



Brochure

**Expert Group Meeting**

**Mainstreaming Climate Change into National Urban Policies**

United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand  
17–18 March 2015



*“As cities and national governments cannot act alone to effectively tackle climate change, a framework for understanding the linkages across multiple levels of government and with the private sector and non-governmental stakeholders is needed.”*

OECD (2010, p171). Cities and climate change

## **Introduction**

In the face of the changing global climate, the future of millions of people in the Asia and Pacific Region will be determined by the pace and quality of adaptation and mitigation undertaken by its cities. Climate change will provide challenges to environmental sustainability, the structure of economies, patterns of human settlements, livelihoods and employment. Rapid urbanization in Asia and the Pacific is also associated with an increase of poverty in cities with about one third of the region’s urban population now estimated to live in slums.

Local governments and urban stakeholders, have started to address climate change throughout the Asia and Pacific region by exploring low carbon development paths and addressing resilience. However, very often these efforts remain local and depend on the initiative of individual cities, often with the support of external partners. The key bottlenecks for a broader urban sector response to climate change are: (i) limited local and national capacities to address climate change challenges; (ii) limited funding for climate change responses, particularly at the local level; (iii) a combination of a lack of political will and prioritisation; and (iv) national urban policy and legal frameworks that do not anticipate and manage rapid urban growth nor climate change.

National policy frameworks can stimulate the development and implementation of local climate change actions. These frameworks may include policies, laws, capacity development and financial mechanisms. In order to support national governments in their efforts to address climate change at the city or local government level, UN-Habitat, ESCAP and UNEP jointly implement the project: “Strengthening capacities of member states in the Asian and Pacific region to mainstream climate change concerns into national urban related policies”.

## **Objective of the Expert Group Meeting**

The objective of the Expert Group Meeting is to agree on modalities to mainstream climate change concerns into national urban related policies.

## **Expected outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting**

- ✓ Agree on a framework for reviewing/assessing national urban related policy/legislation (national-urban; housing; urban infrastructure; urban planning; climate change) in participating countries
- ✓ Develop country specific implementation modalities and work plans
- ✓ Share and discuss good practices
- ✓ Discuss/analyse policy options for mainstreaming climate change concerns into national urban related policies





### Country representatives

The organizers can fund country representatives of participating countries consisting of four (4) delegates, composed of:

- Two representatives of national ministries of urban development / housing / local government or similar institution. The representatives should be from ministries responsible for urban and local government policies which are relevant to climate change
- A representative of the national climate change commission / ministry of environment (or similar body). The representative should be familiar with urban / local climate change challenges and the relevant national climate change laws/policies/strategies/frameworks.
- A representative from a national local government association or a think tank familiar with local government and climate change issues.

During the Expert Group Meeting, each country representative is expected to finalize a basic country specific project **Implementation Plan**. The Implementation Plan will be developed during working group sessions. During the meeting, country delegations will be supported and guided by resource persons and provided with practical tools in the development of their plans.

### Programme outline

| 17 March (Tue) 2015  | 18 March (Wed) 2015                                    |
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| <b>MORNING</b><br>- Opening remarks<br>- Introduction and objectives of the meeting<br>- Mainstreaming climate change into national urban policies: Key issues | <b>MORNING</b><br>- Agree on policy assessment methods |
| Lunch  | Lunch  |
| <b>AFTERNOON</b><br>- Assessment framework options for national urban policies<br>- Country presentations: challenges and opportunities                        | <b>AFTERNOON</b><br>- Developing national work plans   |