



UN Major Group for Children and Youth

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Intervention at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meeting for Habitat III
The Transformative Commitments for a Sustainable Urban Development
Sustainable Energy
27th April 2016

Thank you facilitator for giving us the floor.

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth, on behalf of the Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group of the General Assembly of Partners, would like to share some views and concerns about the discourse and deliverables in regards to these thematic areas.

1. What role does Sustainable Energy have in supporting sustainable urbanization?

Consumption of energy and the extraction of natural resources are some of the biggest contributors to climate change and environmental degradation.

The radical shift towards renewable, green, low-carbon, accessible, affordable, safe, decentralised, non privatised and community owned energy is a cornerstone of sustainable urban development that is 'people centered **and planet sensitive**'.

In the case of nuclear power plants, rural areas are forced to accept the construction of plants on their land, even though most of the energy generated is consumed in cities.

In this sense, especially when it comes to the problem where rural areas are very often a casualty of urban consumption needs, relationships between urban and rural areas must be transformed.

A truly inclusive and just city must decentralise energy production and promote locally produced and consumed energy. This also helps to reduce the risk of disconnection from basic resources, sometimes caused by disasters.

Moreover, we want to once again stress the need to rethink the urban-rural dichotomy. Integrated territorial development must underpin sustainable urban development.

2. Which strategies, policies and finance mechanisms are most suitable to integrate Sustainable Energy in cities?

A few points to attempt to answer this question.

An appropriate paradigm- In the vision, we urge the conversation to shift beyond the use of GDP as a qualifier of a city's contributions to development.

GDP is a buzz concept that does not capture the destructive nature of resource extraction from the planet, especially around rural and peri-urban areas that are accompanied with the rampant use of non renewable energy.

In addition, Cohesive Measurement and assessment of progress of the SDGs in an urban context and more specifically the New Urban Agenda, requires a comprehensive assessment of **urban energy use** and city level municipal and extra-territorial ecological footprints, as compared to progress on SDG indicators. This ratio then needs to be integrated into measures of progress beyond GDP.

Decentralisation and Public Realm- Scenarios for government, resident, or cooperative ownership of energy infrastructure must be explored and pursued, for example by establishing a renewable energy transition program that promotes community-based decentralized renewable energy systems.

3. How does urban integration of sustainable energy strengthens the potential five components of the new urban agenda

Integrated- Energy planning legally incorporates and is assessed against impacts on resource extraction and ecological footprints.

Sustainable- The energy sources are green and renewable, and centered on people and the planet.

Strategic- This is self evident- as highlighted on the panel, not only is it becoming cheaper, but continued extraction and burning of fossil fuels has its well elaborated shortcomings.

Transformative- We are seeking to apply a nexus approach to energy as opposed to a linear model.

(in terms of the) Rights Based component - An emphasis should be on locally generated, consumed, and community owned

Thank you