

Statement of the Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development

URBAN DEVELOPMENT and SUSTAINABLE CITIES

The number of people living on our planet is rising constantly, further to which ever-greater number of people are moving to urban environment. While at present about 60 percent of the world's population live in cities; it is projected that their number will continue to rise.

Urban development is of paramount importance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are key to transforming our world as set out by the United Nations in its 2030 Agenda.

Over the past year, the member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development have discussed the criteria and prerequisites for sustainable urban development. It suggests that the General Assembly of CoNGO take up the issue on a broader scale.

The Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development proposes, that member organisation of CoNGO and the CoNGO NGO committees in Geneva, New York and Vienna seize every opportunity to plan and/ or participate in projects and activities directed towards urban development in the context of the SDGs. They should also closely monitor the activities of both government and the UN in that regard.

Civil society commitment along those lines would not only contribute tangibly to the achievement of the SDGs, but would also heighten the awareness of the urban population, that those goals could play in ensuring the sustainability of the cities in which they live.

As a contribution to launch that global project, the Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development proposes holding a webinar for CoNGO members, that would present the outcome of our discussion to date and pave the way to more in-depth discussions.

Ilona Graenitz

Chairperson Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development