

An Alliance for Sustainable Cities

A Declaration on the Occasion of the Special Symposium of the Pontifical Academy of Science and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
July 22, 2015

We the participants from across society and around the world – mayors, scholars, development practitioners, religious leaders, national government officials, and representatives of global urban networks – have gathered at the Vatican on July 21-22, 2015 to meet with Pope Francis and to exchange proposals and solutions regarding “Sustainable Cities: Empowering People, Enabling Prosperity and Protecting the Planet.” We are grateful to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences for hosting this fruitful event, and to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network for co-hosting the Special Symposium on July 22.

Pope Francis called upon the mayors to take leadership in overcoming the growing crises of social exclusion, marginalization, and climate disruption. We, the mayors and others assembled in this symposium, have heard this call from Pope Francis and from our own citizens. We recognize the dire threats to future generations. We must act now.

As Pope Francis said in his address to us yesterday, the UN and leaders in all sectors of society must take into account extreme forms of social exclusion, such as the new forms of slavery (including human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution, and organ trafficking). We recognize that global warming and other environmental degradation exacerbate these ills by intensifying poverty and social vulnerability. The very tissue of our societies is under threat from growing inequalities; the unmet needs of the extreme poor and the extremely vulnerable; and a natural environment being hit by more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, floods, rising sea levels, and other climate-related threats.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls for joint action at a global scale:

Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan. Yet the same ingenuity which has brought about enormous technological progress has so far proved incapable of finding effective ways of dealing with grave environmental and social problems worldwide. A global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries. (p. 164)

We are gratified that the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be adopted by the UN member states at the United Nations on September 25, 2015, a day to be opened by Pope Francis, can help the world to formulate a “common plan” and a “global consensus.” We, the mayors and other participants, pledge to work towards the success of the SDGs in our own cities and respective areas of endeavor, and to partner with others across the globe to help all cities achieve the new SDGs with success.

To this end, we pledge today to work together cooperatively and actively across cities and sectors to coalesce in an Urban SDG Alliance. The SDG Urban Alliance will be open, voluntary, participatory, and eager to engage all urban stakeholders that are committed to sustainable development and the SDGs. In joining together in a new SDG alliance, we recognize and applaud the enormous efforts of world-leading urban networks including UCLG, ICLEI, C-40, the Cities Alliance, Slum Dwellers International, the World Urban

Campaign and WEIGO, as well as other members of the UrbanSDG Campaign, to promote the prioritization of urban sustainability within the new SDG framework.

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, UCLG, ICLEI, C-40 and members of the UrbanSDG Campaign, will work together with universities, city and regional governments, social movements, UN agencies, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, and others to establish the SDG Urban Alliance, with the following objectives:

- To help cities to achieve the SDGs, including to end extreme poverty and hunger; ensure gender equality and gender-sensitive solutions; and guarantee universal access to health, education, and other vital services;
- Urge national and state governments to empower cities to fulfill their SDG responsibilities, including through appropriate devolution of powers and finances;
- Help citizens and businesses everywhere to understand the SDGs;
- Help cities to create SDG-based plans;
- Cut corruption and impunity that undermine sustainable development;
- Identify pathways to decarbonize the energy system in order to keep global warming below 2-degrees C;
- Promote and strengthen universities to be innovation hubs for sustainable development;
- Create new channels for urban sustainable financing and long-term planning;
- Create decent and sustainable jobs, ensure human rights, and help to end homelessness;
- End human trafficking and all forms of modern slavery, including through strong commitments to these goals within the SDGs;
- Work with UN-Habitat and other partners for the great success of Habitat III in Quito in 2016.

The Urban SDG Alliance will have its launch on September 24, 2015, near the United Nations, on the eve of the global adoption of the SDGs. We welcome all partners in this new alliance and invite all partners to attend the launch.

/signed/

Mr. Eduardo Accastello,
Mayor of Villa María, Argentina

Mr. Mahamudo Amurane,
Mayor of Nampula,
Mozambique

Mr. Matthew Appelbaum,
Mayor of Boulder, Colorado,
USA

Mr. Milan Bandić, Mayor of
Zagreb, Croatia

Mr. William A. Bell, Mayor of
Birmingham, Alabama, USA

**The Hon. Edmund G. Brown
Jr.,** Governor of California, USA

**Hon. Ms. Angela Brown-
Burke,** Mayor of Kingston,
Jamaica, Vice President for the
Caribbean of the Global Alliance
of Mayors and Leaders from
Africa and of African Descent

Ms. Hilda Carrera, Asesora del
Despacho, Bogota, Colombia

Mr. Tony Chammany, Mayor of
Kochi, India

Mr. Calisto Moisés Cossa
Mayor of Matola, Mozambique

Mr. Antonio Decaro, Mayor of
Bari, Italy

Mr. Djibril Diallo, Senior
Advisor to the Executive
Director Joint UNAIDS, and
Chairman, African Renaissance
and Diaspora Network, Inc.,
Coordinator of the Global
Alliance of Mayors and Leaders
from Africa and of African
Descent

Ms. Mónica Fein, Mayor of
Rosario, Argentina

Mr. George Ferguson, Mayor
of Bristol, UK

Mr. José Fortunati, Mayor of
Porto Alegre, Brazil

Mr. Gustavo Bonato Fruet, Mayor of Curitiba and Vice President of Planning and Planning FNP, Brazil

Mr. Anibal Gaviria Correa, Mayor of Medellín, Colombia

Mr. Charles Andrew "Charlie" Hales, Mayor of Portland, Oregon, USA

Ms. Elizabeth Ashley (Betsy) Hodges, Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Prof. Julius Ihonvbere, Secretary to the Edo State Government, Nigeria

Mr. Jarosław Józwiak, Deputy-Mayor of Warsaw, Poland

Mr. Marcio Lacerda, Mayor of Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Mr. Edouard Lambal, Mayor of Oussouye, Sénégal

Mr. Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Mr. Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, California, USA

Mr. Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose, California, USA

Mr. Anthony Joseph (Tony) Lloyd, Mayor of Greater Manchester, United Kingdom

Mr. Erik Lunde, Member of the Oslo City Council

Mr. Antônio Carlos Magalhães Neto, Mayor of Salvador, Brazil

Mr. Ignazio Marino, Mayor of Rome, Italy

Mr. Virginio Merola, Mayor of Bologna, Italy

Mr. Felipe Montoya Pino, Advisor to the Mayor of Medellín, Colombia

Ms. Susana Muhamad, Secretary of Environment, Bogota, Colombia

Mr. Edward B. Murray, Mayor of Seattle, Washington, USA

Mr. Vincent N'cho Kouaoh, Deputy Governor of Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Ms. Giusi Nicolini, Mayor of Lampedusa, Italy

Mr. Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo, Italy

Mme. Rose Christiane, Ossouka Raponda, Mayor of Libreville, Gabon, President of the National Association of Mayors of Gabon, Vice President for Central Africa of the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent

Mr. Eduardo da Costa Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Chair of C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

Mr. Gustavo Petro Urrego, Mayor de Bogotá, Colombia

Mr. Federico Pizzarotti, Mayor of Parma, Italy

Mr. Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver, Canada

Mr. Stian Berger Røsland, The Governing Mayor of Oslo, Norway

Hon. Mr. Isidro Noel Ruiz Martinez, Mayor of Santa Fe, Honduras, Board Member of the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent

Ms. Célia Sacramento, Vice Mayor of Salvador, Brazil, Executive Vice President of the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent

Ms. Maria Madalena Salato, Secretaria Executiva, Nampula, Mozambique

Mr. Aliou Sall, Mayor of Guédiawaye-Dakar and President of the National Association of Mayors of Senegal

Hon. Jean Oscar Sanguza Mutunda, Mayor of the Commune de Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr. Ngartep Mustajab Suyoto, Mayor of Bohonegoro Regency, East Java, Indonesia

Mr. Mpho Parks Tau, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa

Hon. Mr. Kagiso Thutlwe, Mayor of Gaborone, Botswana, Vice President for Southern Africa of the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent

Dr. Alfred Okoe Vanderpuije, Lord Mayor of Accra, Ghana, President of the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent

Hon. Ms. Yelgi Lavinia Verley Knight, Mayor of Siquirres, Costa Rica, Board Member of the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent

Mr. Martin J. "Marty" Walsh, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Ms. Karin Wanngård, Mayor of Stockholm, Sweden

Mr. Aimé Yembi, Director of the Cabinet of the Mayor, Libreville, Gabon

Mr. Anthony Annett, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Advisor, Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Prof. Margaret S. Archer, President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences; Director: Centre for Social Ontology, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, UK

Ms. Nancy Best, Sustainable Development Solutions Network affiliate

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN Habitat

Ms. Jacqueline Corbelli, Co-Founder, Chairman, CEO BrightLine Partners LLC

Mrs. María de los Ángeles Duarte, Minister for Urban Planning and Housing, Ecuador

Dott. Vanessa di Martino, Responsabile Turismo Ufficio Economico

Ms. Jessica Espey, Associate Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Ms. Marcia Oleskovicz Fruet, President of Foundation of the Social Action (FAS)

Ms. Jennifer Gross, Member of the Board, Gross Family Foundation

Mr. Kevin Hyland, UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

Mr. Raza Jafar, CEO, ENSHAA PSC

Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President, Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD)

Ms. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, USA

Ms. Kerry Kennedy Townsend, Daughter of Kathleen Kennedy

Mr. Damjan Krnjevic Miskovic, Senior Fellow, Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD)

Mr. Felipe Larraín, Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Centro Latinoamericano de Políticas Económicas y Sociales (CLAPES-UC), Santiago, Chile

Mr. Umberto Laurenti, Segretario Generale Fondazione Sorella Natura

Prof. Rector Dario Maiorana, Rettore dell'Università Nazionale di Rosario

Dott. Julieta Mastrapasqua, Collaboratore Turismo Ufficio Economico

Mr. John McCaffrey, Special Advisor to the Chancellor at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences

Mr. Guillermo Moreno, Former Secretary of Domestic Trade, Argentina

H.E. Mr. Francis Chukwuemeka Okeke, Ambassador of Nigeria to the Holy See

Dr. Betsee Parker, Sustainable Development Solutions Network affiliate

Ms. Johanna Partin, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance Regional Director for North America

Ms. Danielle Petretta, Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Prof. Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Pontifical Academy of Sciences

Rt Revd Dr. Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby

Mr. Aromar Revi, Director, Indian Institute for Human Settlements

Mr. Rodrigo Rosa, Advisor to the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Special Advisor to the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network & Earth Institute, Columbia University

Mrs. Sonia Sachs, Director, Health Sector, Centre for Sustainable Development - Columbia University

Monsignor Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, Chancellor Pontifical Academy of Sciences/Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

Mr. Michael Shank, Director of Communications, Climate Nexus

Mr. John Stiles, Chief of Staff of Mayor Betsy Hodges of Minneapolis

Mr. Lars Stordal, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Ms. Casey Supple, Earth Institute

Mr. Gustavo Torres, Director for International Affairs, Bogota

Prof Laurence Tubiana, Special Representative to the French Government on the 2015 Climate Conference

H.E. Amb. Eduardo Valdés, Ambassador of Argentina to the Holy See

Mr. William Vendley, Secretary-General, Religions for Peace

Mr. Mark Watts, Representative, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

H.E. Mr Lars-Hjalmar Wide, Ambassador of Sweden to the Holy See

Contacts:

For the Pontifical Academy of Science - Gabriella Marino, gmarino@pas.va

For the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Jessica Espey,
jessica.espey@unsdsn.org