

## SESSION 9

# URBANIZATION AS AN OPPORTUNITY

LOCAL SOLUTIONS AND URBAN/PERI-URBAN INTERLINKAGES FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE-EFFICIENCY IN METROPOLITAN REGIONS



CONVENERS:



## Summary Report

### of the Session “Urbanization as an opportunity” at the Dresden Nexus Conference 2015, Dresden, Germany, 26 March 2015

On March 25-27, the Dresden Nexus Conference (DNC) brought together UN organizations, UNU institutes, member states, ministerial representatives, national and international organizations as well as individual researchers and NGOs from around the world under the theme “Global Change, Sustainable Development Goals and the Nexus Approach”. The DNC 2015 dealt with challenges posed by global change, based on the nexus approach to the sustainable management of environmental resources, water, soil and waste. Three thematic topics were covered over the course of three days: climate, urbanization and population growth. The participants discussed how the integrated management of environmental resources guided by nexus approach may help to achieve the potential targets of the post-2015 agenda.

In the framework of this conference, UNW-DPC co-convended, together with the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ) and UNU-FLORES, the session “Urbanization as an opportunity: Local solutions and urban/peri-urban interlinkages for integrated resource-efficiency in metropolitan regions” on March 26. The session discussed Nexus opportunities in the urban and peri-urban setting, including the linkage between cities and their surrounding areas.

Urbanization and globalization intensify the linkages between cities and their surrounding areas. In particular, the competition between land for settlements and industry versus land for agriculture were discussed, along with issues related to sustainable sanitation and health.



left to right: Viet Ha Nguyen (University of Bonn), Kathrine Brekke (ICLEI), Jens Liebe (UNW-DPC), Jan Schlenk (GIZ), Kristin Meyer (UNU-FLORES), and Kim Andersson (SEI)

Urban areas lend ample opportunities to increase resource use efficiency, as well as for reuse and recycling. The session showed that:

1. many technical tools and concepts already exist to connect different sectors. However, there is a need to promote and diffuse them.
2. capacity development should accompany the implementation of technical solutions and concepts to apply integrated approaches successfully and sustainably. Experiences from the past have

shown that implementing (technical) solutions without adequately developing the required capacities is often unsustainable. However, this insight is often ignored.

3. motivating stakeholders and actors from diverse sectors and governance levels to institutionalize intersectoral cooperation on an urban/metropolitan scale is important. Good practice examples are a powerful tool to motivate stakeholder elsewhere to find nexus solutions to their problems.

On behalf of the organizers, the session's conclusions were presented in the plenary of day 2 of the DNC by Jens Liebe, UNW-DPC.

## Oral Presentations

Title	Authors	Affiliation
<b>Operationalizing the Urban NEXUS in Cities and Metropolitan Regions</b>	Carmen Vogt, Alexandra Linden and Jan Schlenk	GIZ
<b>More people, more problems? How can capacity development help to capitalize on the nexus opportunities in urban and peri-urban areas?</b>	Jens Liebe <sup>1</sup> , Daniel Tsegai <sup>1</sup> and Reza Ardakanian <sup>1,2</sup>	<sup>1</sup> UNW-DPC; <sup>2</sup> UNU-FLORES
<b>Pro-urban water allocation - case study of Vu Gia - Thu Bon river basin</b>	Viet Ha Nguyen	University of Bonn
<b>Operationalizing the Urban NEXUS approach: the City of Nashik optimizing water, energy and land resources in peri-urban agriculture</b>	Jeb Brugmann <sup>1</sup> , Kathrine Brekke <sup>2</sup> and Ritu Thakur <sup>2</sup>	<sup>1</sup> The Next Practice; <sup>2</sup> ICLEI
<b>Sustainable Sanitation at the centre of Water-Energy-Food Nexus</b>	Kim Andersson <sup>1</sup> , Patrick Bracken <sup>2</sup> , Arne Panesar <sup>2</sup> and Rahul Ingle <sup>2</sup>	<sup>1</sup> Stockholm Environment Institute; <sup>2</sup> GIZ
<b>Nexus planning approaches and instruments</b>	Mathew Kurian <sup>1</sup> , Mario Suardi <sup>2</sup> and Kristin Meyer <sup>1</sup>	<sup>1</sup> UNU-FLORES; <sup>2</sup> The World Bank