

ABOUT TERI

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a leading policy think-tank that was established in 1974 and over the following decades, has made a mark as a research institute, whose policy and technology solutions have transformed people's lives and the environment. In the area of urban development, TERI carries out research to help create sustainable, resilient, and 'smarter' cities. Focussed on policy analysis, sustainable urban planning, capacity building, and knowledge creation, TERI has been recognized as a Centre of Excellence in this field by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, and has been empanelled as a consultant for the Smart Cities Mission of the Government of India.

ABOUT ROYAL EMBASSY OF DENMARK

The Danish Embassy in New Delhi is responsible for India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives. Their primary task is to strengthen relations between Denmark and the four countries and they are responsible for the areas of trade, investments and political matters. Assisting Danish citizens in India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives is likewise their responsibility.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION

Funded by the European Union, the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme activities will support the achievement of bilateral policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement. The IUC programme will engage with major international financial institutions and partners to link city decision-makers with potential funders. EU business will be an important partner for activities under the components on sustainable urban development and innovation cooperation for local and regional development. Target countries include China, India, Japan, Canada, Mexico, USA, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

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Regional Policy Dialogues

on

“Making Liveable Cities”

February-October, 2018



Royal Embassy of Denmark



The Energy and Resources Institute



International Urban Cooperation

BACKGROUND:

In order to address urban policy and planning at the global level, the United Nations (UN) has enlisted the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 to make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and the UN Conference Habitat III has adopted a New Urban Agenda to address the challenges of urbanisation and endeavour to achieve SDG 11. The Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) that recently concluded under the broad rubric of 'Cities 2030, Cities for all' identifies key enablers for urban transformation, such as strengthening local urban governance, building inclusive partnerships, encouraging innovative solutions, adopting integrated urban planning approach for sustainable development, and deploying monitoring and reporting mechanisms for effective policy making.

India is party to these global commitments and the AMRUT and the Smart Cities Mission have similar objectives. The basic aim of these schemes is to recast the urban landscape of the country to make urban areas liveable, sustainable, smart and inclusive while driving the economic growth of the country. However, the Missions are intended to enable around 500 cities to become sustainable and India has almost 8000 cities. So the question remains as to how the cities that are not in the favoured list of 500 develop a vision for their future to move towards a resilient and sustainable path. In this context, the Regional Policy Dialogues on 'Making Liveable Cities' were announced at the Thematic Track on the same theme at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), February 2018. The dialogues are being organised by TERI at an opportune policy juncture with support from the Royal Embassy of Denmark, India, and International Urban Cooperation, funded by European Union, in different cities in India in the upcoming months.

The dialogues would focus on ways and means for holistic and long-term urban planning in India, in line with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. They would also have discussions on strengthening and empowering local urban governance for making cities liveable.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the policy dialogues are to:

- Understand the implications of SDG11, New Urban Agenda and Kuala Lumpur Declaration for Indian cities and discuss how the cities can aim to achieve and monitor progress on the goals and targets
- Recognize the challenges and enablers of making liveable cities and explore the extent of impact of sustainable urbanization processes in the existing urban missions
- Identify the potential partnership and implementation mechanisms in the context of making liveable cities that are smart, resilient and sustainable
- Promote the empowerment of Indian cities in terms of their policy mandate, institutional and financial support, and legal provisions
- Mainstream awareness about the sustainable urbanization processes and share knowledge between the national and city level and to other cities

TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND CITIES:

- Vijayawada – Regional Policy Dialogue (Southern Region) – 19th September, 2018
- Panaji – Regional Policy Dialogue (Western Region) – 21st September, 2018
- Udaipur – Regional Policy Dialogue (Northern Region) – September-October, 2018 (TBD)
- Gangtok – Regional Policy Dialogue (Eastern & North-Eastern Region) – 9th October, 2018
- New Delhi – National Workshop – 25th October, 2018

KEY THEMES:

Urban Policy and Planning for Liveability

Need for a paradigm shift in urban policy and planning approach at strategic and local levels to promote liveability in Indian cities. Exploring suitable urban planning and design concepts/models which will focus on holistic and vibrant urban growth in India.

Strengthening Local Urban Governance Institutions

Technical and financial capacity building of urban local bodies for implementing and delivering urban schemes and projects. City-to-city collaborations as an effective way for experience and knowledge sharing will also be explored.

Strengthening Partnerships

City-to-city collaboration is an effective way to improve the capacities of the partner cities. The dialogues will look at ways to enhance such partnerships.

Financing and Implementation

Addressing challenges of existing financing and implementation mechanisms to meet demands of infrastructure and identifying the way forward for Urban Local Bodies.

Technical Innovation in City Context

Promoting private sector innovation to go hand-in-hand with improvement in institutional capacities. This will provide opportunities for both government and private sector to share knowledge.

TENTATIVE AGENDA OF REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES:

The dialogues will follow a half-day format followed by Lunch for the participants.

Session	Duration
Inaugural Session	30 minutes
Roundtable Discussions	2 hours
Concluding Session	30 minutes

TARGET STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS:

- Number of participants per Regional Policy Dialogue: 20-25
- Regional Policy Dialogues – Municipal Commissioners/Smart City SPV CEOs/Mayors, State Urban Development departments and authorities, urban institutions and agencies, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, and local practitioners and experts will be targeted
- New Delhi Events (WSDS 2018, National Workshop) – Relevant Ministries, policy makers, urban planners and practitioners, peer organisations, funding agencies, multi-lateral/bi-lateral organisations, research institutions and academia will be targeted in addition to the state and city representatives

OUTCOMES:

- Facilitating urban discourse – Focusing on the challenges and way forward for making liveable cities that are environmentally sustainable, technologically smart and climate and disaster resilient
- Policy Brief – Documenting and knowledge-sharing for enabling policy and decision-making in cities
- National Workshop – Sharing outcomes and recommendations of the Regional Policy Dialogues and the Policy brief