Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

UN Global Compact Network India

A Workshop on Framing the National Challenge Framework on Climate Smart Cities and Air Pollution Mitigation

25th January 2019 | India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

BACKGROUND

Rapid urbanization is posing a challenge for sustainable development of our cities. Urban areas are responsible for considerable energy consumption and GHG emissions which attributes to climate change. It is observed that nearly 44% of India's rapidly growing carbon emissions have urban origins, emanating from transport, industry, buildings, and waste. This imposes huge risks towards increased water stress, heat island effect, and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as urban floods. However, this unprecedented growth will lead to negative consequences for the environment and the well-being of its citizens. Rapidly growing carbon emissions are making our cities vulnerable and imposing huge risks to the environment and human beings.

India is the sixth most vulnerable country in the world facing extreme weather events as per the latest climate index report. In 2016 India, alone lost human 2119 lives and over $21 billion worth of properties. A recent NITI Ayaog's report has revealed that Twenty-one cities, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad will run out of groundwater by 2020 which may affect the life of 100 million people. CSE study has reported that 360 million people will be exposed to extreme heat in 142 Indian cities by 2050. Further, curbing air quality deterioration poses serious challenges for city administrators as 43 smart cities in India are already facing poor air quality.

Cities are the engines of growth contributing around 66% of the country's GDP, 90% of tax revenue, and around 70% of job opportunities. This led to an urban population bloom which is expected to reach around 600 million by the year 2030. The government of India's Smart Cities Mission envisages to further driving this economic growth hand in hand with improving the quality of life of people by enabling local area development and

harnessing technology, especially that leads to Smart outcomes.

Local capacities for efficient implementation of urban climate strategies are limited. To facilitate cities in understanding these challenges and where cities stand and may improve, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the "Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework" with 30 diverse indicators across five categories namely;

(i) Energy and Green Buildings
(ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity
(iii) Mobility and Air Quality
(iv) Waste Management and
(v) Water Resource Management.

To get experts' views and ideas, MoHUA has organized, a workshop called Brainstorming Session for Framing the National Challenge Framework on Climate Smart Cities and Air Pollution Mitigation, on 25 January 2019. Global Compact Network India joined hands with MoHUA for organizing and facilitating this workshop.

OBJECTIVES

- To discuss factors responsible for rapidly growing carbon emissions.
- To involve potential stakeholders and seek experts' views and ideas on Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework.
- To develop a roadmap /strategy for the implementation of climate-smart cities assessment framework.
- To discuss and strategize a framework for Climate Change and Air Pollution Mitigation.
- City climate resilience strategies and Local Climate Action Plans.
- Improvement of ambient air quality standards (Convergence of missions e.g. with the National Clean Air program).
- Green buildings, energy management, cool roofs, and solar rooftop systems.
- Solid waste, construction and demolition waste management Urban land use and land cover including green cover.
- Urban water resilience including floods and other hydro-met disasters.
- Urban mobility including transport and vehicular pollution Urban industrial pollution.

RATIONALE

Cities are responsible for the climate-sensitive development of their urban areas. While they are a significant contributor to climate change, they are also particularly vulnerable to its consequences. By taking appropriate measures, cities can make a significant contribution to mitigating climate change and increase their resilience to climate-related shocks.

The integration of various likewise programs of the government like the Green India Mission, National Clean Air Programme, and infrastructure schemes like AMRUT, Swachchh Bharat Mission, and Urban Transport can support the cities in achieving the objective of being Climate Smart.

The "Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework" is a step to adopt, implement

and disseminate the best practices adopted by the cities and further set standards in comparison to the international efforts towards green, sustainable, and urban resilient habitats. These efforts will also help reduce and

eradicate growing carbon emissions to protect the environment and natural resources.

PROCEEDINGS

The event started with a round of introduction among the participants. Ms. Tanja Feldmann welcomed the speakers and the participants.

Mr. Jagan Shah shared the background and the purpose of the program being conducted for framing the national challenge framework on climate Smart Cities and Air Pollution Mitigation.

Introductory remarks were given by Mr. Kunal Kumar (IAS), Joint Secretary (Smart Cities Mission), GoI. He briefly shared an overview of the Smart Cities Mission and its achievements & Challenges. Talking about Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework,

he mentioned that this initiative of MoHUA will help the cities assess themselves on the effect of climate and air pollution and develop strategies to reduce and mitigate carbon emissions challenges.

Ms. Vaishali Nandan talked about India's ranks in the world from a climate risk perspective. She said India is ranked sixth among the ten most affected countries in the world as per the Global Climate Risk Index 2016 and accounts for about seven percent of global Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. It is therefore a crucial player when it comes to dealing with climate change-related issues. She also mentioned that following the UNFCCC Paris Agreement in 2014, the Government of India declared in their Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in 2015, that the country would take steps to reduce its emission intensity by 33-35 percent by 2030, compared to the 2005 levels; however, this cannot be easily achieved considering the size and growing population of India. She said that in order to address the growing needs of the urban areas, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), initiated four central government schemes i.e. Smart Cities Mission covering 100 cities; Atal Mission for Rejuvenation Urban Transformation (AMRUT) covering 500 cities with a focus on provision of basic services; Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) ensuring hygiene, waste management, and sanitation; and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) aiming at housing for all, latter covering all 4,041 cities in the country. Besides this, she shared about GIZ's climate Smart Cities Project and said that this project is aimed at the capacity development of 10 additional Urban Local Bodies on climate-relevant solutions.

Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui shared that, today, cities and city inhabitants are facing

additional and amplified challenges as a result of rapid urbanization, climate change, and political instability.

Taking into account that 50% of the population already lives in cities and by 2050, this figure is expected to reach 70%; hence there is a pressing need for new tools and approaches that strengthen local administrations and citizens, as well as their capacity to face new challenges and to better protect human, economic and natural assets of our cities. She said that the initiative of developing the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework of MoHUA will be an effective tool for the cities to assess themselves on climate standards and achievements.

Dr. Shruti Rai gave an introduction of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) as the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes.

She said that the primary concerns of the Ministry are the implementation of policies and programmes relating to the conservation of the country's natural resources including its lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests, and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals, and the prevention and abatement of pollution. While implementing these policies and programmes, the Ministry is guided by the principle of sustainable development and enhancement of human well-being. She shared that on the matters pertaining to

the Environment, the Ministry also serves as the nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and for the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Ministry is also entrusted with issues relating to

multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and of regional bodies like the Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). To make the audience understand, she also shared the following broad objectives of the Ministry (MoEFCC) --:

- Prevention and control of pollution.
- Protection of the environment.
- Conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests, and wildlife.
- Afforestation and regeneration of degraded areas.
- Ensuring the welfare of animals.

Dr. Umamaheshwaran Rajshekar moderated a discussion on developing a framework for climate change and Air Pollution Mitigation in Smart Cities with leading questions around. He broadly discussed about the approaches & Priorities, Indicators /standards, Methodology of implementation, Funding, and Governance. The participants provided their inputs and recommendations for the successful implementation of the framework for climate change and air pollution mitigation being developed by NIUA under the guidance of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

(MoHUA).

Participants' queries /questions responded

- By trapping the earth's heat in the atmosphere how do greenhouse gases affect climate change?
- How and to what extent, climate change and Air Pollution Mitigation initiatives will help the cities to reduce carbon emissions and what is the implementation plan and monitoring mechanism of MoHUA?
- What is MoHUA's strategy to integrate with the other relevant programmes.
- Does MoHUA requires collaboration with NGOs, Corporates, and other stakeholders?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- MoHUA needs to develop the strategy and implementation plan for Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework.
- NIUA must prepare a list of potential ministries, NGOs, UN Agencies, etc. to collaborate for the initiative.
- CEGET/GCNI and NIUA should plan a collective action for supporting Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework and Resilient cities.

NOTICEABLE FEATURES

- The workshop was fully participatory.
- Importance and need of engaging UN Agencies and other potential
- stakeholders in climate-smart cities initiatives were focussed.
- Stakeholders from Govt, NGOs, UN-Agencies together attended the workshop and shared their ideas and suggestions for developing and implementing climate-smart cities assessment framework and Climate change & Air Pollution Mitigation framework.
- Stakeholders agreed to collective action towards climate change and air pollution mitigation.
- MoHUA shared its implementation strategy and plan for the climate smart cities assessment framework.
- The workshop was time-bound and strategic.

WAY FORWARD

- Identifying Cities' needs and strategies to address challenges related to climate change.
- Development of Partnership/collaboration with diverse stakeholders; Collect and incorporate their suggestions in the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework.
- Integrating Smart Cities Initiatives with Govt’s other programmes like Green India Mission, National Clean Air Programme, and infrastructure schemes like AMRUT, Swachchh Bharat Mission, and Urban Transport.
- Implementation of Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework.

- Developing a framework for climate change and Air Pollution Mitigation for Smart Cities.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

- Stakeholders from varied Governments/departments, UN Agencies, NGOs, etc. provided their suggestions and ideas for Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework.
- Need for developing a framework for climate change and Air Pollution Mitigation was also discussed.
- A roadmap for collective action was discussed and developed.
- The need for collaboration between the Government and other stakeholders for the implementation of the various initiatives was strategized for strengthening smart cities.

The workshop was attended by:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Company/Organization
1	Mr. Kunal Kumar , IAS	Mission Director, Smart Cities, GoI	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
2	Mr. Jagan Shah	Director	National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA)
3	Mr. O. P. Agarwal	CEO,	World Resources Institute
4	Mr. Sanjay Seth	Senior Director	TERI
5	Mr. Emani Kumar	Deputy Secretary General **&** Executive Director	ICLEI ICLEI South Asia
6	Ms. Prarthana Borah	India Director	Clean Air Asia
7	Mr. Kamal Kishore	Member	National Disaster Management Authority
8	Dr. Anil Gupta	Professor	National Institute of Disaster Management
9	Mr. S Karthikeyan	Principal Counsellor	CII-IGBC, Hyderabad
10	Mr. Sanjay Joshi	Principle Urban Development	Asian Development Bank
11	Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui	Director, Centre of Excellence for Governance, Ethics and Transparency (CEGET)	Global Compact Network India
12	Ms. Anna French	Head, India	DFID
13	Mr. Amit Prothi	Head India Strategy, 100 RC	Rockefeller Foundation
14	Ms. Mona Chhabra	Project Manager	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
15	Ms. Preeti Soni	Deputy Director	UNDP

16	Dr. Amir Bazaz	Lead Practice	IIHS
17	Mr. Anshu Sharma	Director	SEEDS
18	Ms. Divya Sharma	Senior Consultant, Urban Policy	OPML
19	Dr. Minal Pathak	Author	IPCC Fifth assessment report
20	Mr. Hitesh Vaidhya	India Director	UN-HABITAT
21	Mr. Balaka Dey	Program Management Specialist	USAID India
22	Mr. Chinmay Acharya	Chief of Programs	Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation
23	Mr. Andrin Fink	Thematic advisor	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
24	Ms. Shreya Gadepalli	Regional Director	South Asia, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy
25	Ms. Mili Majumdar	Managing Director	GNCI, India
26	Mr. Ankit Bhardwaj	Senior Research Associate	Centre for Policy Research
27	Ms. Akshima Ghate	Principal	Rocky Mountain Institute
28	Mr. Sanjay Sridhar	Regional Director	South & West Asia, C40
29	Mr. Panagiotis Karamanos	Team Leader	International Urban Cooperation (IUC) India
30	Mr. Shirish Sinha	Director	Climate, Children's Investment Fund Foundation