



communitas

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

I.C.L.E.I
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

nrg4SD

TELLUS INSTITUTE
for a Great Transition

Side Event: SDGs Open Working Group Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements in the SDGs

6 January 2014 | Conference Room A | 6:15-7:30pm

In collaboration with:



**The Group
of Friends for
Sustainable Cities**

Communitas' work is made possible by the generous support of:



Background

Organized by the **Communitas Coalition** – UN Habitat, Tellus Institute, ICLEI and nrg4SD – in collaboration with Member States Friends of Cities and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN).

Drawing on a participatory process, the **Communitas Coalition** seeks to:

1. Advance sustainable urbanization as a key component of the future UN Development Agenda, its Goals, tools, means of implementation and partnerships;
2. Contribute to the technical development of an urban Goal with targets related to the economic, social, environmental, spatial and cultural dimensions of sustainable development and a basket of relevant indicators;
3. Ensure the presence, as appropriate, of an urban dimension in the final set of SDGs to be agreed upon.

Communitas' technical methodology is based on thematic work groups led by experts producing issues papers with proposals for urban targets in close consultation with a multi-stakeholder advisory committee.

Aim of the side event: Solutions oriented expert- and practitioner-led technical input to the intergovernmental discussions on different aspects of sustainable urbanization.



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Secretariat: c/o UN Habitat, DC2-984

Objective of the side event: Present the technical elements for a strong urban dimension in the SDGs during the SDGs OWG session dedicated to sustainable cities and related topics, building on the draft targets discussed at Communitas' 5-6 December Experts' Workshop.

Vision: Building on the lessons learned and the results achieved by the MDGs, the ultimate vision is to advance just, prosperous and sustainable city-regions as a key element of the overall new UN Development Agenda; and therefore capitalize on the megatrend of urbanization in order to halt growing inequality and longstanding poverty at the city-region scale within the framework of sustainable development.

Facilitation: Each panelist will present their view on the critical role for sustainable urbanisation towards a Post-2015 Sustainable Human Development Agenda; as well as proposals for incorporating a balanced urban dimension and relevant means for implementation into the overall SDGs framework. Respondents will share their reaction to the panelists' interventions and also outline key messages on the matter from the perspective of their respective constituencies.

MODERATOR

- ▶ Ms. Maruxa Cardama, *Executive Project Coordinator, Communitas Coalition*

PANELISTS

- ▶ Mr. Borg Tsien Tham, *co-Chair, Group of Friends for Sustainable Cities and Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations*
- ▶ Mr. Rafael Tuts, *Coordinator, Urban Planning & Design Branch, UN-Habitat*
- ▶ Mr. David Cadman, *President, ICLEI Global and Former City Councillor, Vancouver, BC*

RESPONDENTS

- ▶ Dr. Eugenie L. Birch, *Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research & Education and Chair of the Graduate Group in City & Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania*
- ▶ Mr. Olav Kjörven, *Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*
- ▶ Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig, *co-Chair, "Sustainable Cities: Inclusive, Resilient, and Connected," Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) and Senior Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies*
- ▶ Mr. Joseph Schechla, *Coordinator, Housing & Land Rights Network, Habitat International Coalition (HIC)*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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