

Managing the development of sustainable cities and communities – learning from all urban stakeholders

Networking Event - Report of the 10th Session of the WUF

WUF10 - 10th Session of the World Urban Forum – Cities of Opportunities

11 February 2020

Panelists

- Moderator: Martina Otto, Head, Cities and Lifestyles, UN Environment
- Dyfed Aubrey, UN-Habitat: "SDG Cities"
- Giorgia Rambelli, ICLEI: "Implementation of ISO 37101 and related standards for sustainable development in communities"
- Pekka Huovila, Sustainable Buildings and Construction, One Planet Network: "Urban sustainability management: procuring resilient and circular cities"
- Jeshika Ramchand, FIDIC: "ISO 37109 - a developers guide to the ISO 37101 urban sustainability management standard"
- Peter Boswell, ISO TC 269: "The ISO 37101 sustainable city pilot programmes"

1. Background of the Event

Voluntary, fit-for-purpose international standards as well as formal standards incorporated into legislation both provide the basis for the frameworks and tools needed for sustainable urban development.

Recognition of the importance of standards is generally weak at all levels in society.

The event aimed to ensure that leading actors in developing urban standards can maintain a constructive dialogue with UN-Habitat to identify where standards-based initiatives would contribute most to UN-Habitat's programmes.

Initiatives to ensure a broader recognition, especially in the upgrading of informal settlements and the avoidance of their further growth, was deferred to a separate event.

2. Summary of the key points of the discussion

The motivation for cities to engage in standardisation is increasing.

The UN Habitat's SDG Cities project pipeline and the SDG Cities Methodology will incorporate standards.

The local government initiative ICLEI encapsulates urban development into integrated pathways with well-defined entry points such as the CWA 17300 resilience standard.

The International Standards Organization's ISO 37101 community management standard responds to many other urgent needs.

OnePlanet's Sustainable Building and Construction Country Assessment reports use ISO 37101 to organise action areas so as to improve building supply chains.

China's community upgrading that is coordinated by the International Smart Sustainable Cities Club draws upon France's EcoCites community-level projects which are assessed using ISO 37101.

EU's GrowSmarter project will use ISO 371xx sustainable communities standards to monitor implementation.

ICLEI is translating the Connecting Nature Framework into an ISO 37101-based approach.

The ISO 37109 standard development led by FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers, will ensure that project developers meet ISO 37101 requirements.

Urban sustainability indicators, processes and pathways must respond directly to the SDGs. Gaps must be filled since ISO 37101 and its derived frameworks deal specifically with a wider range of issues than SDG targets.

3. Main declared actions or action-oriented recommendations and ways forward on sustainable urban development during the Decade of Action

Focussing on fit-for-purpose voluntary and formal urban development standards, engage with UN Habitat's SDG Cities programme.

Coordinate ICLEI programming with ISO standard development, including the EU's GrowSmarter adoption of ISO 37101 and the conversion of the Connecting Nature Framework into an ISO 37101 approach.

Establish how ISO 371xx standards can support OnePlanet's SBC assessment reports and the upcoming building supply chain initiative.

Support the ISSCC's use of ISO 37101 in China's community upgrading programme.

Support ISO 37109 standard development led by FIDIC.

Broadcast the need to fill gaps between ISO 37101 and the SDGs for both indicators and pathways.

4. How those recommendations can support accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030? Please specify which SDGs.

All recommendations address directly SDG11.

5. Which impact or dynamics on the implementation of the urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda have been identified in your event?

Standards impact all SDGs but there are clearly SDGs that are more highly impacted.

An analysis of the SDGs in terms of the ISO 3710 purposes – action areas framework highlighted aspects that are in some cases treated inadequately by the SDGs with regard to sustainable urban development. In other cases there is considerable interaction between SDGs which renders the identification of synergies and trade-offs extremely difficult at the practical level such as designing urban projects.

Holistic, integrated urban standards such as ISO 37101, while incorporating all SDG targets, must therefore extend beyond the SDGs targets to achieve a more uniform and comprehensive treatment of all aspects of sustainable development.

6. Specify any innovative data, tools, ideas and initiatives discussed or presented in your event.

Reinforce SDG Cities programme use of standards which is currently weak in areas related to project procurement.

Reinforce the role of standards in integrated urban planning and in managing urban action areas such as resilience and the implementation of smart technologies. This can be achieved through integration in major top-down programmes such as the EU's GrowSmarter, ICLEI's Connecting Nature Framework, OnePlanet's SBC assessment reports, and the ISSCC's community upgrading projects.

Bottom-up approaches for the sustainability development of communities by communities need to be supported through the development of standards such as the ISO 37109 standard, while recognising the mismatch between standards and the SDGs when specific components of standards are addressed such as indicators and development pathways.

7. Specify any culturally transformative ideas or initiatives discussed or presented in your event.

Instilling a standards culture in everyday life has always been a challenge. Standards are by definition everywhere but often unrecognised.

As cities become larger and more complex and needing to grow drastically in certain parts of the world, standards will play an even greater role.

How to achieve greater recognition of the importance of standards at all levels in society and the need for an increased uptake must be addressed.

An effort was made to consolidate initiatives between practitioners and UN-Habitat and other UN agencies such as UN-Environment. A wider engagement is now needed.

8. Which concrete monitoring and follow-up mechanisms to actions on sustainable urbanization were proposed or discussed in your event?

Aside from UN-Habitat and UN-Environment representatives, the participants represented practitioners from the public and private sectors experienced in the development and use of urban standards.

Immediate specific follow-up will be with major UN-Habitat and UN-Environment programmes to continue to support the uptake of standard's based urban development processes.

9. Did you initiate, create or finalize any new partnerships for the Decade of Action in the event?

Immediate specific follow-up with major UN-Habitat programmes to support the uptake of standard's based urban development processes were initiated.

Given the well-established nature of stakeholder-driven standards, both at the national level through ISO and at the sectoral level through voluntary initiatives guided by ISEAL and similar protocols, new partnerships were not sought at this stage. However, the scene was set for the creation of partnerships for specific topics.

10. What is your outreach strategy to follow up on the outcomes, actions, commitments, or partnerships achieved in your event?

Seek to ensure that engagement with UN-Habitat to promote standards- based urban development is coordinated through existing partnerships and networks.

11. Provide 1-3 direct short quotes from the discussion for median and publication purposes.

Community management is all about sharing risks and rewards.

Circular economy standards for the built environment aim today to reuse 30 % of construction and demolition waste.

The SDG Cities initiative will unleash the potential for cities to accelerate sustainable development.

PGB/JR

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