



7th High Level Seminar on
Environmentally Sustainable Cities

Redesigning toward the 2030 Agenda

HA NOI, VIET NAM • 3-4 MARCH 2016

Thematic session A3: Localizing the SDGs

Moderators: Bernadia Tjandradewi (**UCLG ASPAC**) & Lorenzo Santucci (**ESCAP**)

Speakers: Mr. Prasong Sriwatana, Mayor, Nong Reua Municipality, Khon Khaen, **Thailand**, Mr. Yeekun Suriya, Mayor, Prik Municipality, **Thailand**, Mr. Arif Dermawan, Project Coordinator, Malang City Environment Board, **Indonesia**, Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Son, Deputy General Secretary, **ACVN**, Ms. Claudia Hermes, Programme Director, **CDIA**, and Mr. Simon Olsen, Senior Policy Researcher (**IGES**)

Key messages

- 1. Strong basis for implementing SDGs at local level: need to build on strengths and achievements.** The 2030 Agenda is very comprehensive and ambitious and its implementation may seem daunting to local governments. But most priorities of cities are already aligned with the SDGs and local governments have already been taking action on many targets for many years now. Important to reflect this in awareness raising efforts.
- 2. Success of implementation of the 2030 Agenda will depend on effective action at local level: urgent need to further empower local governments.** The session called for “real” decentralization and the need to build the right enabling environment, equipping local governments with enhanced mandates, resources (financial and human) and capacities and strengthen the legal framework.
- 3. Policy integration and improved governance will be critical.** Resources (financial and human) of local (and national) governments are limited: the successful implementation of the SDGs will require policy coherence and integration (reduce duplication and promote policies that deliver on many fronts – “co-benefits”) and enhanced governance, at all levels.

Key messages (continued)

- 4. Public participation and partnerships will be essential.** People need to be at the center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, not just as recipients but also in its implementation. Local governments alone cannot achieve the goals. Strong partnerships between different levels of government and with civil society, academia, and the private sector need to be forged.
- 5. Intermediaries can play a key role in bridging gaps.** Association of cities help share knowledge and promote cooperation among cities but have also a key role to play in enhancing communication between local and national governments, promoting the replication and up-scale of good practices and influencing policies. Other intermediaries, including multilateral financial institutions, international organizations, think tanks, etc can also help link cities with the required finance, technologies and capacity building.
- 6. HLS ESC should leverage its comparative advantage and focus mainly on environment-related SDGs and targets.** HLS ESC can play an important role as a platform to help localizing the SDGs, by fostering city-to-city cooperation and developing champions among cities, while working with national governments to create the necessary enabling environment and promoting replication and up-scale.