Regional cooperation on sustainable urban development in the post-2015 era

Lorenzo Santucci
Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
The Post-2015 development framework

2015 saw the adoption of a number of landmark global agendas, goals and commitments that will shape development efforts for the next 15 years, notably:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC
- Habitat III in October this year will further adopt a New Urban Agenda for the next 20 years
- Implementation of these global commitments will rely to a large extent on local action
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Over the next fifteen years, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.
- Cities are central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  - Dedicated goal on cities: Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
  - Implementation of many other goals depends on local action.
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Paris Agreement provides the basis for climate action beyond 2020
- Paris Agreement explicitly acknowledged the role of non-Party stakeholders, including cities and other subnational authorities, and encouraged them to scale up their efforts
- Cities had led the way to the Paris negotiations with a host of pledges and commitments, including:
  - Compact of Mayors
  - Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance
  - Lima-Paris Action Agenda: Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action
6th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum

- The Asia-Pacific Urban Forum has been regularly organized by ESCAP since 1993 every 4-5 years
- APUF-6 organized in partnership with the Government of Indonesia and more than 30 regional partners, and attended by over 900 participants
- Discussed priority areas for the implementation of the SDGs and for consideration at Habitat III
- Adopted the ‘APUF-6 Jakarta Call for Action’
- Held back-to-back with the Habitat III Regional Meeting for Asia-Pacific and largely influenced its outcomes
Regional cooperation for the SDGs

- The regional follow-up and review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is done through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), convened yearly by ESCAP, feeding into the global High-level Political Forum (HLPF)
- APFSD 2016 will take place on 3-5 April 2016 in Bangkok and will have a dedicated session on cities and sustainable urban development
- ESCAP, the Seoul Metropolitan Government and Citynet have joined forces to develop an ‘Urban SDG Knowledge Platform’ – to be unveiled and discussed at the ‘International Forum on Urban Policy for the SDGs’ to be held in Seoul on 8-10 June 2016
Considerations for ASEAN ESC cooperation

- ASEAN ESC cooperation should be repositioned to support implementation of the post-2015 development architecture and in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, and deepen sub-regional integration.

- ASEAN ESC cooperation can do so by:
  - Increasing awareness and capacities of local governments to localize the SDGs, including in terms of tracking progress
  - Highlighting, analysing and sharing good practices related to the SDGs
  - Promoting replication and up-scale, including through national frameworks and city-to-city cooperation
  - Strengthening communication and coordination across levels of government
  - Feeding good practices, policies and initiatives into the ‘Urban SDG Knowledge Platform’ and the APFSD
Thank you

http://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development/urban-development