

The Urban Opportunity to Enable Transformative and Sustainable Development

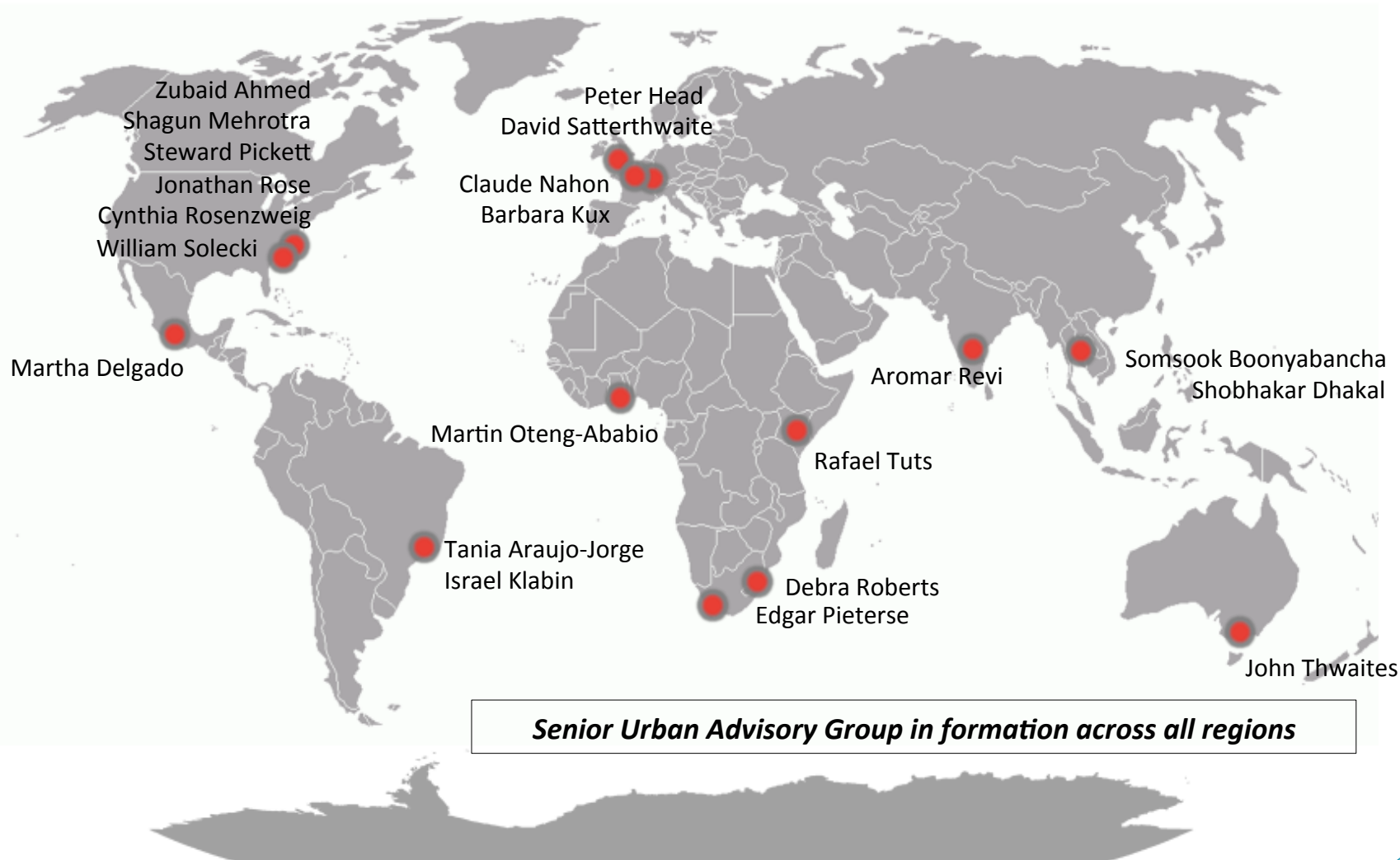
Prepared for the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons
on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

***Prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Thematic Group on Sustainable Cities: Inclusive, Resilient, and Connected:***

Aromar Revi, Director Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bangalore

Cynthia Rosenzweig, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies/Earth Institute
at Columbia University, New York

SDSN Sustainable Cities Thematic Group Members





Zubaid Ahmed
Citi's Institutional
Clients Group, New
York City



Tania Araujo-Jorge
Instituto Oswaldo
Cruz (FIOCRUZ), Rio
de Janeiro



**Somsook
Boonyabancha**
Asian Coalition for
Housing Rights,
Bangkok



Martha Delgado
Global Cities
Covenant on Climate
Secretariat, Mexico
City



Shobhakar Dhakal
Asian Institute of
Technology,
Pathumthani



Peter Head
Ecological
Sequestration Trust,
London



Israel Klabin
Brazilian Foundation
for Sustainable
Development/ Former
Mayor, Rio de Janeiro



Barbara Kux
Managing Board of
Siemens AG, Munich



Shagun Mehrotra
The New School/
Sustainable
Development Center,
New York City



Claude Nahon
EDF Group, Paris



Martin Oteng-Ababio
University of Ghana,
Legon, Accra



Steward Pickett
Cary Institute of
Ecosystem Studies,
Millbrook



Edgar Pieterse
African Centre for
Cities/ University of
Cape Town



Aromar Revi
Indian Institute for
Human Settlements,
Bangalore



Debra Roberts
Environmental
Planning and Climate
Protection
Department, Durban



Jonathan Rose
Jonathan Rose
Companies/ Enterprise
Community Partners,
New York City



Cynthia Rosenzweig
NASA Goddard
Institute for Space
Studies, New York
City



David Satterthwaite
University College
London



William Solecki
CUNY Institute for
Sustainable Cities/
Hunter College,
New York City



John Thwaites
Monash University/
Climate Works
Australia, Monash/
Melbourne



Rafael Tuts
United Nations
Human Settlements
Programme, Nairobi

Urban Trends

- By 2050, world urban population will grow from 3.5 billion today to 6.2 billion (67% of world population).
- Urban poverty (~2012):
 - 525 million under \$1 per day
 - 1.2 billion under \$2 per day
 - Multi-dimensional
- By 2025, GDP of 600 top cities will rise by over \$30 trillion (65% of global growth).
- By 2025, urban infrastructure investments will rise from \$2-3 trillion/yr today to more than ~\$10 trillion/yr.

Why Cities are Different

- Density requires investment in infrastructure and ecosystems for resilience.
- Volatile population fluxes require policies and planning.
- Food, water, and energy issues
 - Food sustainability, sovereignty, and nutrition
 - Urban water systems at risk of pollution, scarcity, and flooding
 - Transport and sprawl linked to carbon-intensive forms of urbanization
- Economies need reinvention to create sustainable livelihoods and end urban poverty.
- Income and social disparities call for policies to encourage inclusion and opportunity.
- Cities must plan and rebuild ecological infrastructure, alongside the co-evolution of new technological and governance systems.

The Opportunity

Urban densities offer unprecedented leverage to

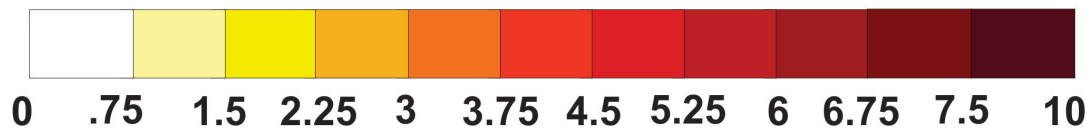
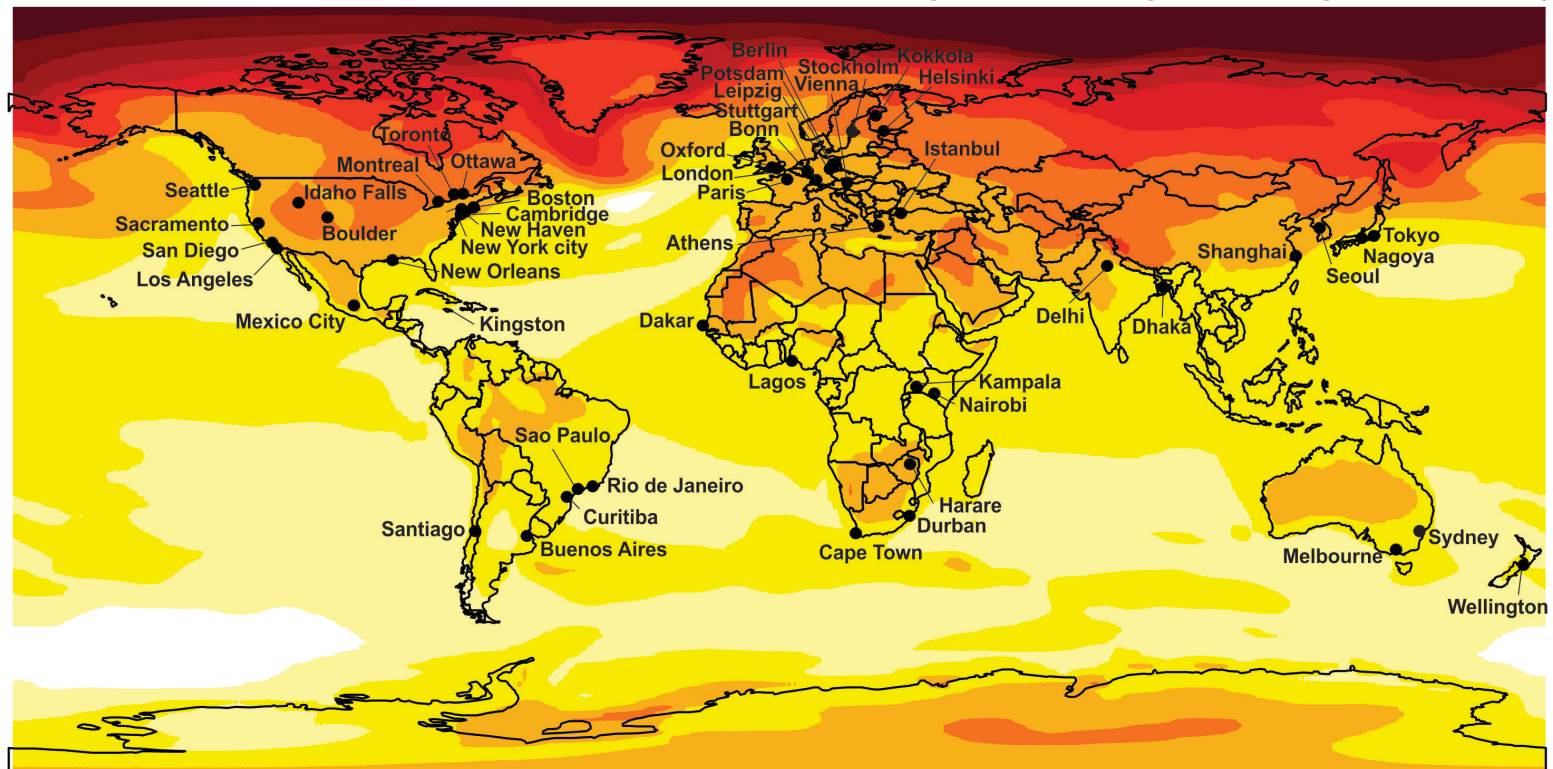
- Unlock gains in efficiency and inclusiveness using economies of scale and scope
- Help end multidimensional poverty
- Improve health, education, productivity outcomes
- Diminish social stratification and inequality
- Increase innovation, knowledge creation/sharing
- Conserve, heal vital ecosystem services
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change

Cities as First Responders to Climate Change

Mitigation and Adaptation

NCAR CCSM 3.0 GCM A1b

(2040-2069) minus (1970-1999)



Annual temperature change 2050s (°C)

The Challenge

- Diversity of city types demands institutional innovation, flexible policy, interdisciplinary management
- New methods of food and biomass production needed to support urban population
- Transition to low carbon/renewable energy systems over disparate urban sizes, economic structures, transport systems
- New risks to developing country urban health systems
- Pressures on urban systems from population influx into cities
- Megacities will require new modes of governance, technological and environmental management systems for sustainability

Transformative Development Outcomes

1. Ending poverty and feeding our cities
2. Promoting economic and social inclusion and keeping cities safe
3. Developing effective governance systems and deepening participation and resilience
4. Providing universal access to urban environmental services
5. Ensuring ecological integrity of urban, rural and regional systems
6. Providing conditions for human health and well-being to flourish
7. Providing access to affordable and safe housing as a basic right
8. Reconfiguring cities spatially to promote efficiency and equity
9. Enabling sustainable energy and transportation services and climate resilience
10. Promoting sustainable consumption and production in cities

Call to Action

1. Urban Sustainable Development Goal
2. Pilot Sustainable City Initiatives
3. Scaling up

Potential SDSN Partner Cities

