlights many goals of sustainable urban development, such as promoting environmental stability, fostering inclusive growth, and empowering collaboration among all stakeholders in urban areas.[203] It also examines the progress, opportunities, risks, and threats of the last 20 years of urbanization since Habitat II.[204] It includes discussions on the expansion of slums and the resulting social inequality, the effects of climate change on urban areas, and spreading of crime.[205] UN-Habitat's work provided participants in Habitat III with timely information about the status of urbanization.[206]

UN DESA, in cooperation with the Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, held a High Level Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urbanisation in 2013, which produced a set of best practices for local and regional governments titled the *Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization*.[207] Similarly, UN-Habitat, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments launched a platform called "Localizing the SDGs" to increase the accessibility of SDGs.[208] The platform provides cities and smaller communities with a toolbox for raising awareness of the SDGs, acts as an advocacy platform, and offers practical support to developing communities.[209] Through organizations such as the UNISDR, UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO), and UN-Habitat, numerous programs have emerged that aim to bring together international organizations, national governments, and other stakeholders, such as local governments and civil society groups, to improving urban governance.[210] The Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI), a joint effort between WHO and the UN Environment Programme, encourages Member States to prioritize and address environment health risks, including those caused by rapid urbanization.[211] The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) works within the framework of Habitat III and collaborates with UN-Habitat to provide sexual and reproductive health to urban slums.[212] Furthermore, UNFPA has partnered with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to promote human rights and social inclusion in urban environments.[213] In cooperation with other research institutions and Civil Society Organizations, IIED has launched programs such as Urban Africa Risk Knowledge and the Urban Crises Learning Fund to provide capacity-building measures and to improve future urban planning and urban humanitarian initiatives.[214]

Various local initiatives have also contributed to reduce the negative impacts of rapid urbanization.[215] National frameworks such as Morocco's Cities Without Slums Programme ("Villes sans bidonvilles") and Indonesia's National Slum Upgrading Program (KOTAKU) provide strategic frameworks that focus on slum upgrading.[216] "Villes sans bidonvilles" aims to increase the accessibility to basic services in cooperation with UN-Habitat.[217] KOTAKU has been a cooperative effort of the Indonesian national government, municipal governments, non-

[202] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016.
[203] Ibid., pp. 169-170.
[204] Ibid., pp. 13-24.
[205] Ibid., pp. 13-24.
[206] Ibid.
[207] UN DESA & Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, *Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization*, 2013.
[208] UCLG, *Global Taskforce, UNDP and UN-Habitat launch engagement platform on localizing the SDGs*, 2016.
[209] UCLG et al., *Localizing the SDGs: Purpose*, 2017.
[210] UNISDR, *Regional Platforms*; UN-Habitat, *Urban Governance Index*; UNDP, *Local governance and local development*, 2017; WHO & UN-Habitat, *Hidden Cities: Unmasking and Overcoming Health Inequities in Urban Settings*, 2010, pp. 71-79; UNISDR, *Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready: About The Campaign*.
[211] WHO & UNEP, *Health and Environment Linkages Initiative*, 2017.
[212] UNFPA, *Urbanization*.
[213] Ibid.
[214] IIED, *Urban Africa Risk Knowledge (Urban ARK)*; IIED, *Urban Crises Learning Fund*.
[215] UN-Habitat, *Morocco-Housing and Slum Upgrading*; World Bank, *Indonesia: Improving Infrastructure for Millions of Urban Poor*, 2016.
[216] Ibid.
[217] UN-Habitat, *Morocco-Housing and Slum Upgrading*.

governmental organizations, the World Bank, and private corporations.[218] Aside from upgrading current slums, the program has increased the institutional capacity of municipal governments to improve future urban planning.[219]

Cultural, Social, and Political Aspects of Urbanization

As the rate of urbanization has increased, numerous social, cultural, and political factors have influenced the development of urban areas.[220] Consequently, urbanization is closely tied to a changing social fabric, as cities frequently act as a nexus of different cultures.[221] Although both the New Urban Agenda and General Assembly resolution 70/214 promote cultural dialogue and inclusion, research has shown that changing cultural dynamics caused by rapid urbanization has decreased mental well-being among vulnerable urban dwellers.[222] Though cities offer unparalleled economic opportunities with urban areas accounting for up to 80% of gross national product globally, differences between the rich and poor in cities are exacerbated.[223] Attracted by economic opportunities and the prospect of improved quality of life, poor rural populations migrate to cities.[224] Many urban migrants arrive in cities through unofficial channels and are often unable to afford regulated housing.[225] This rural-urban migration frequently results in inequality and marginalization due to cultural differences as well as prejudices, which are amplified by the creation of slums or temporary residences.[226]

With inequalities amplified, the urban poor form an especially vulnerable population, often marginalized and excluded from accessing services such as waste water management, energy access, transportation, education, and healthcare.[227] While 670 million people used to live in slums in 1990, this number has increased to 863 million in 2017.[228] Adding to the urban migration and consequent growth are displaced people and international migrants, of which 20% live in the world's 20 largest cities.[229] In some cities, less funds are allocated to infrastructure development in poorer neighborhoods.[230] According to UNDP, public spaces accessible to all would mitigate marginalization and reduce inequality as poor and rich neighborhoods become more integrated.[231] As local governments are the most accessible to urban communities, empowering urban governance and planning on the political level closest to the community in question is of utmost importance and has proven to be more effective.[232]

Disaster Management and Security Issues

Rapid urbanization exerts a strain on existing resources within cities and frequently results in poorly planned urban regions, which are more prone to daily threats such as air and water pollution and inadequate waste management, as well as acute threats such as droughts, floods, and storms.[233] Despite international recognition of the importance of health and well-being, sanitation, responsible consumption, and climate action, between 2009 and 2013, 35% of the urban population in 101 cities around the world were not provided with solid waste removal and in 2014, 90% of

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[218] World Bank, *Indonesia: Improving Infrastructure for Millions of Urban Poor*, 2016.

[219] Ibid

[220] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017, p. 11.

[221] Ibid., p. 12.

[222] Trivedi et al., *Rapid urbanization – Its impact on mental health: A South Asian perspective*, 2008.

[223] UNFPA, *Urbanization*.

[224] Ibid.

[225] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, p. 86.

[226] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, pp. 12-15.

[227] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, pp. 85-86.

[228] Ibid., p. 85.

[229] IOM, *Global Migration Trends Factsheet*, 2017.

[230] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, pp. 12-15.

[231] Ibid., p. 13.

[232] ELLA, *Urban Upgrading with Social Inclusion: The Case of Villa Tranquila*, 2011, pp. 2-3.

[233] UN ECOSOC, *Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2014/67)*, 2014, p. 11; UN-Habitat & UNDP, *Asia-Pacific Issue Brief Series on Urbanization and Climate Change No. 1: Urbanization and Climate Change*, 2014, p. 7; UN ECOSOC, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)*, 2017, p. 13.

urban residents lived in regions that did not comply with standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).[234] Communicable diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and cholera, spread more easily in urban areas that lack sanitation and other health measures.[235]

Informal settlements often form in regions prone to environmental risks.[236] As many of these areas are already populated by vulnerable populations due to social and cultural differences, the location of informal settlements in vulnerable environments increases the inequality experienced by recent settlers.[237] UNISDR launched the "Making Cities Resilient" campaign in 2010, with the aim to raise awareness of the benefits of reducing risks, invest wisely in new infrastructure projects, and integrate disaster risk reduction policies into urban planning and development.[238] Disaster risk reduction is critical in improving the quality of life in urban settlements, as it reduces the risk of daily and acute environmental threats, as well as crime and other artificial hazards.[239] Consequently, disaster risk reduction for urban environments is closely linked to achieving SDGs that not only aim to protect the environment but also address human development and well-being.[240]

Economic Opportunities of Urbanization

Urbanization is not only the subject of SDG 11 specifically, but is also a key driver for achieving other SDGs; Goals 8 and 9 specifically highlight and support the benefits of urbanization.[241] Access to jobs, higher wages, education, and healthcare, which are often missing in rural regions, are found in urban areas, as 55% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in low-income states, 73% of GDP in middle-income states, and 85% of GDP in high-income states originate in urban regions.[242] The high rates of urbanization in East Asia and Africa coincide with the fastest growing economic regions in the world, with an annual growth rate of around four percent.[243] This economic growth often originates in cities, where a significant part of the urban workforce is employed in the informal sector.[244] Although this sector provides employment and an income to its workers, low pay, excessive overtime, unsafe working conditions, and little to no social protections are common.[245] Rural-urban migrants who did not receive the level of education offered in cities often work in the informal sector and constitute a group especially vulnerable to economic risks which are associated with urbanization.[246] To address this problem, ILO works toward improving the economic opportunities of those in the informal sector, suggesting that working conditions can be improved through "realizing fundamental principles and rights at work, creating greater and better employment and income opportunities, extending social protection, and promoting social dialogue."[247] Furthermore, as outlined in the UN Economic Commission for Africa's *Economic Report on Africa 2017*, economic opportunities can be enhanced

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[234] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goals*; UN ECOSOC, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66)*, 2017, p. 13.
[235] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, 2016, pp. 22, 89.
[236] UNDP, *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*, 2016, p. 16.
[237] Ibid.
[238] UNISDR, *Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready: About The Campaign*.
[239] UNDP, *Local governance and local development*, 2017.
[240] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 13: Progress of Goal 13 in 2017*; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 3: Progress of Goal 3 in 2017*.
[241] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 8: Targets & Indicators*; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 9: Targets & Indicators*.
[242] UN DESA, *Cities for a Sustainable Future*, 2014; UNECA, *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*, p. 56.
[243] UN DPI, *Economic development in Africa centres around urbanization – UN-backed report*, 2016.
[244] UN ECA, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment: Harnessing the potential of the Informal Sector for inclusive growth in Africa*, 2015, p. 2; ILO, *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture*, 2013, p. 39.
[245] ILO, *Informal economy*, 2017; UN ECA, *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*, p. 60.
[246] UN ECA, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment: Harnessing the potential of the Informal Sector for inclusive growth in Africa*, 2015, pp. 2-3.
[247] ILO, *Resolution concerning decent work and the informal economy*, 2002, p. 2; UNECA, *Contribution to the 2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment: Harnessing the potential of the Informal Sector for inclusive growth in Africa*, 2015, p. 2.

through addressing the quality and form of urban development early on, as well as recognizing different economic opportunities, increasing economic efficiency, and implementing long-term strategies for economic urban planning.[248]

Conclusion

Through SDG 11, urbanization is recognized as an important factor in sustainable development.[249] Even though there are positive effects linked to urbanization, it also poses threats and challenges to certain aspects of sustainable development, as the quality of life can decrease through poorly managed urban migration.[250] Along with other international organizations and UN bodies, the Second Committee has approached the role of urbanization in sustainable development from numerous sides, such as cultural implications, economic opportunities, public transportation, and access to basic services.[251] The SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, as outcome document of the Member States' discussions on the role of urbanization, promote sustainable development while recognizing the influence and impact of urbanization, especially in developing countries, where the rate of urbanization is greatest.[252] To harness the positive effects of urbanization in achieving sustainable development, it is imperative to recognize the benefits and drawbacks of urbanization and consequent economic development.[253]

Further Research

Delegates are encouraged to further research this topic, starting from the considerations reported above. Seeing the negative effects rapid urbanization can have on human settlements, how can this phenomenon be turned into a positive force for sustainable development? How can the current UN framework for strengthening urban governance and increasing social and economic inclusivity be improved? Are there any key aspects missing from the HLPF discussion that would better link the relationship between urbanization and sustainable development? How can equality be effectively promoted in growing urban environments? How can cultural and social barriers be overcome to reduce the risk of conflict in an urban environment? Considering what has been accomplished by the international community so far, and with the New Urban Agenda widely recognized and promoted, which factors still need to be approached to support sustainable development through urbanization?

Annotated Bibliography

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> *The UN Centre for Regional Development's contribution to ECOSOC's 1st integration segment pertaining to sustainable urbanization provides pressing challenges of cities and other urban dwellings. The document is divided into four sections. The first three pertain to key opportunities and challenges for Asian, African, and Latin American cities respectively. The fourth section focuses on relevant tools for sub-national decision-making. Delegates will find this document useful as it discusses the importance of sustainable urbanization on regional and sub-national levels, and provides a clear list of opportunities and challenges for different regions in the world.*

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[248] UNECA, *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*, p. 88.

[249] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Sustainable Development Goal 11: Targets & Indicators*, 2017.

[250] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, pp. 85-86.

[251] UN General Assembly, *Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development (A/RES/69/213)*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors (A/RES/70/197)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/RES/71/233)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Culture and sustainable development (A/RES/70/214)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/221)*, 2016.

[252] UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, *New Urban Agenda*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

[253] UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN-Development Agenda, *Sustainable Urbanization: Thematic Think Piece: UN-Habitat*, p. 5.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *Agenda 21* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf

This document is one of the main documents creating the foundation upon which the concept of sustainable development, including sustainable urbanization, has been built in the 21st century. The document is divided into four sections, covering social and economic dimensions, such as combating poverty and promoting health; conservation and management of resources for development, which includes promoting sustainable agriculture, combating deforestation, handling hazardous waste, and managing fragile ecosystems; strengthening the role of major groups, such as women, children, local governments, and the business industry; and means of implementation. This is a resourceful document, as it provides information on the origins of sustainable development in the 21st century and the motivation behind the Millennium Development Goals and the SDGs.

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. (2017). *New Urban Agenda* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 14 July 2017 from: http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English-With-Index-1.pdf

The New Urban Agenda is the outcome document of the most recent UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III. This document is divided into the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All and the Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda. The agenda serves as a roadmap for a sustainable urban future, while recognizing the importance of environmental factors, urban planning, and human rights. Delegates will find this resource useful when researching recent hallmark conferences and declarations concerning the relationship between urbanization and sustainable development.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2014). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision: Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A//352)* [Report]. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/publications/files/wup2014-highlights.Pdf

The 2014 World Urbanization Prospects is a report published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which compiles economic, social, and environmental data for publications to inform interested governments, and to enhance and support intergovernmental cooperation. The report provides an overview of the recent history of urbanization, as well as trends on the future of urbanization. Additionally, the document provides statistics on urbanization for Member States. Delegates will find this resource useful as it has acted as the roadmap to the 2016 World Cities Report and the New Urban Agenda.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs & Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, High-Level Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urbanisation. (2013). *Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2923Yangzhourecommendations.pdf

This outcome document of the High-Level Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urbanization provides best practices for sustainable urbanization as well as urban planning. The document highlights important aspects pertaining to slum upgrading, green infrastructure, and the urban built environment. Furthermore, it identifies threats to sustainable urban growth and provides suggestions on approaches to include rural-urban migrants into ever-growing urban settings. This resource is insightful as it provides delegates with clearly listed objectives on attaining sustainable urbanization, as well as presenting an example of international-local cooperation on developing frameworks surrounding the role of urbanization in sustainable development.

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Sustainable Urbanization Strategy: UNDP's Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World* [Report]. Retrieved 14 August 2017 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/sustainable-urbanization-strategy.html

This report outlines the UNDP's goals and strategies pertaining to achieving sustainable urbanization. The Sustainable Urbanization Strategy is separated into sections discussing sustainable development trajectories for rapidly growing cities, the UNDP's role in achieving sustainable urbanization, UNDP's policies and program support, as well as suggestions moving forward. The report focuses on three main pillars in achieving sustainable urbanization, which

are inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability. This document is useful for further research as it approaches the topic of urbanization from a sustainable development standpoint and enables delegates to study this topic from the point of view of a thematically specific UN body.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2014). *Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2014/67)*. Retrieved 25 August 2017 from: http://undocs.org/E/2014/67

> *This report of the Secretary-General provides a thematic discussion of the role of policymaking and urban governance in achieving sustainable urbanization. The report advocates for effective long-term measures that facilitate urban planning and governance to improve urban quality of life. The report contains four sections covering governing, planning and management instruments for promoting urban sustainability; emerging models for sustainable urbanization; lessons learned from the implementation of different urban governance models; and future recommendations respectively. The report enables delegates to understand the impact of the role of urbanization on sustainable development within the UN framework by providing a discussion of numerous urban governance models and their effectiveness, as well as policy recommendations.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. (2017). *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2017/66).* Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: http://undocs.org/E/2017/66

> *This report provides an overview on the achievement of SDGs in 2017. On page 13 of the report, SDG 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" is summarized with the most up-to-date rundown of actions taken in achieving the goal. This section highlights the complications that have arisen in reaching the goal as well as global efforts taken in achieving SDG 11. Delegates will find this document useful as it provides a progress report on achieving SDGs, as well as implications of what still needs to be done and how this can be accomplished.*

United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa. (2017). *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation*. Retrieved 27 August 2017 from: https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/ERA/ERA2017/era-2017_en_fin_jun2017.pdf

> *This document presents recent economic developments in Africa, a region that has been experiencing significant economic growth and urbanization. The report is divided into six sections discussing recent economic and social developments in Africa, an overview of structural transformation and urbanization, the urbanization-industrialization nexus, urbanization and industrialization in practice, and policy responses. Furthermore, the report analyzes the role of urbanization in sustainable development in Africa, and covers numerous case studies portraying successes and failures. Delegates will find this report helpful as it presents a regional discussion of the role of urbanization in sustainable development.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313).* Retrieved 24 September 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/313

> *The agenda provides a detailed framework for financing sustainable development. The framework focuses on bridging societal and regional inequalities, focusing on the rural-urban divide. Moreover, the framework provides suggestions on public-private cooperation on financing for development and elaborates on regional organizations taking action. As a hallmark document, the agenda is complementary of the New Urban Agenda in working toward achieving sustainable urbanization. This agenda is the key document on financing for sustainable development and provides insight into economic and financial factors influencing the role of urbanization in sustainable development.*

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2016). *World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*. Retrieved 14 August 2017 from: http://wcr.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WCR-2016-Full-Report.pdf

> *The World Cities Report is an extensive document that presents and analyzes recent trends that have been influencing cities. The report acts as a supplementary report leading up to the creation*

of the New Urban Agenda, and possess policy suggestions for the agenda. The report is divided into a discussion of the history of urbanization, urbanization as a transformative force, housing, the widening urban divide, urban environmental sustainability, urban governance, urban planning, changing urban economies, and principles and outcomes of a new urban agenda. This key document will help delegates understand the origins of the New Urban Agenda and the background of the proposed actions within the agenda.

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