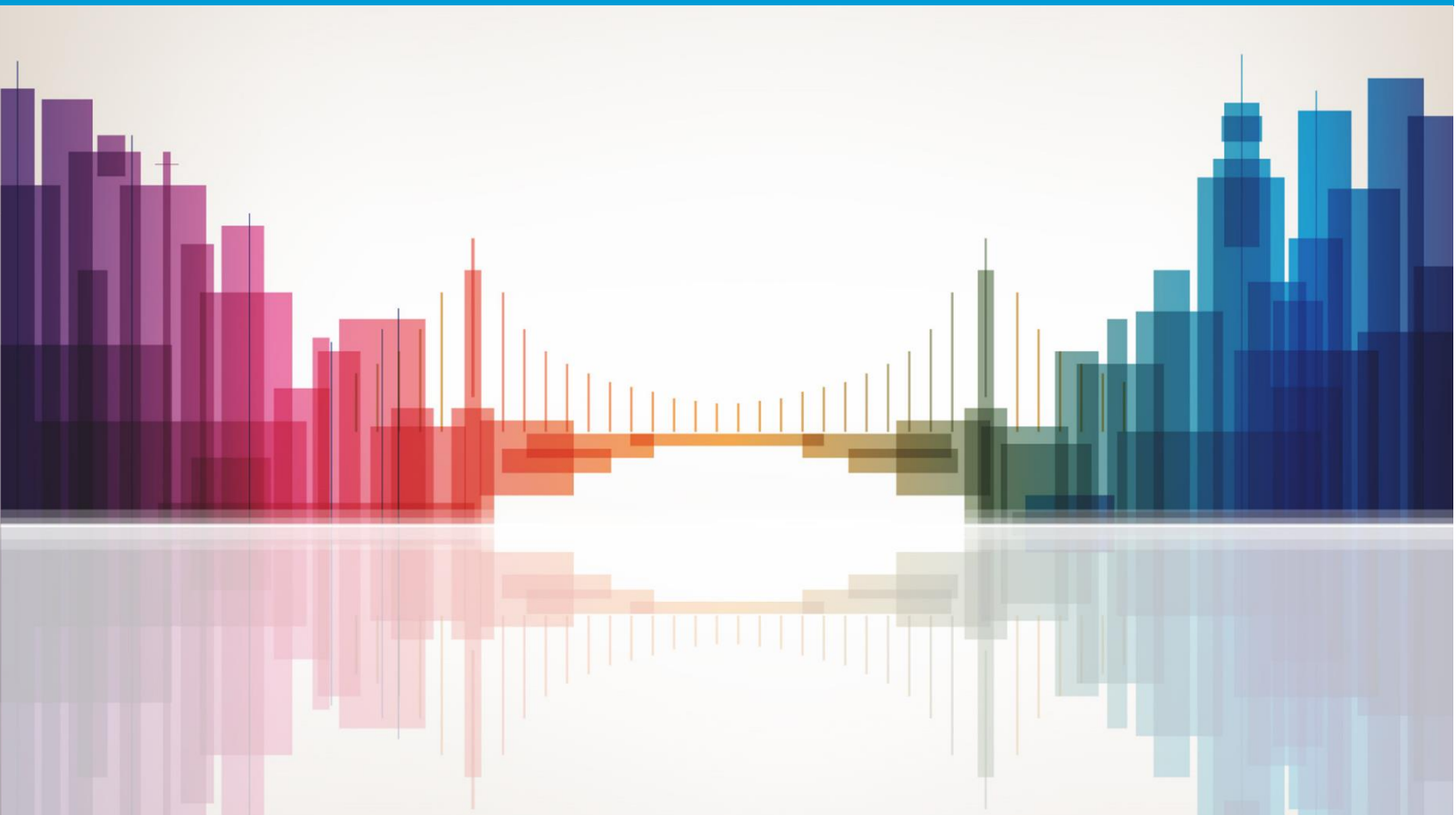


Seventh Meeting of United for Smart Sustainable Cities

20 June 2023
Outcome Document



Co-organized by:



UNECE

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Hosted by:



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Additional information and material related to this report are available [HERE](#).

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Introduction to the U4SSC



The “[United for Smart Sustainable Cities](#)” (U4SSC) is a United Nations initiative, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Additionally, U4SSC is supported by the following 16 other UN Agencies and Programmes:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of (UN-Women)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)
- United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNUEGOV)
- United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

U4SSC was established in 2016 with the aim of envisioning smart and sustainable city actions towards the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goal 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”**. Since its creation, this initiative has been serving as the global platform to advocate for public policies and drive discussions revolving around the use of digital technologies to facilitate and ease the transition to Smart Sustainable Cities (SSCs) and accelerate digital transformation in cities and communities.

The U4SSC is also addressing the topic of digital transformation, aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and effectiveness of urban operations to create an innovation-oriented, connected, equitable, and secure smart city ecosystem that caters to the needs of its inhabitants. These activities are being conducted through a dedicated Thematic Group on “Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation”.

Objectives and Programme

The [Seventh Meeting of U4SSC](#) was organized by ITU together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) on **20 June 2023**, from 09:30 to 15:30 CEST (Geneva time). The meeting took place online on Zoom. This meeting brought together over 254 participants including leading specialists and stakeholders in the field of urban development, such as city planners, engineers, designers, policymakers, government officials, regulators, academia, and standards experts.

The objectives of the Seventh U4SSC meeting were to:

- 1 Provide an update on the work of the U4SSC Thematic Groups
- 2 Present the latest U4SSC publications;
- 3 Present the latest U4SSC KPIs Implementation worldwide;
- 4 Present the activities of the U4SSC Hub;
- 5 Approve the appointment of the new U4SSC Management Team;
- 6 Discuss new U4SSC activities and approve the U4SSC Annual Work Plan (2023-2024).

The programme and the presentations of the Seventh U4SSC Meeting can be found at: <https://u4ssc.itu.int/latest-meetings/7th-meeting/>.



Highlights of the discussions

Opening of the Meeting



Seizo Onoe

Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU

The meeting was opened by **Mr Seizo Onoe**, who elaborated on the holistic approach taken by ITU in terms of standards and policy development to support people-centered smart cities. Mr Onoe highlighted the role that U4SSC plays as an open international platform, led by the UN to deal with smart city challenges and to take the opportunity afforded by digital transformation. He acknowledged the new incoming U4SSC Chairman, Mr Okan Geray for his contributions to U4SSC since its establishment in 2016 and wished him all the best for the future in a leadership role within this initiative. He also welcomed the overall U4SSC Management Team, new Vice-Chairmen and new Leaders of Thematic Groups for their dedication to the activities of U4SSC.

Mr Onoe announced that the U4SSC Report on “[Reference framework for an integrated management of a smart sustainable city](#)” will be launched during this U4SSC Meeting. He further appreciated the creation of the first U4SSC Country Hub in Austria and the second U4SSC Country Hub in Ghana and underscored the importance of the U4SSC KPIs in helping cities with their respective smart city and digital transformation journeys.



Ms Paola Deda,

Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

Ms Paola Deda, underscored excellent cooperation of UN entities under the umbrella of U4SSC, while also providing insights into the deliverables completed by U4SSC.



Ms Edlam Abera Yemeru,

Director of Knowledge and Innovation, UN-HABITAT

Ms Edlam Abera Yemeru, highlighted the importance of the U4SSC in providing a platform for collaboration in the smart city domain. Additionally, she emphasized on the commendable importance of the work underway within the Thematic Group on Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation, while underscoring the importance of scaling-up relevant smart city solutions. She also mentioned the resolution on smart cities adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 9 June 2023, requesting UN-Habitat to convene a global consultative process to develop international guidelines for member states on people-centered smart cities.

Highlights of the discussions

Session 1: Appointment of U4SSC Chairman, U4SSC Vice-chairman and leaders of the thematic groups



Cristina Bueti
ITU and U4SSC Secretariat

This session was moderated by **Ms Cristina Bueti, ITU and U4SSC Secretariat.** [[Presentation](#)]

Mr Nasser Al-Marzouqi (United Arab Emirates) stepped down from the position of the U4SSC Chairman. The meeting agreed to the appointment of Mr Okan Geray (Digital Dubai) as the new U4SSC Chairman to take on the reins of the initiative. On this occasion, Mr Geray addressed the meeting expressing his gratitude to U4SSC and its participants. He congratulated the outgoing Chairman on the excellent work and leadership of the initiative and commended the U4SSC for its outstanding work over the course of seven years in guiding cities and communities in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To further support the activities of U4SSC and provide guidance, the following representatives were appointed as U4SSC Vice-Chairmen:

- Mr Ramy Ahmed Fathy (Egypt): Dr Ramy Fathy thanked the meeting and expressed his appreciation for the work of U4SSC done since its creation seven years ago. He expressed his gratitude to the Thematic Group Leaders who have dedicated their time and efforts towards the finalization of their deliverables.
- Ms Wendy Goico Campagna (Dominican Republic): Ms Campagna acknowledged the U4SSC as a global platform for discussions on SSC and digital transformation and elaborated on the importance of strong collaboration established within the initiative.
- Ms Emily Royall (Office of Innovation for the City of San Antonio): Ms Royall has been appointed as new Vice-Chairman.

The meeting also commended and appreciated the efforts of the following U4SSC Vice-Chairmen who continue to remain an integral part of the U4SSC Management:

- Giampiero Bambagioni (Italy)
- Paolo Gemma (Huawei)
- Tania Marcos (Spain)
-

It was noted that the following would not be continuing in their respective role(s) of U4SSC Vice-Chairmen owing to other commitments:

- Katrina Naut (Dominican Republic)
- Abdurahman M. Al Hassan (Saudi Arabia)

Highlights of the discussions

Additionally, the following appointments were agreed:

- Thematic Group on City Platforms: Co-leaders: Mr Ramon Ferri (SEGITTUR), Mr Ernesto Faubel (Valencia) and Mr Daniel Vega Díaz (RECI)
 - WG7 on Smart Destination Platforms: Co-leaders: Ms Sandra Carvao (UNWTO) and Mr Ramon Ferri (SEGITTUR)

- Thematic Group on Artificial Intelligence in Cities:
 - WG2 on Autonomous Cities: Leader: Mr Okan Geray (Digital Dubai)

- Thematic Group on Procurement for Smart Sustainable Cities
 - WG2 on Methodology to support cities to implement the procurement guidelines: Co-leaders: Mr Warren Smith (Dangersmith SARL and CURSHAW), Mr John Davies (Strategy 4 Technology Limited) and city official Mary Owusu (Smart Sustainable Cities and Historical Heritage Secretariat, Ghana).

- Thematic Group on Digital Wellbeing: Leader: Okan Geray (Digital Dubai)



Highlights of the discussions

Session 2: Update on the work of the U4SSC thematic groups

The session covered the key activities being conducted in the existing Thematic Groups of the U4SSC. This session was moderated by **Mr Pontus Westerberg, UN-Habitat and U4SSC Secretariat.**



Ramón Ferri

Segittur; Leader of the Thematic Group on City Platforms

Mr Ramon Ferri, Co-leader of the Thematic Group on City Platforms, [[Presentation](#)] provided an overview of the ongoing activities. This thematic group touches on the various facets of city platforms, including (but not limited to) IT solutions, smart energy management for health, interoperability of city architecture and digital and sustainable tourism. It was noted that within the remit of this Thematic Group, the following Thematic Groups already completed its work with the production of associated deliverables:

- IT Solutions for integrated cities management & Use Cases [[Digital solutions for integrated city management and use cases](#)] [[Compendium of survey results on integrated digital solutions for city platforms around the world](#)]
- Smart Public Health Emergency Management [[Smart public health emergency management and ICT implementations](#)]
- Smart City Platforms- Transitioning to a new architecture [[Redefining smart city platforms: Setting the stage for Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms](#)]
- Tourism, Health and Resilience Management from the perspective of a Smart City Platform [[Smart tourism: A path to more secure and resilient destinations](#)]

The presentation mainly covered updates from the following active Working Groups on:

- *WG5 – Reference framework for an integrated management of a smart sustainable city:* This Working Group is examining the relevant requirements related to the development of a reference framework on integrated management systems in smart and sustainable cities for application across domains including but not limited to IT governance, technological architecture, connectivity among others. This Working Group has conducted a series of e-meetings to advance on the deliverable. It was noted during the presentation that the deliverable within this WG has been completed and is to be published soon.

Highlights of the discussions

- *WG6 – Data and APIs in Smart City Platforms:* This Working Group is dedicated to defining the requirements for data and smart service flows associated with smart city platforms, based on standardized data features (i.e., for data ownership). This WG will hold its next meeting on 31 August 2023, 09:00 – 10:00 CEST.
- *WG7 – Smart Destination Platforms:* This new WG’s scope includes the following:
 - Identifying the requirements and functionalities of the platform
 - Developing a technical architecture for the platform
 - Selecting appropriate technologies for the platform
 - Defining the data sources for the platform
 - Developing algorithms for personalized recommendations
 - Ensuring the privacy and security of the platform
 - Establishing partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including tourism boards, technology providers, and businesses in the tourism sector
 - Developing a roadmap for the implementation of the platform
 - Proposing indicators on the impact on the tourism sector



Okan Geray
Chairman of U4SSC and Thematic Group Leader

Mr Okan Geray, Leader of the Thematic Group on Artificial intelligence in cities [[Presentation](#)], underscored that the various completed as well as ongoing activities within this Thematic Group. It was highlighted that the Guiding Principles deliverable has been finalized within WG1. No further e-meetings will be organized with reference to this deliverable. The case studies within the deliverable from WG1 include those from Dubai, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Singapore and Copenhagen. It encompasses a broad set of potential principles, enablers, governance methods, policy instrument alternatives and a simple methodology for instilling AI principles in cities.

With reference to the ongoing activities within this Thematic Group, Working Group 2 Group will explore the potential of running urban services and operational processes autonomously and will develop a framework to assess its viability and requirements.

The “autonomous city” concept and the extent of its practical application will be illustrated with real life cases. The cases will help in determining gaps and real-life considerations.

Highlights of the discussions



Warren Smith

Leader of the Thematic Group on Procurement for Smart Sustainable Cities

Mr Warren Smith, Co-leader of the Thematic Group on Procurement for Smart Sustainable Cities
[\[Presentation\]](#).

Through the presentation, it was highlighted that the pre-procurement planning stage of any digital transformation programme or project is vitally important for city administrations. It is at this stage that sustainable development principles must be embedded in every aspect of what is to be procured and delivered, to improve the well-being of our people and our planet, today and for future generations. This means gaining a deep understanding of people's needs and the problems that need to be solved for them, and iteratively designing proportionate, outcomes-based requirements and evaluation criteria. With this information, it is imperative to engage openly, honestly and constructively with the market to inform procurement design, with the aim of increasing transparency, competition and innovation. It is also vitally important to identify and mitigate current and downstream integrity risks associated with corruption.

Yet, the world over, north and south, in developed and developing countries, such approaches currently remain largely the exception. To build a people-centred digital future for cities and communities, efforts need to be redoubled to invert this. Design-led, data-driven, and open and collaborative approaches need to be mainstreamed, permeating as a 'golden thread' throughout the entire commercial lifecycle, leveraging public procurement of ICTs for smart sustainable cities.

To help address this issue, the U4SSC Thematic Group that developed the procurement guidelines for smart sustainable cities (launched in May 2023), proposes to develop a methodology (under a new WG2) to support cities to implement the procurement guidelines. The pre-procurement planning stage is the intended area of initial focus for a working group within this Thematic Group. Additionally, candidate cities will be engaged to implement the procurement guidelines in parallel to the development of the implementation methodology.

Highlights of the discussions



Bettina Tratz-Ryan

Gartner; Co-Leader of Working Group 2 of the Thematic Group on Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation

Ms Bettina Tratz-Ryan, Co-Leader of Working Group 2 of the Thematic Group on Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation [[Presentation](#)], provided an overview of the active Working Groups within this Thematic Group:

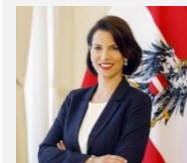
- *WG1 – Setting the context: Digital Transformation for People-Centred Cities:* This WG explores the overall concept of digital transformation in the context of cities and communities. Additionally, it will also collect and analyse relevant use-cases relating to the leveraging of digital and emerging technologies to facilitate digital transformation in cities in accordance with SDGs.
- *WG2 – Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation:* This Working Group is in the process of benchmarking relevant mechanisms and strategies to form the basis of a policy framework for driving digital transformation across all domains.
- *WG3 – Digital Transformation Assessment of People-Centred Cities:* This WG is dedicated to the development of a set of key performance indicators related to the digital transformation in cities and communities. It also investigates the associated impact assessment as a result of digital transformation in people-centred cities.
- *WG4 – Guidelines for Unlocking Net Zero in Cities Through Sustainable Digital Transformation:* This WG will produce two deliverables:
 - Methodology to assess city net zero progress
 - Contextual and gap analysis of the role of Digital Technologies to carbon net zero cities

The e-meetings for these Working Groups are underway to ensure sustained progress towards the development of deliverables.

Highlights of the discussions

Session 3: U4SSC Country Hub

The session was moderated by **Mr Paolo Gemma, Vice Chairman of the U4SSC.**



H.E. Ms. Karoline Edtstadler
Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, Austria

H.E. Ms. Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, Austria delivered special remarks highlighting that the Austrian Government continues to be committed to supporting the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative. She underscored the important role that smart cities can play in driving digital transformation of operations within the urban ecosystem in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Digital transformation is a key process to tackle global challenges such as climate change and economic inequalities. She further stressed on the role of U4SSC as the UN-platform for the global deliberations on smart cities through the prism of digital transformation. Furthermore, the importance role played by the U4SSC Austrian Country Hub, which is the first of its kind, was also commended for its foresight and pioneering work.



Highlights of the discussions



Barbara Kolm

Austrian Economics Centre; Leader of the U4SSC Country Hub in Austria

Ms Barbara Kolm, Chairman of the U4SSC Austrian Country Hub [\[Presentation\]](#) provided an update on the activities of the first U4SSC Austrian Country Hub, hosted by the Austrian Economics Center. This Hub since its establishment, has been facilitating cooperation between the public and private sectors, fostering knowledge transfer on topics related to smart sustainable cities and digital transformation in the country. This Hub also serves as a platform for further engagement with SMEs, multinationals, universities and research institutions on the topic of digital transformation. Through this presentation, it was noted that the U4SSC Austrian Country Hub has already organized a series of activities to explore new digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and digital twin, and their impact on cities and communities. These activities will bolster the cross-sectoral collaboration in Austria that is needed to accelerate the path of digital transformation. In this context, the participants were introduced to the Digital Transformation Week 2024, which will encompass a series of events and sessions consisting of top-level content and thought-leadership discussions, exploring digital transformation for cities and communities worldwide. The dates for this event will be announced soon and participants were invited to attend. Additionally, the Hub also co-organized a series of Webinars as a part of the [Digital Transformation Webinar Series](#):

- [Episode #18: Cities in the age of artificial intelligence: How to leverage technology for digital transformation](#)
- [Episode #20: A one-of-a-kind platform for digital transformation: the U4SSC Austrian Country Hub on 7 December 2022.](#)
- [2023: STI Forum 2023 Side event on Building back smarter and more sustainable cities through the United for Smart Sustainable Cities Initiative](#)

Highlights of the discussions

Session 4: U4SSC KPIs implementation in cities

This session was moderated by **Ms Gulnara Roll, UNECE and U4SSC Secretariat.**

During this session, the following cities provided insights into their experience in implementing the U4SSC-KPIs [[Presentation](#)]:



Bekkul Dzhekshenkulov,
Head of International Cooperation and Protocol Department, Bishkek City
Municipality, Kyrgyzstan

Mr Bekkul Dzhekshenkulov, Head of International Cooperation and Protocol Department, Bishkek City Municipality, Kyrgyzstan. This presentation highlighted the role played by UNECE in promoting smart sustainable cities and smart technologies by providing a platform to its 56 member States, cities and stakeholders for collaboration and knowledge sharing and by developing international standards and guidelines to support their implementation. Through the presentation, it was noted that the smart sustainable city profile for Astana, Bishkek, Goris, Voznesensk, Tbilisi and five cities in Norway have been finalized. Furthermore, the SSC Profiles for San Marino, Podgorica and Almaty were expected to be published in 2023. The presentation also highlighted that under the leadership of UNECE, the following deliverables under U4SSC were completed:

- Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance Smart Sustainable Cities projects
- Compendium of practices on innovative financing for smart sustainable cities projects

In the context of the SSC Profile for Bishkek, it was elaborated that as the capital; with population of over 1 million inhabitants, it serves as the centre of socio-economic, political and cultural hub of Kyrgyzstan. Bishkek underwent rapid urban development. Since 1989, the city's population has nearly doubled. The city profile was developed in 2020-2021 based on the KPI evaluation. The main policy recommendations based on this SSC Profile included (but not limited to):

Highlights of the discussions

- Improve institutional and governance framework towards urban planning.
- Explore innovative financing mechanisms for basic and social infrastructure delivery.
- Improve methodologies for collecting and managing urban data.
- Legalize, upgrade and redevelop informal settlements. Develop an inventory of all land plots and create a unified registry of all informal settlements.
- Develop an affordable housing programme, both for sale and for rent.
- Develop sustainable urban transport infrastructure. Invest in low-carbon public transport
- Improve internet access and digital literacy. Provide reliable internet access to all households.
- Improve the water and sanitation infrastructure. Improve the lifespan of the existing water and sanitation infrastructure by investing in its renovation.
- Improve solid waste management. Increase the volume of waste recycled, while simultaneously decreasing the amount of waste put into open-air dumps, incinerated, burned or disposed of into landfills



Vakhtang Lomjaria,
City government of Tbilisi, Georgia

Mr Vakhtang Lomjaria, City government of Tbilisi, Georgia. During this section of the presentation, the background on Tbilisi's SSC Profile was delivered. The population of Tbilisi to 1.17 million (2021), 31 per cent of population of Georgia.

Tbilisi's assessment showed strong performance in ICT infrastructure, water and sanitation and public sector governance. Moderate to high performance was observed in higher education attainment. Additionally, moderate performance was also seen in terms of culture, safety, transport, employment, housing and social inclusion.

Highlights of the discussions

Session 5: U4SSC deliverables

This session “U4SSC Deliverables” was moderated by **Mr Giampiero Bambagioni, Vice Chairman of the U4SSC**. The session provided a snapshot of the latest deliverables finalized and published under the umbrella of U4SSC:



Leonidas Anthopoulos

Leader of Working Group 6 of the Thematic Group on City Platforms, Leader of Working Group 4 of the Thematic Group on Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation

Mr Leonidas Anthopoulos, Leader of Working Group 4 of the Thematic Group on Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation – Guidelines for Unlocking Net Zero in Cities Through Sustainable Digital Transformation [[Presentation](#)], highlighted that this Working Group has been preparing three deliverables:

- *Contextual and gap analysis of the role of Digital Technologies to carbon net zero cities:* Conducting a literature analysis, a gap analysis of current applications and use-cases for net zero cities, and a gap analysis of current methodologies and KPIs.
- *Methodology to assess city net zero progress:* Conducting a thorough review of the collected KPIs to determine which will be included, reworked, better defined or removed from the assessment along with introducing alternative assessment methodologies.
- *Guidelines for city digital transformation to achieve in carbon net zero:* Developing guidelines (architectures, use-cases, exemplars etc.) that would provide cities and communities with simple and easy to understand methods to align their digital transformation to efforts that establish their carbon net zero future.

Highlights of the discussions



Michael Mulquin

Open and Agile Smart Cities; Co-leader of Working Group 3 of the Thematic Group on City Platforms

Mr Michael Mulquin, Co-leader of Working Group 3 of the Thematic Group on City Platforms – “U4SSC deliverable on Redefining smart city platforms [Presentation], provided a brief overview of the recently published U4SSC Report on *“Redefining smart city platforms: Setting the stage for Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms”* (September 2022), which provides concrete guidance to urban stakeholders at all levels on setting up smart city platforms, based on existing standards, architectural mechanisms, urban services, guidelines, and minimum interoperability mechanisms, to enhance the delivery of services in the smart city ecosystem. In general, MIMs can enable all communities, whether large or small, to put in place effective local data sharing ecosystems and to enable solutions to be shared between cities and communities around the world. Furthermore, the presentation also elaborated on the eight-steps that cities and communities can take in this context. This deliverable has formed the basis for the creation of a new work-item, *Y.MIM – Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities*, within [ITU-T Study Group 20](#) on “Internet of things (IoT) and smart cities and communities (SC&C)”



Ramón Ferri

Segittur; Leader of the Thematic Group on City Platforms

Mr Ramon Ferri, Co-leader of the Thematic Group on City Platforms [Presentation], provided a summary of the U4SSC Report on *“Smart tourism: A path to more secure and resilient destinations”* (October 2022). Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and development, providing direct and indirect livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people This Report provides an insight into the topic of “Smart Tourism” and analyses a series of related use-cases, based on which practical recommendations for establishing smart tourism destination platforms were underscored. The solutions and use-cases underscored, tourism spatial management, local service supply and demand management, promotion and interaction channels and tourism intelligence.

Highlights of the discussions



Gulnara Roll
UNECE and U4SSC Secretariat

Ms Gulnara Roll (UNECE), Leader of the Thematic Group on Innovative Financing Instruments for Smart Sustainable Cities [[Presentation](#)]. This [Compendium of practices on innovative financing for smart sustainable cities projects](#) (January 2023). Compendium delves into the different the types of projects underscoring how to enhance sustainability and smartness of a city, coupled with insights into funding mechanisms for these activities in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



John K Davies
Strategy 4 Technology Limited; Co-leader of the Thematic Group on Procurement Guidelines for Smart Sustainable Cities

Mr John Davies, Co-leader of the Thematic Group on Procurement for Smart Sustainable Cities [[Presentation](#)]. The Governments in developed and developing countries north and south, face increasingly complex and overlapping crises - COVID-19, the climate and nature emergency, widening inequalities, conflict and the displacement of people, misinformation and cybercrime. Cities are both uniquely vulnerable and best positioned to coordinate multi-stakeholder efforts to tackle these challenges.

Sustainable development principles must guide all public sector decisions, be that on budgeting and allocations of funding, recruitment and professional development, use of digital data and technology, etc. In this regard, city procurement is no exception and sits at the heart of the public sector demand and supply nexus; it's one of the most critical yet underleveraged areas of public policy, governance, transparency, and accountability. In light of this, the [Procurement guidelines for smart sustainable cities](#) (May 2023) were developed within the remit of U4SSC.

These procurement guidelines for smart sustainable cities were developed to address these issues. They can be practically applied to improve the design, delivery and continuous improvement of public services, to ensure they meet the needs of urban communities and improve the well-being of our people and our planet, today and for future generations. The guidelines will help to operationalise a new digital commercial paradigm by mainstreaming accessible, human-centred design, data-driven and open approaches in public procurement. City administrations implementing the guidelines can share their experiences so that others can learn and accelerate their transition towards smart sustainable cities.

Highlights of the discussions



Ernesto Faubel-Cubells

Head of Smart City Office in the Municipality of Valencia, MAtchUP Project Coordinator.

Mr Ernesto Faubel-Cubells, Co-leader of the Thematic Group on City Platforms

[\[Presentation\]](#). Through this presentation, the Report on “Reference framework for integrated management of an SSC” was presented underscoring a framework that cities could use in areas such as IT governance, technological architecture, connectivity, or Building Blocks software approach, which are considered key to helping municipalities in their development and sustainability. The purpose of this deliverable was to identify the strategic, operational and connectivity needs that a Smart Sustainable City’s integrated management can meet.



Highlights of the discussions

Session 6: U4SSC Management Team and Annual Work Plan 2023-2024



Cristina Bueti
ITU and U4SSC Secretariat

This session was moderated **Ms Cristina Bueti, ITU and U4SSC Secretariat** [[Presentation](#)]. This session explored the future work trajectory of U4SSC including the approval of the updated terms of reference and the annual action plan, along with the finalization of the timeline of publication of reports, and new topic areas to be considered by U4SSC.

It was noted that the following will continue:

- Under the Thematic Group on City Platforms:
 - ▶ WG6 - Data and APIs in Smart City Platforms: led by Mr Leonidas Anthopoulos (Greece)

It was noted that the following new activities will commence shortly:

- Under the Thematic Group on City Platforms:
 - ▶ WG7 - Smart Destination Platforms: led by Ms Sandra Carvao (UNWTO) and Mr Ramon Ferri (SEGITTUR)
- Under the Thematic Group on Procurement for Smart Sustainable Cities:
 - ▶ WG2 - Methodology to support cities to implement the procurement guidelines: led by Mr Warren Smith (Dangersmith SARL and CURSHAW), Mr John Davies (Strategy 4 Technology Limited) and Ms Mary Owusu, (Smart Sustainable Cities and Historical Heritage Secretariat, Ghana)
- Under the Thematic Group on Artificial intelligence in cities:
 - ▶ WG2 - Autonomous Cities: led by Mr Okan Geray (Digital Dubai)
- New Thematic Group on Digital Wellbeing: led by Mr Okan Geray (Digital Dubai)

It was noted that the WG5 – Methodology for Measurement of GHG Emissions in Smart Sustainable Cities, under the Thematic Group on Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation has been closed.

With reference to the Thematic Group on “Lessons learned from building urban economic resilience at city level during and after COVID-19”, the e-meetings will re-commence in 2024.

Highlights of the discussions

Session 7: U4SSC KPIs implementation in cities

This session was moderated by **Mr Paolo Gemma, Vice Chairman of the U4SSC**.

The following speakers provided insights into their experience in implementing the U4SSC-KPIs:



H.E. Mr Kenneth Ofori-Atta
Minister, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Ghana

H.E. Mr Kenneth Ofori-Atta, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Ghana: Minister appreciated the work of U4SSC and highlighted that Kyebi's experience in implementing the KPIs will pave the way for more cities in the country undertaking the same journey. The Minister announced that Ghana will host the first U4SSC Country Hub in Africa.



John Smiciklas
JD Global Sustainability Associates; Leader of Working Group 3 of the Thematic Group on Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation

Mr John Smiciklas, Verifier, U4SSC [[Presentation](#)]: This presentation delved into the role of U4SSC Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities in providing cities with a consistent and standardised method to collect data and measure performance and progress towards attaining the SDGs, becoming smarter and more in terms of its operations and last but not the least in supporting digital transformation.

The U4SSC-KPI dimensions include:

- Economy (ICT infrastructure, water and sanitation, drainage, transport, waste, employment, urban planning etc)
- Environment (air quality, water and sanitation, energy etc)
- Society and Culture (Education, health, culture, safety, food security etc)

The presentation also highlighted the process that over 150 cities have undertaken to implement the KPIs from Data Collection to Review of Report sought the U4SSC Awards Completion.

The Report on the U4SSC KPIs is done through the development of City Snapshots, Case Studies and Verification Reports.

Highlights of the discussions



Alexandre Bosshard
City of Pully, Switzerland

Mr Alexandre Bosshard, City of Pully, Switzerland [\[Presentation\]](#):

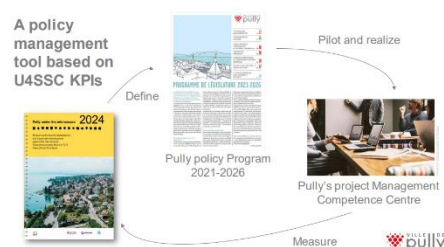
Through this presentation, it was highlighted how Pully is currently developing a policy management tool based on U4SSC KPIs.

- In 2018 the City of Pully successfully implemented the U4SSC-KPIs based on Recommendation ITU-T Y.4903/L.1603.
- In 2019 the report “[Pully under the microscope](#)” was published with the goal to:
 - compare the value of each KPIs with a target value based on Swiss laws, ordonnances and regulations;
 - develop an intuitive and user-friendly representation of the KPIs.
- Following the publication of the report “Pully under the microscope”, the Municipality board of Pully decided to update U4SSC KPIs every 5 years.
- That is why Pully is currently working on a new release. In order to make “Pully under the microscope 2024” more operational, it was decided to add:
 - national KPIs from the Cercle indicateurs, an initiative led by the Swiss Confederation;
 - local KPIs provided by Pully’s departements.

In doing so, KPIs will be able to show the global, national and local realities.



- Here are some examples of local KPIs chosen by Pully for each dimension:
 - Environment dimension: State of separation of the water drainage systems
 - Economy dimension: Annual investment to maintain infrastructure value
 - Society dimension: Employees training regarding cybersecurity
- The final goal is to integrate “Pully under the microscope 2024” into a general process addressed to the Municipality board as a policy management tool based on U4SSC KPIs.



Highlights of the discussions



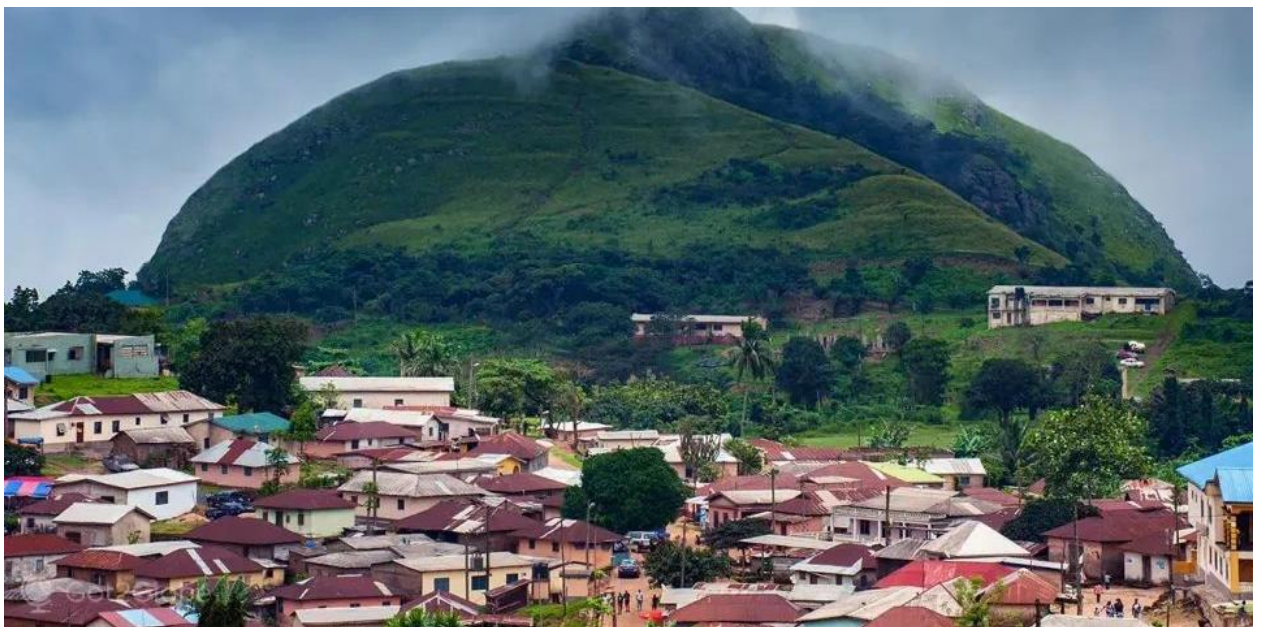
Mary Owusu

Executive Director, Smart Sustainable Cities and Historical Heritage Secretariat,
Ghana

Ms Mary Owusu, Executive Director, Smart Sustainable Cities and Historical Heritage Secretariat, Ghana [[Presentation](#)]: Through this presentation it was highlighted that Kyebi had implemented the U4SSC-KPIs in 2022 and process has been captured in the related City Snapshot. The city is further making efforts on specific SDGs including:

- SDG 3: Health & Wellbeing: (Soft Skills Training - 438 Healthcare Workers)
- SDG 4: Quality Education: (S.T.E.A..M Introduction – 70 school children)
- SDG 16: Strong Institutions: Paving the way for the involvement of municipal planning and coordinating unit, together with community leaders.
-

The city is also focussing on SDG9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. The city acknowledged the role of the U4SSC KPIs in helping track progress over time, allowing for the dissemination of best practices, setting the standards for progress in meeting the SDGs and alignment with local specific KPIs.



Highlights of the discussions

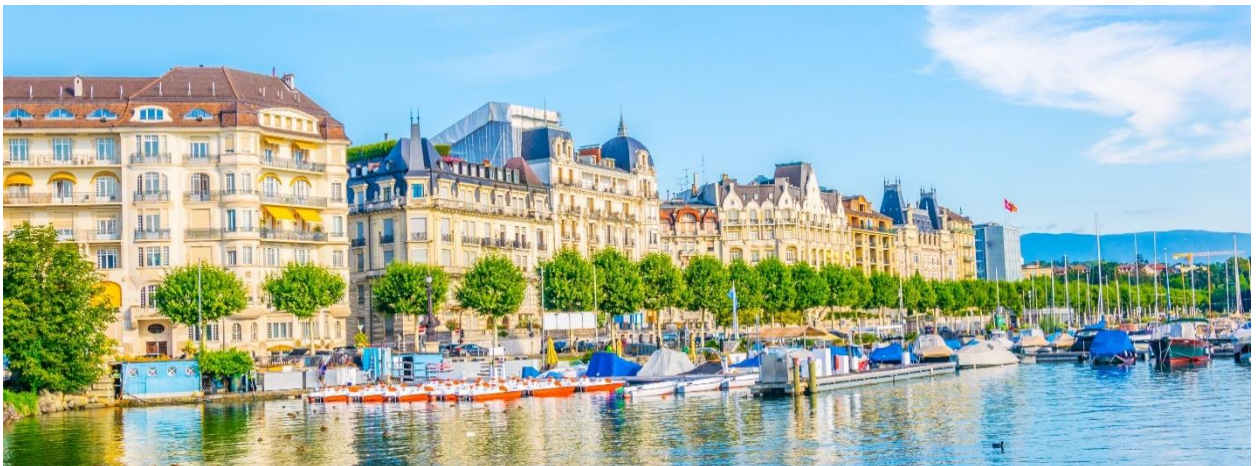
AOB



Vinod Kumar,
Treasurer, Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF)

During this Session, **Mr Vinod Kumar, Treasurer, Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF)** elaborated on the role of WWRF as a platform the research community to explore challenges related to the global wireless systems and 5G deployments. It was founded in Switzerland and is an independent organization owned by its members. In the context of smart cities, WWRF is working on harnessing technologies including sensors and IoT, telecom connectivity, cloud computing, and data science. Additional research is also underway on aspects related to sociology, energy management, environmental sciences and pollution control. Through the presentation, it was noted that WWRF is setting up new Working Group on “Smart Cities and Communities” and hopes to make further contributions to U4SSC.

U4SSC also received an incoming Liaison Statement (LS) from ITU-D Study Group 2. Through this LS, it was highlighted that the ITU-D Study Group 2 Question 1/2 is developing a report on ‘Sustainable smart cities and communities’ and it held its first Rapporteur Group meeting for the 2022-2025 cycle on 6 December 2022. The final report of Q1/2 is expected to cover areas like connectivity and infrastructure, policies and business models, smart city planning: architecture/software/data management, smart services, etc. For the development of its final report, ITU-D SG2 Q1/2 looks forward to future collaboration with U4SSC, specially with thematic groups on City Platforms and Enabling People-Centred Cities through Digital Transformation. Following the discussion on this LS, it was duly noted by the meeting.



Closing Remarks



Okan Geray
Chairman of U4SSC and Thematic Group Leader

Mr Okan Geray, U4SSC Chairman delivered the closing remarks, thanking the U4SSC secretariat, the thematic group leaders and U4SSC experts. He also highlighted that the U4SSC continues to be the key relevant global platform for stakeholders to join to deliberate on building people-centred cities through digital transformation.

The meeting ended at 15:00h (Geneva time).



