

## Expert Group Meeting on Urban Nexus and Implementation of Urban- and Resource-related Global Agendas *Bangkok, 10-11 November 2016*

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

Rapid urbanization in Asia-Pacific is placing increased pressure on the sustainable management of natural resources, and in particular on water, energy, materials, land and food, calling for an integrated approach. However, most municipal administrations in Asia-Pacific continue to plan and manage along sectoral lines and rarely in a coordinated manner. Consequently they are not able to fully utilise the interaction and synergies across sectors and the potential co-benefits arising from integrated resource management and planning.

The urban nexus approach aims at integrated planning and management processes that increase the efficiency of natural resource use, reduce emissions and waste and as a result contribute substantially to the sustainability of cities and their regions. The importance of an integrated approach to natural resource management was recognized both in the Rio+20 outcomes as well as in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The relevance of an urban nexus approach was also highlighted in the Jakarta Call for Action, adopted at the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) in October 2015.

To respond to these needs, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been implementing the project “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus” since 2013, in partnership with ESCAP and ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability. With funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), this project supports twelve cities in seven countries, namely: China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In the course of phase I (2013-2015), the project was able to assist selected cities in identifying opportunities for introducing a nexus approach and develop concrete project ideas, while establishing a dialogue between national, sub-national and local governments to identify policy barriers to the promotion of integrated resource management in cities and their regions, and how to remove these barriers. This included the establishment of Nexus Task Forces in cities to overcome sectorial planning silos. With the successful completion of Phase I, Phase II aims to assist cities and other relevant stakeholders in making the nexus approach sustainable and mainstreaming it into national initiatives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, within the vision of a circular economy.

## Objectives

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is organized with the following objectives in mind:

- Discuss and further conceptualize the key elements of the ‘Urban Nexus’ framework that connect the nexus approach with the concepts of resource efficiency and circular economy and how these elements impact the sustainability of cities
- To illustrate how the nexus concept can be integrated into practice through evidence-based case studies from the region.
- Highlight the enabling factors that will support the nexus framework and facilitate its implementation
- In relation to the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda identify how Urban Nexus can help in the realization of cross-cutting goals and targets within the vision of a circular economy approach.

The substantial contribution from experts in this meeting will feed into the draft research paper titled “Conceptual Framework of Urban Nexus and its linkages to urban-related Global Agendas”.

## Audience and Participants

An estimated 20 international participants attended the Expert Group Meeting, including experts from academic and research institutes, non-governmental organisations, government agencies and international organisations. They were selected to ensure a balance of expertise, knowledge, experience, gender and geographic distribution.

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