



URBAN G7 COMMUNIQUÉ

Annex – Communiqué's relevant reference documents

ROME

04/11/2024



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UrbanG7 Meetings

UrbanG7 Meeting in Potsdam, Germany (2022)

The first-ever G7 Ministerial Meeting for Sustainable Urban Development took place in Potsdam on September 13-14, 2022. Hosted by Germany, the meeting focused on several key areas:

- Climate and Environmental Protection: emphasizing the role of cities in achieving climate goals and promoting sustainable urban planning.
- Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Planning: aligning with the Agenda 2030 to ensure cities are inclusive and sustainable.
- Public Welfare-Oriented Policies: promoting policies that enhance public welfare at the local level.

UrbanG7 Meeting in Kagawa Takamatsu, Japan (2023)

The second G7 Sustainable Urban Development Ministers' Meeting was held in Takamatsu, Kagawa from July 7-9, 2023. Japan, as the G7 Presidency, hosted this meeting with a focus on:

- net-zero and resilient cities: discussing initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality and enhance urban resilience;
- inclusive cities: ensuring that urban development leaves no one behind;
- digitalisation in cities: utilizing digital solutions to address urban challenges.

Binding Global Worldwide International Agreements and Global Action Plans

Ecological, energy and climate transition

As regards environmental aspects: the urban G7 focuses on tools and practices focused on implementing the directives of the COPs of the Rio Conventions, namely the 29th COP of the UNFCCC and the 6th CMA of the Paris Agreement, the 16th COP of the CBD, the 16th COP of the UNCCD; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); the goals of the Paris Agreement and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction (2015).

Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction (2015)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is an international agreement adopted by the United Nations member states in March 2015 during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. It aims to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health, as well as in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries.

Key Elements of the Sendai Framework:

- Four Priorities for Action:
- Understanding disaster risk: Improving knowledge about disaster risks.
- Strengthening disaster risk governance: Enhancing policies and institutions to manage disaster risks.
- Investing in disaster risk reduction: Allocating resources to reduce risks and enhance resilience.
- Enhancing disaster preparedness: Improving readiness for effective response and recovery.



Seven Global Targets:

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP.
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.
- Increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.
- Enhance international cooperation to developing countries.
- Increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information.

The Sendai Framework emphasizes an all-of-society approach, involving governments, private sector, and civil society in disaster risk reduction efforts.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” - UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 (2015)

The agenda is built around 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice, to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030.

- 17 Goals: These goals include ending poverty, ensuring quality education, achieving gender equality, promoting sustainable economic growth, and taking urgent action to combat climate change.
- 169 Targets: Each goal has specific targets to be achieved by 2030, providing a detailed roadmap for progress.
- Global Partnership: The agenda emphasizes the importance of collaboration between governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals to achieve these goals.
- The SDGs build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to address the root causes of poverty and the universal need for sustainable development.

The Paris agreement - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC (2015)

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016.

Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”

However, in recent years, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

That’s because the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that crossing the 1.5°C threshold risks unleashing far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall.

To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030.

The Paris Agreement is a landmark in the multilateral climate change process because, for the first time, a binding agreement brings all nations together to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.



The New Urban Agenda - adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, on 20 October 2016, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 (2016)

The New Urban Agenda was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, on 20 October 2016. It was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eighth plenary meeting of the seventy-first session on 23 December 2016.

The New Urban Agenda represents a shared vision for a better and more sustainable future. If well-planned and well-managed, urbanization can be a powerful tool for sustainable development for both developing and developed countries.

OECD Principles on Urban Policy (2019)

The OECD Principles on Urban Policy consolidate the lessons from the past 20+ years of work on cities to guide policymakers in building smart, sustainable and inclusive cities. The Implementation Toolkit helps use the Principles as a driver of policy reform. The Principles were welcomed by Mayors and Ministers during the 7th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers on 19 March 2019 in Athens, Greece. Mayors, Ministers and partner institutions committed to supporting the implementation of the Principles through the Athens Pledge.

The Implementation Toolkit of the OECD Principles of Urban Policy aims to support cities, regions and countries in their efforts to use the Principles as a driver of policy reform in diverse urban policy contexts, through the:

- Self-assessment framework: providing governments with a user-friendly four-step guide and a series of guiding questions and indicators to assess the state of play of their urban policy frameworks (“what”), operational mechanisms (“how”) as well as the results;
- Policy database: offering a selection of 60+ leading examples around the globe on how national and subnational governments are using the OECD Principles on Urban Policy on the ground to reshape their urban policy.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted during the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022. This is a landmark framework aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.

The Declaration de Chaillot adopted at the Buildings and Climate Forum of Paris (2024)

The Déclaration de Chaillot (March 2024) is the first engagement of governments to set up roadmaps, integrated policies, regulatory and financial frameworks for decarbonization and resilience of the buildings sector. It sets up an intergovernmental committee on buildings and climate and a cooperation agreement. All the G7 countries, along with 57 other governments endorsed the document.

The 16th COP to the CBD (2024)

The 16th Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is scheduled to take place from October 21 to November 1, 2024, in Cali, Colombia. This conference is a significant event where representatives from various countries gather to discuss and advance global biodiversity goals.

One of the key focuses of COP 16 will be evaluating the progress of countries towards their national goals and targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This framework was established to guide global efforts in conserving biodiversity and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources.



Directives of the COPs of the Rio Conventions, namely the 29th COP of the UNFCCC, Baku (2024)

Climate Finance: One of the primary objectives will be to define new quantifiable climate finance goals. This is crucial for supporting developing countries in their climate action efforts.

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Countries will discuss and present updates on their NDCs, which are national plans with a specific focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Enhanced Collaboration: There will be a focus on enhancing collaboration among the Rio Conventions to address interconnected challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification.
- Nature-Based Solutions: Emphasis will be placed on nature-based solutions, such as protecting ecosystems that absorb carbon emissions and building resilience to climate impacts.
- Technological Innovations: Discussions will include scaling up the use of clean and sustainable technologies, particularly renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

6th CMA of the Paris Agreement (2024)

The 6th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6) is scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024. This conference is a crucial event where representatives from countries around the world gather to discuss and advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The 16th COP of the UNCCD (2024)

The 16th Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2 to 13, 2024. This conference is a significant event for addressing land degradation, desertification, and drought resilience.

Social and demographic transition

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - UNDRIP (2007)

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is a landmark international instrument adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007. It establishes a comprehensive framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the world's indigenous peoples.

Key Aspects of UNDRIP:

- Self-Determination: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination, meaning they can freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.
- Cultural Rights and Identity: The declaration affirms the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their distinct cultural identities and traditions.
- Land and Resources: It recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories, and resources, which they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used.
- Non-Discrimination: The declaration prohibits discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them.
- Participation and Consultation: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making processes that affect them and to be consulted in good faith through their own representative institutions.



Innovation and digital transition

Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework (2023)

The Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework is an international initiative aimed at promoting safe, secure, and trustworthy advanced AI systems. It was developed to maximize the innovative opportunities of AI while mitigating the risks and challenges associated with advanced AI systems, including foundational models and generative AI.

The framework includes two major components:

- Hiroshima Process International Guiding Principles for All AI Actors: These principles provide guidelines for all stakeholders involved in AI development and deployment to ensure responsible and ethical practices.
- Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems: This code of conduct outlines specific measures and best practices for organizations to follow throughout the AI lifecycle, from development to deployment and market placement.

The framework emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and multi-stakeholder consultation to keep up with rapid technological developments. It was endorsed by the G7 leaders and aims to foster an inclusive global governance for AI.

Events and Global Forums

G20 India (2023)

India held the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023. During this period, India hosted the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi on September 9-10, 2023. The summit was a culmination of various meetings and processes held throughout the year, involving ministers, senior officials, and civil societies.

Key Highlights of India's G20 Presidency:

The theme was “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth, One Family, One Future,” emphasizing global unity and cooperation.

- Major Priorities:
- Green Development, Climate Finance, and Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).
- Accelerated, Inclusive, and Resilient Growth.
- Progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Technological Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure.
- Women-led Development.

Outcomes:

G20 Leaders' Declaration: Adopted at the New Delhi Summit, this declaration outlined commitments towards the priorities discussed during the year.

Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit: Held on November 22, 2023, to further discuss and implement key outcomes from the New Delhi Summit.

India's G20 Presidency focused on fostering international cooperation and addressing global challenges through inclusive and sustainable development.



World Urban Forum (2024)

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization.

The WUF12, convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), will take place in Cairo, Egypt. This will be the first time in over 20 years, the forum is returning to the African continent.

AI Action Summit (2025)

On 10 and 11 February 2025, France will host the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit, gathering Heads of State and Government, leaders of international organizations, small and large enterprises, representatives of academia, non-governmental organizations, artists and members of civil society. The event aims to be as inclusive as possible, with broad representation across countries and sectors. Building on the important milestones reached during the Bletchley Park (November 2023) and Seoul (May 2024) summits, this gathering will focus on concrete actions to ensure that the global AI sector can drive beneficial social, economic and environmental outcomes in the public interest. The Summit will address five primary themes:

- Public interest AI,
- Future of Work,
- Innovation and Culture,
- Trust in AI,
- Global governance of AI.

Discussions will also encompass cross-cutting issues, for instance on gender equality and climate change implications. The summit's foundation is being laid through the collaborative efforts of contact groups, which bring together governments, businesses, and civil society representatives from diverse regions.

EU Regulation and Policy actions

Ecological, energy and climate transition

New Circular Economy Action Plan (2020)

The new Circular Economy Action Plan – one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal – aims to reduce the EU's consumption footprint and double its circular material use rate in the coming decade, while boosting economic growth.

The Action Plan puts forward a series of measures, such as making sustainable products the norm in the EU, empowering consumers and ensuring less waste. The rules will also aim to reward manufacturers of products based on their sustainability performance and link high-performance levels to incentives.

New Leipzig Charter - The transformative power of cities for the common good (2020)

The New Leipzig Charter provides a key policy framework document for sustainable urban development in Europe. The Charter highlights that cities need to establish integrated and sustainable urban development strategies and ensure their implementation for the city as a whole, from its functional areas to its neighbourhoods. The document is strongly aligned with the Cohesion Policy and its framework for sustainable urban development. Member States agreed to implement the Charter in their national or regional urban policies.



The common principles are useful references for programming Cohesion Policy (Integrated territorial development and sustainable urban development). The Charter would allow Member States to develop national urban policies of high quality.

The New Leipzig Charter is also accompanied by an Implementing document which intends to guide the next phase of the Urban Agenda for the EU according to renewed parameters.

European Climate Law (2021)

Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 ('European Climate Law')

The regulation:

- establishes a framework for achieving climate neutrality within the European Union (EU) by 2050 (that is, a balance of EU-wide greenhouse-gas emissions and their removal regulated in EU law);
- includes, in addition to the binding objective of climate neutrality in the EU by 2050, the aim of achieving negative emissions in the EU thereafter;
- provides for a binding EU target of a net domestic reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by at least 55% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030, and to set a climate target for 2040 within six months of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement;
- introduces rules to ensure continuous progress towards the global adaptation to climate change goal in the Paris Agreement.

European 8th Environment Action Programme (2022)

The 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP) is the European Union's strategic framework for environmental policy until 2030. It entered into force on May 2, 2022, and builds on the European Green Deal.

The programme aims to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy while ensuring human well-being and prosperity within planetary boundaries.

Key Objectives:

- The 8th EAP sets out six priority objectives for 2030:
- Achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and meeting the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
- Enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change.
- Advancing towards a regenerative growth model, decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation.
- Pursuing a zero-pollution ambition for air, water, and soil to protect health and well-being.
- Protecting, preserving, and restoring biodiversity and enhancing natural capital.



Reducing environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption, particularly in energy, industry, buildings, infrastructure, mobility, tourism, international trade, and the food system. Social and demographic transition

Chaillot agreement (1961)

The Chaillot Agreement refers to the European Social Charter, which was signed at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris on October 18, 1961.

The European Pillar of Social Rights (2017)

The European Pillar of Social Rights is a framework established by the European Union to promote fair and well-functioning labor markets and welfare systems. It was proclaimed in 2017 at the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Key Principles:

The Pillar is built around 20 key principles and rights, which are divided into three main categories

- Equal Opportunities and Access to the Labour Market.
- Fair Working Conditions.
- Social dialogue and involvement of workers: Promoting social dialogue and the involvement of workers in decision-making processes.

The implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights is a joint effort by EU institutions, national, regional, and local authorities, social partners, and civil society. The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is the main financial instrument supporting the implementation of the Pillar.

Innovation and digital transition

As regards innovation and digital and social right aspects: the urban G7 focuses on tools and practices capable of implementing the directives of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and the Digital Decade policy programme, to guide the digital transformation of EU countries.

Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (2022)

The EU Digital Decade is a strategic and comprehensive framework that includes the Digital Decade policy programme, the Digital Decade targets, the objectives, the multi-country projects and the Digital Decade rights & principles to guide Europe's digital transformation by 2030. The Digital Decade Policy Programme sets out concrete targets in the following key areas:

Digital Skills:

- 80% of adults can use tech for everyday tasks
- 20 million employed ICT specialists, more graduates + gender balance

Secure and Sustainable Digital Infrastructure:

- Gigabit connectivity for everyone, high-speed mobile coverage (at least 5G) everywhere
- EU produces 20% of world's semiconductors



- 10000 cloud edge nodes that guarantee fast data access
- EU quantum computing by 2025

Digital Transformation of Businesses:

- 75% of EU companies using Cloud, AI or Big Data
- 90% of SMEs taking up tech
- Double the number of unicorn startups

Digitalisation of Public Services:

- 100 % online accessible provision of key public services
- Everyone can access health records online
- Everyone can use secure electronic identification (eID)

Framework convention on AI (2024)

The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence is the first-ever international legally binding treaty in the field of AI, adopted by the Council of Europe in May 2024. This convention aims to ensure that AI systems are developed and used in ways that are consistent with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, while also promoting technological progress and innovation.

Key Features of the Framework Convention are the following.

- **Human Rights and AI:** The convention emphasizes that AI systems must respect human dignity, individual autonomy, and privacy.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** It requires transparency in AI systems, ensuring that individuals can understand, and challenge decisions made by AI.
- **Non-Discrimination:** AI systems must be designed and used in ways that prevent discrimination and promote equality.
- **Safety and Innovation:** The convention promotes safe innovation, ensuring that AI systems are reliable and secure.
- **Inclusive Process:** The convention was developed with input from 46 member states of the Council of Europe, as well as observer states like Canada, Japan, and the United States, and various international organizations and civil society representatives.
- **Global Participation:** The treaty is designed to be a global instrument, with participation from countries across different regions.