



SESSION DESCRIPTION

A3 How does the Urban NEXUS Approach and inter-sectoral coordination make cities more resilient?

Panel discussion

Date: Thursday, 29, 2014

Time: 14:30-16:00

Rooms: S25-26

Language: English

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Organized by: BMZ, GIZ and ICLEI

OBJECTIVE

The Urban NEXUS is a concept to counter sectoral thinking and divided responsibilities and to encourage collaborative, concerted approaches in society, public administration and policy making. As such, the Urban NEXUS is an approach to urban policy, planning and design that seeks to address multiple issues through single investments, projects and programs. The aim is to advance sustainable urban development through comprehensive approaches and strategic cooperation between sectors, especially in the management of natural resources and energy, promoting cyclical systems of production and consumption, encouraging new urban habits, such as urban agriculture, and to ultimately increase urban resilience. Furthermore, some recent findings will be discussed of how to operationalize the Urban Nexus in a concrete way with selected city-regions in Tanzania and India with German Development Cooperation partnerships.

The Urban NEXUS thus implies innovative and cross-cutting approaches to problem solving, service provision and the infrastructures conveying urban resource flows. This session will discuss the merits of the Urban NEXUS in making cities more resilient to adverse shocks and climatic changes.

OUTCOMES

Participants will gain a better understanding of:

- Why cities as complex organisms require integrated approaches;
- A systematic approach for decision-makers and urban practitioners to go beyond institutional and managerial “silos” - the concept of the “Urban NEXUS”;
- The inter-linkages between resource systems, their management, and climate change action;
- Strategies/methods for bringing stakeholders together in order to respond to increasing resource constraints and the dynamics of climate change; and
- Illustrated with examples of cross-sectoral projects and programs, from the global North and South, making cities and their resource systems more resilient.



METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will open the session with a short introduction of each speaker and the objectives and guiding questions of the session. **(5 minutes)**
- The first speaker (from BMZ) will introduce the topic and illustrate its relevance for Sustainable Development. **(10 minutes)**
- Each speaker will be given time to present their thoughts/perspective on the given sub-theme. **(3 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage a first round of Q&A with the audience. **(10-15 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session will be organized in the form of a panel discussion around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists. **(20 minutes)**
- The facilitator will conclude with some summarizing/closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

1. How are urban resource systems vulnerable to climate change, and how can integrated approaches (Urban NEXUS) improve their resilience?
2. Which elements in the city – hard or soft (physical or institutional /behavioral) – can be made more resilient by the Urban NEXUS?
3. Do the areas of greatest opportunity for an Urban NEXUS approach differ between cities in the global North and South?
4. How can the Urban NEXUS encourage or facilitate the inclusion of resilience and climate change adaptation measures in all urban projects?
5. What are concrete actions or steps that can be taken to break down “silos” in urban resource and risk management?
6. Which institutional and governance reforms can put the Urban NEXUS into thinking and practice?
7. Are there potential pitfalls /blind spots of the Urban NEXUS approach?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Kathrine Brekke, Urban Researcher and Global Coordinator of Urban Nexus Project, ICLEI World Secretariat, Bonn, Germany*

Speaker *Franz-Birger Marré, Head of Division Water and Urban Development, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn, Germany*

Opening remarks on: Relevance of URBAN NEXUS; Contribution of German Development Cooperation; Policy frameworks for operationalizing URBAN NEXUS.

Speaker *Jeb Brugmann, Author of GIZ-ICLEI study on “Operationalizing the Urban Nexus”, Managing Partner, The Next Practice; Founder of ICLEI, Toronto, Canada*

Will present the Urban NEXUS approach to designing policy, institutions and projects, a systematic approach for decision-makers and urban practitioners to go beyond “silos”.



Speaker *Mussa Natty, Municipal Director, Kinondoni Municipal Corporation, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*

Will present a concrete example from an Urban Nexus pilot project in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the approach of a project integrated into the city management, and coordination between sectors.

Speaker *Ranell Martin M. Dedicatoria, Program Manager, ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat, Manila, Philippines*

Will present experiences from the project "Integrated resource management in Asian Cities: the urban nexus" being implemented in 10 cities in Asia by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with the partnership of the ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat.

Panelist *Mark Roseland, Director, Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada*

Will discuss stakeholder engagement and leveraging "community capital" to meet the needs of cities and towns for:

- Energy efficiency, waste reduction and recycling;
- water, sewage, transportation and housing;
- land use and urban planning;
- air quality and climate change.

Panelist *Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; Regional Director, ICLEI South Asia Secretariat, New Delhi, India*

Will share ICLEI experiences with Urban NEXUS pilot project in Nashik, India, on merits and challenges of inclusive stakeholder approaches, and resilience; and answering to session questions.

Panelist *Sarah Birch, Climate Risk and Biodiversity Program Manager, ICLEI Global Cities Biodiversity Center, ICLEI Africa Secretariat, Cape Town, South Africa*

Will share ICLEI experiences with Dar es Salaam Urban Nexus pilot project, on merits and challenges of inclusive stakeholder approaches, and resilience.

Further recommended reading

"Operationalizing the Urban Nexus in Metropolitan Regions", 2014 (forthcoming), study authored by Brugmann, J. on behalf of BMZ, GIZ and ICLEI
