

## Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC)

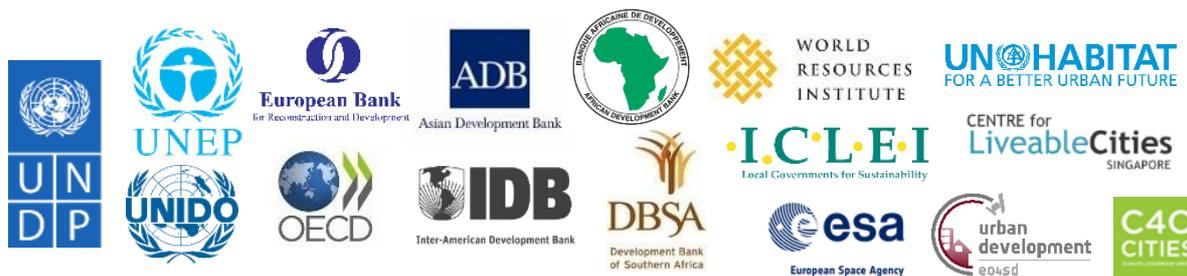
Summary report of Third Working Group Meeting

on

**GPSC Urban Sustainability Framework**

May 25 to 26, 2017

World Bank, Washington D.C, USA





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## Overview of working group meeting

In 2016, two GPSC working group meetings were held to discuss sustainability indicators. Based on previous discussions, the GPSC has prepared a draft Urban Sustainability Framework (USF), consolidating the three key pillars of GPSC – data/indicators, urban planning and action, and financing

The Third Working Group Meeting aimed to:

- (i) Seek feedback on the key components of the USF
- (ii) Discuss cities’ plans and activities on urban sustainability and necessary support from GPSC

The meeting in D.C brought together more than forty participants from countries and sub-nationals including Malaysia, Paraguay, Brazil, South Africa, Recife, Brasilia, California, as well as organisations including AfDB, IDB, DbSA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, ICLEI, C40, WRI (which represents the GPSC resource team) and individual experts. The meeting was conducted through a combination of cities and expert presentations and breakout group discussions.

In parallel to the meeting, bilateral consultations were conducted with various cities/governments together with their respective agencies on the support GPSC can provide on the implementation of the urban sustainability framework.

## Meeting agenda

### Day 1 – May 25

<b>I. Opening of Second Working Group Meeting</b>	
9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of meeting participants (tour de table)</li> <li>- Opening remarks: <i>Mr Sameh Wahba, Director, Social, Rural, Urban and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank</i></li> </ul>
<b>II. Consultation on the core components of USF</b>	
<p>In this session, the key components of the USF will be presented followed by discussion to gather feedback from participants regarding the USF. Participants are required to have read through the draft USF prior to the meeting.</p>	
9:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Overview: Core components of the USF:</b> <i>Ms Xueman Wang, GPSC Program Coordinator</i></li> <li>- <b>Core indicators and benchmarking:</b> <i>Dr Serge Salat, President, Urban Morphology and Complex Systems Institute</i></li> <li>- <b>Discussions and feedback on USF</b> <i>Participants to discuss and share their feedback on the USF and relevance to cities’ existing work</i></li> </ul>
10:45	<b>Coffee break</b>



11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Financing the Plan:</b> <i>Mr. David Painter, Municipal Finance Advisor</i> <i>Participants to discuss and share their feedback on the draft of the USF and relevance to cities' existing work</i></li> <li>- <b>Discussions</b></li> </ul>
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>III. Rapid assessment framework for cities</b> In this session, experts from the World Bank and other organizations will present approach used for conducting rapid assessment for cities under various initiatives, with focus on elaborating how it works and the benefits that cities can derive through this process.	
13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Assessing competitiveness of Cities in Malaysia:</b> <i>Judy Baker, Lead Economist, WB GSURR</i></li> <li>- <b>A city diagnostic for Karachi:</b> <i>Peter D. Ellis &amp; Jon Kher Kaw, World Bank</i></li> <li>- <b>Rapid assessment for LAC cities under IDB Sustainable City Emerging Initiative:</b> <i>Ms. Nancy Moreno Mora, IDB</i></li> </ul>
15:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:15	<b>Breakout group discussions</b> (continuation of morning discussions on USF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can cities make use of the rapid assessment tool to enhance their sustainability status?</li> </ul>
16:30	Report back and general discussions
17:30	End of Day 1
18:00	Reception hosted by GPSC

## Day 2 – May 26

<b>IV. Applying the USF</b> In this session, city representatives will share their existing plans and activities on urban sustainability and the process for formulating the plans, with the focus on how the USF can help enhance their plans. The background document on “proposed joint undertakings” between GPSC and the city level projects will be circulated in advance.	
9:00	<b>Presentations by GPSC cities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr. Herman Pienaar, Director of City Transformation and Spatial Planning, Johannesburg</li> <li>- Asunción, Mr Sergio Davalos, Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of the Environment, Paraguay</li> <li>- India, Mark Draeck, UNIDO Focal Point for Clean Energy for Migration, and Sustainable Cities</li> <li>- Malaysia, Datuk Nik Ahmad Faizul Abd Malek, National Project Director, MIGHT</li> </ul> <b>Comments and experience sharing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Carolina Barco Isakson, Senior Advisor, IDB</li> </ul> <b>Discussions</b>
10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>



11:00	<p><b>Sustainability Action Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Vision California:</b> Ms. Sahar Shirazi, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, California</li> <li>- <b>WRI tools and programs on cities and climate change,</b> Alex Kovac, World Resource Institute</li> </ul> <p><b>USF Approach to Supporting Cities to assess and enhance urban sustainability:</b> <i>Adeline Choy, GPSC Team</i></p> <p><b>GPSC Website demonstration:</b> <i>Ms. Qiyang Xu, GPSC Team</i></p> <p><b>GPSC next steps and wrap up:</b> <i>Ms. Xueman Wang, Coordinator, GPSC</i></p>
13:00	<p><b>End of GPSC Third Working Group Meeting</b></p>

### Opening remarks and meeting objectives

Mr. Sameh Wahba, Director of the World Bank Social, Rural, Urban and Resilience Global Practice delivered the opening address where he highlighted the importance of the GPSC Urban Sustainability Framework in integrating the two tracks of the SC-IAP while also providing guidance to cities in pursuing sustainability.

Ms Xueman Wang, Coordinator of the GPSC Program, continued by laying out the key objectives of the meeting. The main focus of the third working group meeting was to provide a platform for exchanging views and gathering feedback on the GPSC Urban Sustainability Framework draft document which has been circulated for comments previously. The meeting also introduced various approaches used for conducting rapid assessment for cities and highlighted the benefits for cities in undertaking such an exercise. Cities were also invited to share information on their child project activities and highlight how the GPSC and USF might provide complementary support to their project activities.

### Key components of the Urban Sustainability Framework discussed

The two-day meeting started off with an overview of the GPSC USF to pave the way for further in-depth discussions on the key components of the framework. Xueman Wang, the coordinator of the GPSC, introduced the key components of the USF. USF serves as an overarching guidance document for supporting cities in incorporating key dimensions of sustainability into their urban planning process.

Three key purposes of the USF:

- To be used by cities to facilitate the understanding on its urban sustainability status, formulate or enhance vision, strategy and implementation
- Facilitating the coherence of the output of the GPSC-IAP program
  - Linking the two tracks (GPSC and city level projects) as joint deliverables
  - Consolidating the GPSC three pillars (indicators, planning and finance) in a more coherent manner;



- Establishing common understanding and monitoring progress on urban sustainability over time

Key components of the USF include:

- Sustainability indicators
- Diagnostic process to help cities assess urban sustainability status
- Developing cities' sustainability action Plan
- Improving municipal finance, creditworthiness and identifying priority for investment

Dr Serge Salat followed with an in-depth presentation on the GPSC USF indicators. In particular, the rationale behind the selection of the indicators as well as elaboration of various key dimensions and benchmarks were being highlighted.

Mr David Painter ended the morning session with an in-depth presentation of the third chapter of the draft USF – Financing the plan. In his presentation, Mr Painter introduced a four-part process to financing a city's action plan and delved deeper into each part of the process:

- Measuring and Benchmarking Financial Sustainability
- Fulfilling the Prerequisites to Financing
- Identifying and Preparing Projects
- Structuring and Accessing the Financing

Some of the feedback given by cities and agency representatives on the USF included the following:

- The breakout group discussions on the USF revealed that the draft framework is generally well received but significant improvement is still required.
- Participants appreciated the fact that the USF is a broad document that allows for flexibility according to the needs and context of each city.
- The overall structure and content of the document is generally thought to be relevant and appropriate.
- However, there is still a lack of clarity of the intended purpose of the USF and its targeted audience.
- With regards to the core list of indicators, participants raised questions over why some indicators were chosen over others and the rationale for choosing these indicators. Some were also concerned over the lack of indicators to properly monitor cities move towards sustainability in various dimensions. Overall, the objectives of the indicators needed to be explained more clearly.
- Many of the best practices examples to which cities can benchmark against are from developed cities which might pose too challenging or irrelevant for many developing cities.



- Chapter Three on financing focuses on helping cities strengthen their own creditworthiness and financial sustainability in order to access funds from the private market. However, there were suggestions to include guidance on helping cities use their own source of revenue to fund projects without having to borrow from the market.
- Also, some participants suggested that the USF should capture the wider benefits of financing sustainability plans instead of focusing solely on how to make city's finances more sustainable.



**Figure 1: Breakout group discussion to gather feedback on the draft USF**

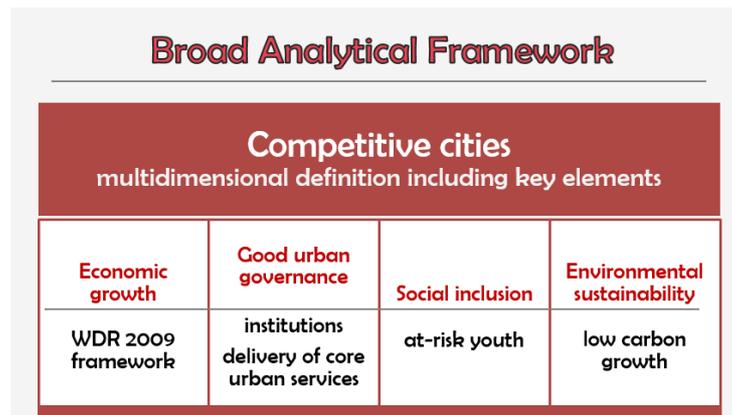
### **Rapid assessment examples**

One of the primary objectives of GPSC is to encourage a more informed approach to planning. A rapid assessment exercise helps a city to assess its current sustainability status, understand the strengths and weaknesses in the various urban sectors and identify key gaps and areas for intervention. As such, a rapid assessment can be deemed as a basis to the development of action plans later on.

In the afternoon session, experts from the World Bank and IDB presented practical examples of conducting rapid assessment in various cities or countries with focus on elaborating how it works and the benefits that cities can derive through this process.



Ms Judy Baker kicked off the session with a presentation on the economic competitiveness study that the World Bank was commissioned to prepare by the Malaysian government. The study assessed the overall economic competitiveness of Malaysia using a four representative cities. The assessment was done using indicators across several key dimensions. Ultimately, this assessment provided useful insights and recommendations which helped to lay the foundation for the development of the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan.



**Figure 2: Broad analytical framework for Malaysia economic competitiveness diagnostic study**

Next, Mr Jon Ker Kaw elaborated on the city diagnostic project he has worked on for the city of Karachi. The Karachi City Diagnostic (KCD) report was prepared upon the request of the Government of Sindh, Pakistan, to the World Bank Group (WBG) for strategic advice in improving the livability and competitiveness of Karachi. Towards this objective, the Bank conducted a set of rapid assessments from 2014 – 2016 as part of a broader technical assistance to develop a multi-sector approach for city transformation. The findings from the diagnostic exercise helped identified the strengths and weaknesses that the city of Karachi is experiencing and lay down the foundation for the development of a stream of follow up activities and projects.

Lastly, Ms Nancy Moreno shared with us the rapid assessment methodology IDB has developed for Latin American cities. It uses an integrated and interdisciplinary approach with more than 100 indicators across three broad dimensions - Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Urban Sustainability, Fiscal Sustainability and Governance. The rapid assessment methodology has been carried out in 77 cities across 26 countries in Latin America.

## Methodology Principles



**Figure 3: IDB rapid assessment methodology for LAC cities**

Through this session, the value of a rapid assessment became even more apparent to cities and the GPSC has already received interests from some of the GPSC cities to carry out the rapid assessment. The GPSC will be piloting its first rapid assessment in the city of Melaka, followed by some of the Indian cities this year.

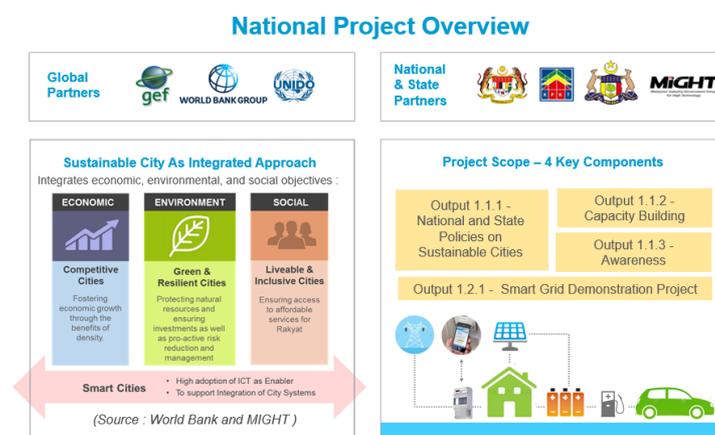
### Cities sharing

Several GPSC cities were invited to share their existing plans and activities on urban sustainability with a focus on identifying areas where the GPSC and the USF can provide complementary support.

The session started off with a presentation by Mr Sergio Davalos from the Ministry of Environment in Paraguay on the Asuncion SC-IAP project. There are four components to the project focusing on various topics including waste management and sustainable transport. Component One of the project focuses on improving the capacity for sustainable urban planning in the city of Asuncion while also promote the adoption of different tools and metrics used for tracking progress related to urban planning, sustainability and financing.

Next, Mr Mark Draeck from UNIDO briefed us on the India SC-IAP projects. There are four key components to the India cities projects, covering a range of areas including energy, waste management, sustainable urban planning and management, knowledge dissemination and so on. In particular, the GPSC will be working closely with UNIDO to support two of the Indian cities in carrying out a rapid assessment exercise and launch a National Platform to better facilitate the sharing of knowledge within India.

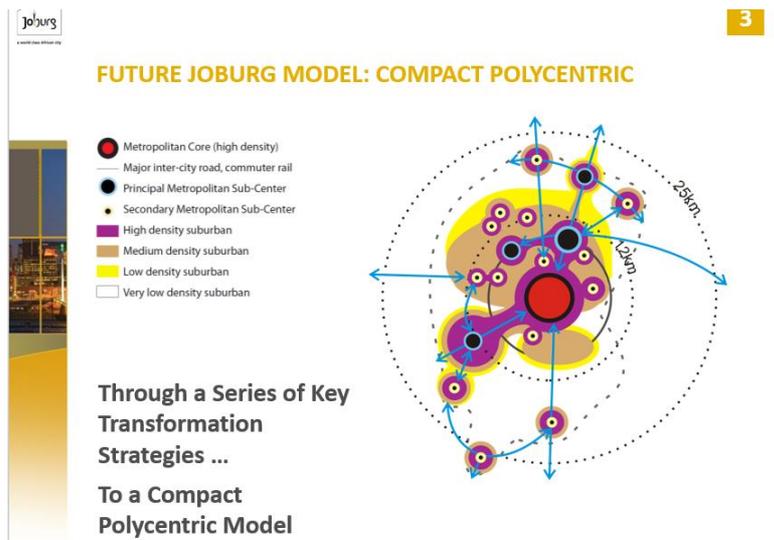
Next, Datuk Nik Ahmad Faizul Abd Malek presented the Sustainable City Development in Malaysia project. It is worthy to note that Malaysia is the first GPSC country to launch its SC-IAP project earlier in May this year. At the national level, the project aims to develop an overarching National Framework for Sustainable City in order to provide strategic guidance to states and cities within Malaysia to enhance their sustainability and resilience. At the state level, a Sustainable City Masterplan will be developed for Melaka as a pilot. In addition, a smart grid demonstration project will also be piloted in Melaka. The presentation also highlighted the draft 2035 State Structure Plan for Melaka, giving us a clearer idea of the goals Melaka has laid out by year 2035. Moving forward, the GPSC will work closely with the relevant local authorities and UNIDO to carry out a comprehensive rapid assessment exercise in Melaka. The findings from this rapid assessment will lay the basis for the subsequent enhancement of the 2035 Melaka State Structure Plan as well as the preparation of the Sustainable City Masterplan.



*Integrated Approach in Urban Planning in both Strategic Contents and Federal-State Level Linkages*

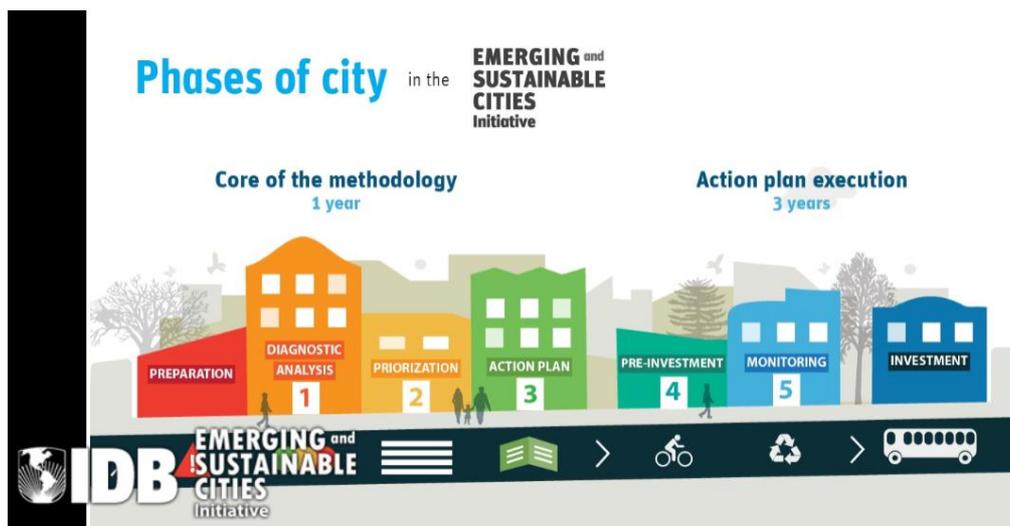
**Figure 4: Malaysia Sustainable City Development project overview**

Mr. Herman Pienaar, Director of City Transformation and Spatial Planning, Johannesburg gave an enlightening delivery of how the city plans to integrate sustainability into its overall urban planning and development strategy. One of the unique points of the city’s spatial development plan was to construct ‘Corridors of Freedom’ centred around transportation nodes where people of different income and social standing can come together to live, work and play. This integrated approach to urban planning will support Johannesburg in reaching its sustainability goals while also securing concrete infrastructure investments. Evidence-based planning approaches will be further supported by the SC-IAP project which aims to help the city develop and refine a set of indicators to better monitor and track their progress.



**Figure 5: Johannesburg future spatial development model**

Ms. Carolina Barco Isakson, senior adviser to the IDB wrapped up the session with an insightful elaboration of IDB's Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI). The presentation started off with an overview of the current urbanization trends and common urban challenges that many Latin American cities are facing. Many of the mid-size LACs are experiencing rapid urban expansion and coupled with limited planning, many of these cities are becoming increasingly unsustainable. ESCI is one of IDB's response to the burgeoning problem, targeting intermediate size cities. There are five key stages to the implementation of the methodology and phase one focuses on city diagnostics through a series of baseline studies on various topics including climate change, disaster risk management and so on. The findings of the diagnostic analysis will inform the preparation of action plans subsequently which helps to structure interventions according to the most pressing needs of the city. The ESCI has been scaling up across Latin America and to date, seventy-seven cities across the region has adopted this initiative. Carolina also shared with us several key lessons IDB has gathered through the years of implementing the ESCI in the Latin American region. These takeaways are extremely useful especially for the GPSC and partner agencies when implementing the GPSC USF in cities.



**Figure 6: IDB's ESCI Methodology**

After the break, Ms Sahar Shirazi from the Californian Governor's Office of Planning and Research continued the session with an in-depth presentation on California's climate strategy. In order to meet its target of reducing GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, California has put in place a multi-pronged strategy that targets a broad range of areas including transportation, energy, buildings, agriculture, waste management and so on. This has led to state-wide climate investments and programs across the state. The state government also works closely with various local and regional partners to develop and implement community level plans and strategy to ensure the whole state is aligned in their progress towards the 2030 goal. Each of California's Metropolitan Planning Office (MPO) must prepare a "sustainable communities strategy" (SCS) as an integral part of its regional transportation plan (RTP). The SCS contains land use, housing, and transportation strategies that, if implemented, would allow the region to meet its GHG emission reduction targets. In addition, the state government also provide various tools, resources and grants to better support local and regional government offices in implementing climate strategies. Sahar's presentation provided an excellent example of how cities or sub-nationals can take the lead in integrating climate change into their overall planning and development agenda.

Lastly, Alex Kovac gave us an overview of the various tools and programs WRI has developed to support cities in fulfilling their climate change goals. Some of these include:

- emission inventory (GHG Protocol for Cities, GPC)
- target setting (GHG Protocol Mitigation Goal Standard) – adopted by C40 and Compact of Mayors
- action planning (Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning, in collaboration with UN Habitat)

- performance tracking (GHG Protocol Policy & Action Standard) – adopted by C40

WRI has since supported many Chinese cities including Chengdu, Wenzhou, Jiaxing etc to develop GHG inventory to track and manage their emissions. Moving forward, the GPSC is keen to support GPSC cities in making full use of these tools and guides that are available to enhance their climate change efforts.



Figure 7: Tools and programs developed by WRI to support cities climate action

## Next steps and closing

The meeting concluded with the GPSC sharing its work plan and next steps for the coming year. In summary, there are several milestone events that will take place in the coming months.

- Based on all the valuable feedback the GPSC has gathered on the draft USF, the document will be revised before going through several rounds of review. It is slated to be officially launched during the Second Annual Meeting later this year.
- The GPSC will be working closely with several cities to carry out the rapid assessment exercise. The first rapid assessment will be carried out in Melaka and subsequently in Bhopal and Vijayawada.
- The GPSC website and urban dashboard development is also underway and is slated to be launched at the Second Annual Meeting later this year.
- The GPSC Second Annual Meeting will take place in Delhi, India from the 30<sup>th</sup> October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November this year. Detailed information will be available in the coming months.

These activities will be coupled with ongoing bilateral discussions with cities and implementing agencies on implementing joint undertakings with the city-level child



projects, continual development of key knowledge products, support and advice given to cities.



## Annex 1: Participant list

### Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) 3rd Working Group Meeting on Urban Sustainability Framework

May, 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, Washington D.C, USA

#### Country/city representatives

Country/city	Name	Designation
Brazil	Mr. Guilherme Wiedeman	Project Director, Ministry of Science and Technology
California	Ms Sahar Shirazi	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
Malaysia	Dr Noor Yazan b. Zainol	Deputy Director, Research & Development Division, PLANMalaysia (Town and Country Planning Malaysia, JPBD)
Malaysia	Datuk Nik. A Faizul Bin Abd. Mallek	National Project Director, Sustainable City Development in Malaysia Project, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)
Paraguay	Mr Sergio Davalos	Project Focal Point, the Asunción Pathways to Sustainability; Officer, Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of the Environment
South Africa	Mr. Herman Pienaar	Director of City Transformation and Spatial Planning, Johannesburg

#### Representatives from agencies/institutions

Institution/agency	Name	Designation
C40	Andrea Fernandez	Director of Governance &



		Global Partnerships
DbSA	Ms Nomsa Zondi	GEF coordinator
DbSA	Mr Tshepo Ntsimane	Head of Treasury
GEF	Ms. Xiaomei Tan	Senior Climate Change Specialist
ICLEI	Tori Okner	Senior Officer, Global Capacity Center
IDB	Carolina Barco Isakson	Senior Advisor and Coordinator of the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Platform
IDB	Nancy Moreno	Housing and Urban Development Division
UN-Habitat	Giulia Lavagna	Project Associate, City Prosperity Initiative, Research and Capacity Development Branch
UN-Habitat	Younghoon Moon	Urban Economy and Finance Branch
UN-Habitat	Rogier Van den Berg	Lead, Urban Planning and Design Lab
UNIDO	Mr. Mark Draeck	Industrial Development Officer, Energy and Climate Change Branch
UNIDO	Ms. Katarina Barunica Spoljari	UNIDO-GEF Coordination
UNEP	Mr. Curt Garrigan	Programme Officer, Cities and Buildings
UNDP	Mr. Marcel Alers	Head of the Energy, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology
World Bank	Sameh Naguib Wahba	Director, Social, Rural, Urban and Resilience Global Practice



World Bank	Ms Xueman Wang	GPSC Program manager
World Bank	Ms Adeline Choy	GPSC coordinator
World Bank	Ms Qiyang Xu	GPSC coordinator
World Bank	Judy Baker	Lead economist
World Bank	Laurent Granier	Senior Environmental Specialist
World Bank	Johannes Heister	Senior Environmental Specialist
World Bank	Jon Kher Kaw	Senior Urban Development Specialist
World Bank	Ms. Alessandra Campanaro	Senior urban specialist
WRI	Mariana Orloff	Associate, WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities
WRI	Kate Owens	WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities
WRI	Terra Virsilas	WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities
WRI	Kelsey Lopez	WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities

### Experts

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
ARUP	Ms. Sarah Gillhespy	Consultant, International development
Independent	Mr. David Painter	Development finance specialist
The New School University, New York	Shagun Mehrotra	Assistant Professor
Urban Morphology Institute (France)	Dr. Serge Salat	President