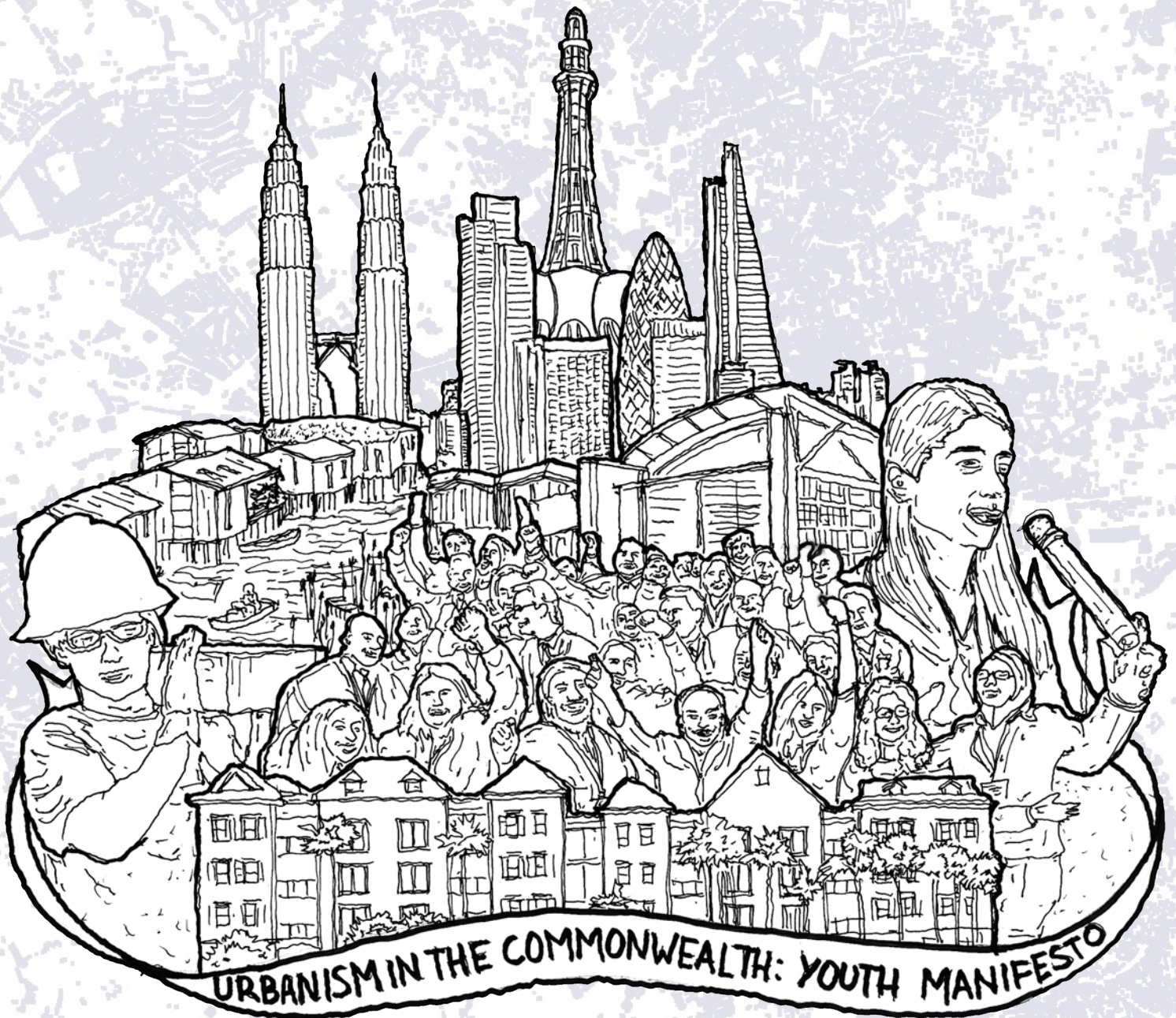COMMONWEALTH YOUTH FORUM

POWERING OUR COMMON FUTURE:
URBANISM IN THE COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH MANIFESTO
LONDON, 16-19 APRIL, 2018

COMPENDIUM OF SUBMISSIONS AND REFERENCES
11 APRIL, 2018

URBANISM IN THE COMMONWEALTH: YOUTH MANIFESTO

COMMONWEALTH
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING
LONDON 2018

Towards a common future

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

London

16th-20th April 2018

The Commonwealth is a diverse community of 53 nations that work together to promote prosperity, democracy and peace.

In April 2018, the UK will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) when leaders from all the member countries are expected to gather in London and Windsor.

They will come together to reaffirm our common values, address the shared global challenges we face and agree how to work to create a better future for all our citizens, particularly young people

CAA
Commonwealth Association of Architects

CAA is a membership organisation for professional bodies representing architects in Commonwealth countries. Formed in 1965, it currently has 34 members. The Association is best known for its procedures for the validation of courses in architecture which convene international visiting boards to schools to assess courses against set criteria. This results in a list of qualifications recommended for recognition by members.

http://www.comarchitect.org/

Commonwealth Association of Planners

As the peak organisation representing planners across the Commonwealth CAP has championed, promoted and connected planners and planning since its inception over 40 years ago.

CAP is a volunteer based organisation, drawing support from our 27 member Institutes who in turn represent over 40,000 planners and allied professionals across theCommonwealth.

https://www.commonwealth-planners.org/

CONTENTS:

Cover image - Youth Manifesto Sketch; Credit: Simeon Shtebunaev

INTRODUCTION

1. The future of the Commonwealth belongs to its Youth. This manifesto and the supporting compendium express current policy recommendations of Commonwealth Young architects, planners and urbanists regarding the urban policies of member states. They represent the thoughts of youth leaders across the Commonwealth - Australia, The Caribbean, India, The United Kingdom, South Africa, Nigeria and Malaysia.

2. The Young Planners of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) and Young Architects of Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), *have looked* to their members (and others) to help shape the outcomes of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, by aiming to get their opinion on the following question **"How can young people within the Commonwealth help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?"**

3. *We believe* in a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to the global challenges our current and future generations face. To ensure a sustainable, fairer, more secure and more prosperous future, **the Youth of the Commonwealth are calling for a more collaborative strategy to meet SDG 11.** This will help nurture, provide opportunities and strengthen the youth across the Commonwealth: the young minds of today that will become the leaders of tomorrow.

BY THIS MANIFESTO, WE:

4. *Recall and commit* to the ***Charter of the Commonwealth, The United Nations Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda***. *We call* on the Heads of Governments to move boldly ahead and look towards *implementation and delivery* strategies to achieve the goals set in the above agreements.

5. As young leaders, *we pledge our continuous support and call* on governments, civil society organisations, NGOs, international donor partners and other stakeholders active in member states to partner with us to **support the following policy recommendations:**

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND YOUTH VOICE

6. *We recognise* that Young Professionals possess unique fresh perspective and freedom of thought. We acknowledge, that Young Professionals have a willingness to learn and a curiosity to drive and untangle the complex issues facing nation states in achieving the SDGs. *We believe*, **the Commonwealth member states should actively engage Young People in the creation of their future cities.**

We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

7. The promotion of a '**Talent Pipeline**' to globally engage and nurture the passion of young planners, architects and urbanists. *We want* to eliminate the gap between the 'young' and the 'experts' by establishing strong relationships with local institutions and communities. *We call* for the **expansion of Youth Leaders program** across the Commonwealth.

8. Young Experts should be involved in key decision making processes on local, national and international level. *We want* Young Professionals to be engaged in projects to help the development of policy in key areas of sustainability and urbanism. *We call* on governments to **bring insightful and resourceful Young Individuals into the policy and city making process**.

9. Governments should ensure that there are routes for Young People to explore, network and discuss the issues that impact them. *We call* for the **establishment of outreach programmes** to cultivate talent and knowledge of SDGs. We call on governments to listen to the voices of their youth and provide a way for those voices to be heard in the policy making process.

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH NETWORK AND COLLABORATION
We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

10. The creation of better integrated platforms for the sharing of knowledge and experience across the Commonwealth member nations. Young people should be provided with the resources, and guidance required to set up and grow **cross-sector networking organisations across the Commonwealth** to collectively strengthen their own voice.

11. Promotion of **exchange of ideas across nation states** to build one another's capacity and address economic, social and environmental challenges. *We call* for the support of Young Professionals to attend events, conferences, seminars and skills workshops across the Commonwealth member states.

12. The **introduction of local networking hubs** for professionals from all sectors, to engage and help their cities or towns to work towards achieving SDG goals, to meet, discuss and prioritise small local activities and to identify how they can help the organisations they are a part of to drive local changes to achieve the SDGs.

13. The incorporation of the SDGs into education at all levels. *We want* Young Experts to be empowered to promote the importance of sustainability as a benefit to society through **peer to peer education schemes.**

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FIRST
We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

14. Understanding of local communities before creating policy, places and plans. Policy should not be top down but driven by communities and Young People *should be* at the forefront of community engagement to create more inclusive places.

15. Understanding of the **importance of social-cultural aspects in place-making**, each region and place needs to have policy considerate of culture, specificity and context. Young Experts *should be* empowered to work and to promote sustainable solutions that could house innovation, resilience and prosperity.

TAKE PRIDE IN COMMONWEALTH CULTURE
We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

16. The celebration of the diversity of the Commonwealth nations to deliver better futures. Avoiding homogenous design strategies and encourage experimentation.Developing planning decisions in response to a nation's identity and context. Sharing the results for others around the Commonwealth to learn.

17. Recognition and taking pride in your culture and engaging to develop better social, economic and environmental outcomes. Incorporating globalisation in a sustainable manner. **Respecting the needs of all nation states** – small and large.

CONCLUSIONS

18. *We welcome and encourage* the actions taken by the Commonwealth Youth Council, Commonwealth Secretariat, member states and Commonwealth civil society in engaging with young people across the Commonwealth. *We call* for a Commonwealth shaped by Young People and, importantly, Young Professionals.

19. There is a desire by Young Professionals to make their world a better place and they want their voice to be heard loudly, when shaping their professions. Young Professionals across the Commonwealth are trying to deliver **inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable places** for the billions of people in the Commonwealth to live, grow, play and work.

20. *We call* on Governments, Non-government Organisations, agencies, donor partners, private sector, and civil society organisations to partner with us to ensure that the policy recommendations outlined above are implemented.

Strategies which can help deliver SDG 11: To make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

by

Mmalethabo Julian Sedibe, Volunteer Candidate Planner at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, mmalethabojs@gmail.com

Introduction

In the South African context, strategies which act as an aid towards delivering the Sustainable Development Goal 11 include planning for gender inclusive spaces, upgrading of human settlements and policies which regulate safety of the citizens. Prior democracy, acts which enforced racial segregation were enacted and implemented, for example the Group Areas Act of 1950 which strongly denied non-whites access to developed areas and also placed them in unplanned settlements. Section 26 of the South African Constitution clearly substantiates that everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing (Constitution, 1996). The Breaking New Ground policy aimed at accelerating housing delivery as a key strategy to poverty alleviation, job creation, economic growth, and promoting quality of life for the poor (Jordhus and Tsolekile, 2013). The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013 aims at promoting social and economic inclusion. It also aims at redressing the past imbalances and ensuring that there is equity in the application of spatial development planning and land use management.

Architectural Planning

For inclusive human settlements, the targeted point of departure could be to critique architectural planning which remains a domain that reproduces heterosexual spaces that relegate the gender non-conforming individuals to the margins of the society. This profession continues to be predominantly masculine, where planning is dominated by 'straight-thinking' and perpetuates heteronormativity. Heteronormativity is "a set of norms that make heterosexuality seem natural" and it "is deeply rooted in cultural and religious belief" systems, presenting itself as compulsory and polices and pathologizes alternative forms of sexuality (Pilkey, 2013; Ngidi and Dlamini, 2017). This way it restricts people from moving outside heterosexual boundaries, pushes those with other identities out of the mainstream, into marginal spaces, or simply keeps them in the 'closet'.

Research demonstrates how societal spaces are constructed to resonate with heteronormative human behaviour. Architecture, by and large, circumscribes, constrains and/or controls sexuality in a sense that it channels people to think and act heteronormatively. Notwithstanding, the marginal spaces to which the gender non-conforming citizens are relegated, represent 'a safe haven' for these individuals in light of the heteronormative spaces that violate and alienate them. The omission of the sexuality and the cisgender nature of infrastructural planning contribute to violence towards gender non-conforming citizens in the public place. Gender neutral spaces helps to curb the level of discrimination and assist to avoid stereotyping.

Successful case study that led to a safe, resilient and sustainable human settlement: Hangberg informal settlement.

Before the 1950's Hangberg was the site of a workers' hostel, housing workers categorised as African. Due to the Group Areas Act, coloured people from Hout Bay village were moved to Hangberg. Thus, the majority of the people living in Hangberg self-identify as either Coloured or Khoi-san. Apartments and council houses were built to accommodate the then new settlers. The township is located beneath the iconic mountain, the Sentinel, and above the Hout Bay harbour. The main sources of employment are fishing, working at fish processing plants, and within the tourist industry.

Emergence of the Informal Settlement

In the 1980s, brick row houses were built due to the increased demand for labour and population growth. However, the housing stock was inadequate, resulting in the proliferation of backyard dwellings. After 1994, an informal settlement at the foot of Sentinel Mountain was formed. The spread of the informal settlement happened under the control of the City Council which provided each household with a letter of consent, thus granting the right to security of tenure. Through such arrangements, the conditions attached to the right meant that residents were only allowed to build dwellings with non-permanent materials, for example, corrugated iron, rock and timber, and the dwelling size was restricted to two-room structures (Walter, 2011).

The plot sizes ranged from a minimum of 20 metre square to a maximum of 350 metre square which in turn caused variations in the plot sizes. The informal settlement has a mixed household income spread, with monthly incomes ranging from R7, 500 to as low as R346, with the average of R2, 600. Due to the inadequate services provided, the community took it upon themselves to provide better services and as a result, one third of households have provided

their own illegal water and sanitation infrastructure connections to individual homes such as toilets, taps and basins, and baths.

First attempt to Upgrade the informal settlement

The City of Cape Town together with the Development Action Group (DAG), initiated an in-situ upgrade in Hangberg, which aimed at producing 302 housing opportunities.   The agreement to clear the firebreak which is essential for the safety of the Hangberg community is part of a wider agreement, called the Peace and Mediation Accord, which was signed by the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape Government, South African National Parks Board (SANParks) and the Hangberg Peace and Mediation Forum, which comprises of elected leaders of the Hangberg community. The Development Action Group facilitated the agreement to the upgrading plan. Part of the agreement was a commitment by the community that no further structures would be erected in the informal settlement as the relatively low densities were essential for the provision of services and upgrading. The Accord was made a high court order with the implication that if people violated the agreement, they will face forceful evictions whereby the South African Police Services will according to the accord break the unlawful structures down and arrest those who are guilty of violating the law (Walter, 2011).

Even though the demand for decent housing was a major concern, the residents however rejected the plan. The major concern for the residents to reject the plan was because of the road which would have to be placed between Hangberg and the neighbouring settlements including the Sentinel Mountain. The road was rejected since a lot of residents who built informal houses for themselves felt vulnerable to police violence with the easy access of a road. As a result, there were uprisings. Some people saw the pending development as a sign that the area was no longer national park land or a fire break, and began to construct informal houses. Thus, to object the agreement, more structures were built, and extended into the firebreak that separates Hangberg from land belonging to the South African National Parks Board (SANParks). The firebreak prevents regular mountain fires from spreading to the houses below. It is unlawful to build structures in the firebreak according to the City of Cape Town Municipality (Walter, 2011).

Violence triggered by the processes of upgrading the informal settlement

The lessons which can be learnt are that it will not only be the case wherein the citizens will agree to the terms of government when it comes to housing provision. Most people settle for informality as a way of avoiding the bureaucratic procedures which have to be followed in

order to settle in formal areas. In the process of implementing the Peace Accord in Hangberg, the police were met by a group of residents who attacked them with stones and flares and who then vandalised the Panorama Hills block of flats at the entrance of Hangberg and cars parked in the vicinity were burnt. The residents also looted the nearby Hout Bay harbour market.

Since the Western Cape government strongly condemns the acts of violence, vandalism and looting committed by a small group of residents in response to the operation and those guilty of public violence must face the full might of the law. As a way to resolve the violence, a dedicated task team of personnel from the city and the province was appointed to detect and monitor the progress of implementing the Peace and Mediation Accord. The City of Cape Town Municipality made it clear that they cannot continue upgrading the existing informal area if invasions continue and densities become too high. They further argued that they cannot put the entire community at risk of regular runaway mountain fires by building within the firebreak.

Partnerships

When upgrading settlements, it is of great importance that the residents are involved from the early stages of the process of upgrading. If the residents are less informed or consulted about the municipality's plans to upgrade their area, they will not regard the project as theirs and are unlikely to feel responsible for protecting what the project provides (Sitas, 2014). In Hangberg informal settlement the major investor was the Development Action Group (DAG) which has a vision that states "the creation of sustainable human settlements through development processes which enable human rights, dignity and equity". The Development Action Group acted as a facilitator and capacity builder to the project (Walter, 2011).

Community Initiated Incremental Development

Drawing back to the right of having security of tenure in the Hangberg area, such a right enabled some households to incrementally upgrade their dwellings with permanent materials subsequently overcoming the geotechnical constraints of the steep slope found within the area. The community-initiated incremental development has no direct correlation to income, but it points to strong social networks among the residents. The network helps the resident to have pride in being occupants of the area, thus through the growth of the informal settlement, concerns and frustrations around deteriorating facilities, livelihoods and increased vulnerability largely due to illegal poaching urged the community to engage with the City of Cape Town in negotiating informal settlement upgrading. The envisioned outcome of the upgrade has been compared with a mix between affluent Clifton and Brazil's favelas (Walter, 2011).

Finalization of the project and delivery of houses.

The planning of the upgrade processes went through several stages of negotiations between the HBCA, DAG and the City of Cape Town. The formal application for funding by means of a business plan (Phase 1) and pre-planning (Phase 2) has been completed. In order to maintain feasibility of the upgrading project, a moratorium was signed although it was not mentioned as to with which service provider limiting the scope of the project to 302 housing opportunities on approximately 3.7 hectares, i.e. a manageable density of approximately 120 dwelling units per hectare. However, the City made no special arrangements to enforce the moratorium, creating new power dynamics in the informal settlement between the qualifiers and non-qualifiers of the proposed development.

The premier gave an order that unoccupied structures which were built on the firebreak must be destroyed and removed. The development project became a success through a peaceful mediated process (see appendix on page 7 for the situation of before and after at Hangberg).

Conclusion

Looking at population dynamics in South Africa it is becoming evident that shacks are not temporary they will be shelter for people for many years to come. The iShack (improved shack) is a start in rethinking informal settlements. The Sustainability Institute (SI) in Stellenbosch and the Stellenbosch Municipality have been involved in a project that may serve as an example of innovative sustainable solutions for informal settlements wherein it was implemented in the Enkanini informal settlement. Although the iShack might be expensive to other citizens, it can be a way for municipalities which lack capacity to try and provide shelter to the citizens. The government should also have a way of addressing informal settlements before violence and uprisings are started (Walter, 2011).

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Fig 1: Hangberg before upgrading

Fig 2: Hangberg after upgrading

Planning Sustainable Cities

SGD 11: Inclusive, safe, resilient & sustainable cities and communities

How

Teaching-learning
Sustainability theory

+

Practical Project
UN-Habitat: IG-UTP

Experiential learning

Planning in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals

Teaching approaches that seek solutions through integrative thinking

Who

1 2 3 4 5

Professional structured teams, planners in training, collaborative thinking

For

Manual for best practices

01 Social
02 Economic
03 Environmental

Considering three spheres and case studies in South Africa to compile a manual for best practices

Why

Enhance transfer of knowledge to students

Teaching that results in applied research

Teaching that makes impact

Systems thinking. Teaching results in research and research results in impact. Powerful science!

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An Architecture of Degrowth
By Benjamin Wells

Whilst the sustainable development agenda may offer a unifying lens through which we focus our efforts to build sustainable cities and societies, it sits within a narrative of economic growth that demands development regardless of the costs. The regeneration of Sewoon Sangga in Seoul challenges this predicament, perhaps hinting towards an architecture that transforms rather than consumes – an architecture of degrowth.

We attach value to many characteristics of our cities, whether that be mobility, access to infrastructure, openness or the presence of nature. But regardless of how important these attributes may be, the prevailing force that defines their existence, as well as their quantity and quality, is the pursuit of economic growth. Without growth our advanced capitalist economies cease to function, and this demand has pervaded our thinking about how cities work and the policies that shape them. Success is represented by the percentage figures that describe the health of our economies, ensuring that we strive not just for growth, but growth for the sake of growth.

Architecture has become a primary measure of this growth – a visual and tangible representation of a 'healthy' economy – from mass speculative housing to the construction of iconic forms that symbolize upturns in economic fortunes. Whilst the 2008 financial crash provided stark evidence of the risks associated with regarding building stock as financial instruments, strategies of urbanism remain transfixed on continuous construction (and demolition, as the other side of the city development coin). The world construction industry now accounts for some 14% of global GDP, ensuring that policies prioritize construction over considered development. Growth for the sake of growth demands development for the sake of development.

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If the state of our economies is reflected in the rise and fall of urban forms, so too is the condition of our societies and the rate at which we are approaching, or exceeding, environmental limits. The dogma of perpetual growth has infiltrated not just the way we shape our cities, but also the values we project upon our buildings and how we interact within them. Regardless of how virtuous our aims might be, as architects our task is usually more – to build and to produce, as we consume.

So how do we begin to improve our cities outside of the narrative of growth? Can architecture be an instrument for positive transformation without demolishing to construct? What role do architects play in conditions that increasingly appeal for us to produce (and consume) less?

The concept of sustainable development has emerged as the universal consensus on how to improve quality of life whilst reducing our environmental impact, with the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals setting ambitious targets on how to alleviate poverty, increase social equity and restrict climate change by 2030. Goal 11 represents the targets for sustainable cities and communities, coming in just after Goal 8 – the ambition for decent work and economic growth. And here lies the predicament; the agenda for sustainable development may aim to address environmental issues and improve quality of life, but it does so within the parameters of continued economic growth. If we accept that the 'cult of growth' has been responsible for the exponential rise in processes of extraction, production, consumption and development, which in turn has led to the global environmental (and societal) crisis, then perhaps we should question the aims of development if its agenda is economic growth.
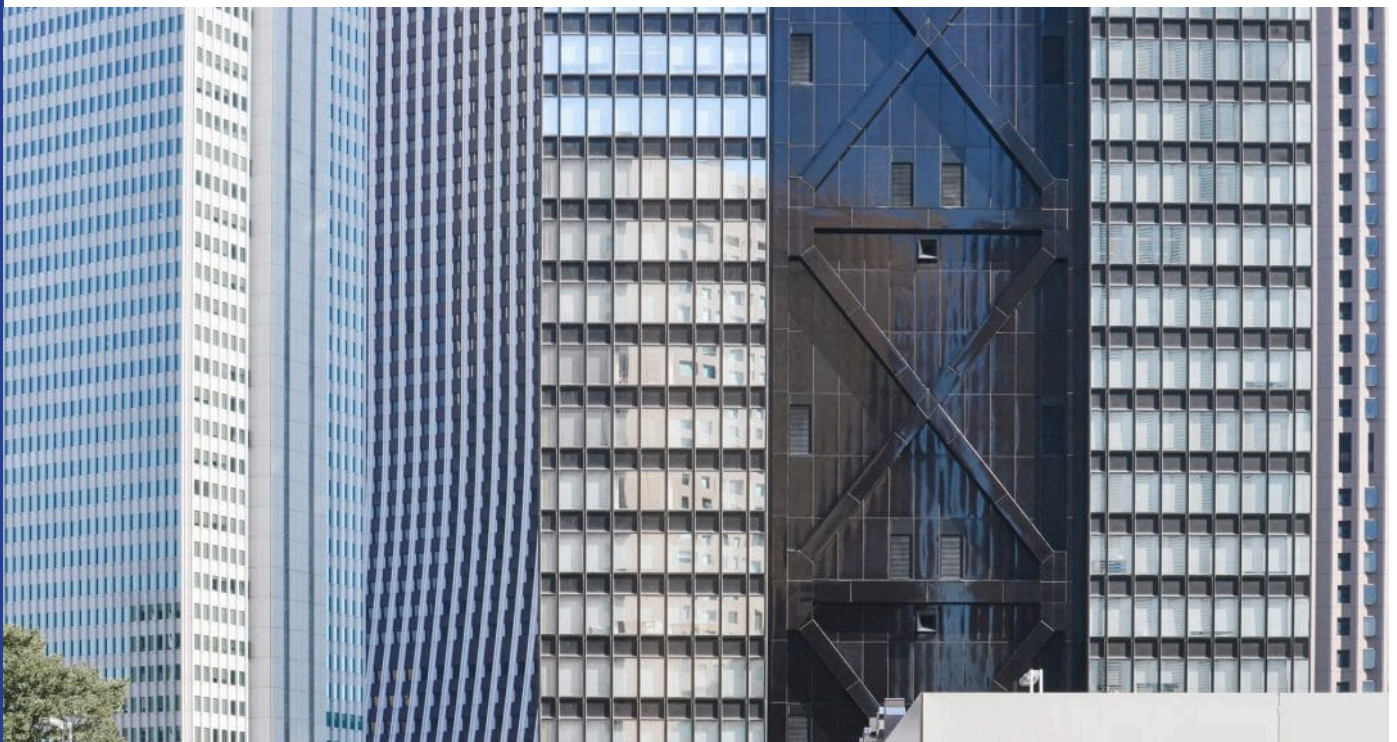
Photo   Benjamin Wells

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Whilst the sustainable development agenda provides an invaluable lens through which to focus our collective architectural efforts, the concept of degrowth offers a useful counterpoint, challenging the aims of sustainable development if it only exists on an economic trajectory. Emerging from both a Marxist intellectual territory in France (from the likes of Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen and Jean Baudrillard) and a grassroots movement in various Northern European countries (co-housing was pioneered in Denmark in the 1970s) , degrowth advocates the improvement of quality of life and social wellbeing without an increase in consumption. Degrowth thinkers and activists support the reduction of production and consumption – the contraction of economies – arguing that overconsumption lies at the root of long term environmental issues and social inequalities.

So if perpetual growth has been the generating principle of 21st century cities, degrowth demands we turn our attention to methods of reduction and consolidation (Keller Easterling suggests that architects are well equipped to master methods of subtraction, beyond endless addition). Perhaps this seems self-evident but it poses something of a challenge to architects, reliant as we are on opportunities to construct – to develop and consume. Are there opportunities for an architecture that exists outside of the growth agenda, enhancing societies whilst rejecting the demands of economic growth? And what might this – an architecture of degrowth – look like?

There are many aspects of contemporary cities that represent improvements of quality of life without greater consumption – mobility infrastructure, models of shared living and diversified building uses all have benefits for social dynamics whilst causing some kind of economic shrinkage (less consumption of fuel, materials and 'goods') – but these projects are not often celebrated as architecturally aspirational, nor featured on architectural websites such as this. Architectural value is still overwhelmingly dictated by novelty, and therefore growth.

The regeneration of Sewoon Sangga, a kilometer long concrete megastructure in Seoul, South Korea, might just represent an architecture of degrowth, unique as it is in its scale, vision and political context. Designed in the 1960s by South Korea's foremost modernist architect, Kim Swoo-geun, the monolith emerged from the country's rapid economic and urban growth following the Korean War; a representation of Korean modernity that seemed brave and excessive even within the context of the rapidly expanding city of Seoul. Its labyrinth of staircases, alleyways and elevated walkways connect a microcosm of functions, combining shops, offices, restaurants and residential units above a vibrant base of manufacturing activities.

Yet it wasn't long before the structure's vision was corrupted, and by the late 1970s the structure was rife with illicit activities and illegal trading, leading to calls for demolition from successive mayors. The building's social problems were attributed to the failures of its architecture and, like many postwar brutalist structures, it was viewed as an opportunity to clear the way for high-rise speculative housing, destined to become another spectacle of destruction for the sake of future growth.

Yet Sewoon Sangga hasn't been demolished, and is instead undergoing a subtle but inspired regeneration initiated by Seoul Metropolitan Government and the city's mayor, Park Won-soon. The project is interesting not only in that it has rejected the demands of economic growth through development, but is also taking steps to avoid the risks of gentrification, such as ensuring the right to remain for many of its inhabitants and prioritizing connectivity and diversity over visual appearance (you wouldn't necessarily notice any changes at first glance). The project's phased regeneration is being supervised by the influential City Architects department (60 architects led by Kim Young-Joon) that has been responsible for an array of citizen-focused projects including the Seoullo Skygarden.
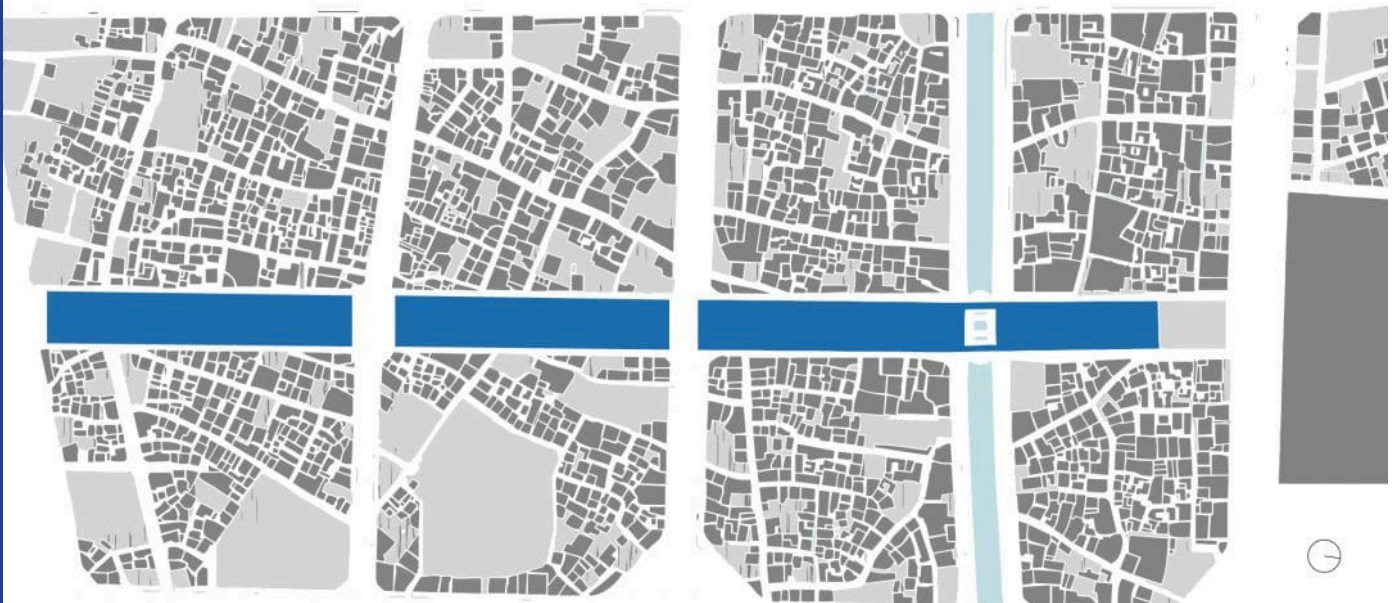
Diagram Benjamin Wells

Rather than relying on the sale of divided units and an injection of consumption activities, the project has focused on subtle interventions that connect the building's multitude of programs with each other and the surrounding city, such as a sloping square that connects the elevated walkways with the street. Skilled craftsmen that have occupied the building for decades now work amongst fab-labs and artists studios, and the rigid superstructure is not just being used, but moulded and transformed to suit the myriad of users and functions that inhabit it. The significant involvement of the City Architects department is demonstrating that when architects take positions of influence, they can be empowered to dictate urban strategies that value more than just growth, short-circuiting the usual client-architect demand dynamics.

Whilst not all cities have a superstructure in need of regeneration, the ongoing transformation of Sewoon Sangga hints towards the opportunities made available when resolute architects question the dogma of growth development and find ways to enhance society with minimal intervention. As we continue to demolish (often relatively young) buildings in favor of speculative housing or commercial operations, Sewoon Sangga represents a refreshing and subtly radical shift in priority – from economic growth to social well being. At its most extreme, degrowth might demand that we refuse to build (which in many cases might be the answer). But Sewoon Sangga's regeneration hints towards the transformative potential of modest but thoughtful design projects, suggesting a form of sustainable development that can flourish beyond the demands of economic growth.

UNITED KINGDOM / DENMARK

How can young people within the Commonwealth help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?

I will address this question on two fronts:
- (i) How can younger people have more of an active role in SDG11?
- (ii) How the commonwealth can help to deliver SDG11?

Below is a condensed outline of my ideas in response to the above questions.

i) How can younger people have an active role in helping towards delivering SDG11?

1. Younger people need to be aware of the social, economic and environmental challenges that face this planet. They must understand the context. This should be done on a scholastic level, but there needs to be more outreaching initiatives throughout the commonwealth. Examples are as follows:
   1.1. External workshops:
      1.1.1. Visiting scholastic institutions to raise awareness of SDG11 and to encourage an active participation of younger people.
   1.2. Social Media presence:
      1.2.1. This is currently one of the most pertinent means of connecting with younger individuals and will continue to be. In developing understanding, this is a vital platform.
   1.3. Volunteering programmes within the commonwealth:
      1.3.1. In targeting the 18-25 year old community, could there be potential for opening up volunteering programmes elsewhere in the commonwealth? Perhaps looking into sustainable development in smaller communities, so individuals can gain experience into developing human settlements in the context of SDG11.
2. In trying to help younger people contribute to deliver SDG11, the style of delivery should hold a high degree of appeal. Whilst this point may be fairly self-evident, I feel it should be maintained that sustainable targets should not be perceived as a burden for younger generations, but as an opportunity for growth and innovation.
3. Planners and architects should understand the needs and desires of younger people in urban environments going forward. (This dialogue could encourage interest into the field and in turn more participation from the younger community.) The following questions could be asked:
   3.1. How do young people use cities?
   3.2. What do young people see as advantages/disadvantages of current cities?
   3.3. What might young people desire in future cities?

ii) How should the commonwealth help to deliver SDG11?

1. Cities across the commonwealth are well established; therefore it is not a question of drawing up urban environments from scratch but *adapting* current infrastructure to meet the outlined targets.

Sasha Swannell   1

2. **Inclusive** (inclusion of a variety of citizens; avoiding marginalisation whilst maintaining growth)
    2.1. Affordable housing, transit access and contemporary infrastructure should be easily accessible for everyone in a city. There should be no hierarchy.
        2.1.1. Housing should be integrated into city master plans. It should not be regarded as a separate entity, but core to the overall make-up of the city. In short, there needs to be an holistic approach to housing developments, so they have direct links to core infrastructures (transit, retail, neighbourhood parks, sports facilities etc.). The target is to create communities not houses.
        2.1.2. This holistic mentality should be extended across as many sectors in urban planning as possible. This is dependent on the interdisciplinary activity of involved organisations. In an era where corporations within construction industries have become far more specialist and independent, I believe cohesion at the planning stage should in turn, if done well, cause a social inclusion at the living stage.
    2.2. Scholastic institutions should keep up to date with how employment in cities is changing and channel education accordingly, for everyone. The types of jobs in cities are different to previous generations and this needs to be realised and acted upon to maintain future growth. (This should be assessed specific to each commonwealth nation/city.)
        2.2.1. The above could perhaps be enforced on a council rather than state level?
3. **Safe**
    3.1. The roads add to a large proportion of casualties in urban environments. Driverless vehicles may help reduce this, but that is largely dependent on an unpredictable development in computerised technology. For planners, in contributing to SDG11, I feel a focus on the effective function on public transport could be key to the safety of city dwellers.
        3.1.1. Further investment in reliable, efficient and affordable public transport may encourage commuters to avoid individual means of transportation (e.g. cars and cycling), which are more prone to accidents. Urban transit would therefore be more controlled and casualties may decrease.
            3.1.1.1. A more effective transport system will help attract businesses and investment, tourism, provide the basis for more sustainable travel and improve urban air quality.
4. **Resilient**
    4.1. Most prominent threats to cities would seem to be terrorism and climate change. With the former being more understood and somewhat controlled in recent years, I feel the latter holds more uncertain and potentially threatening prospects and should be addressed as such.
        4.1.1. With the looming likelihood of sea levels rising globally, attention should be given to installing defence systems across coastal cities, especially. This is admittedly, an ambiguous statement for I am unaware of present developments across the commonwealth, but cities should be designed in preparation for such extremities. Current extrapolations foresee a global rise and it needs to be accounted for universally. (Being a broader topic, this might be more of a state-level matter.)
        4.1.2. Rising global temperatures is another issue that poses possible threats to commonwealth cities. All future construction should be designed to be

UNITED KINGDOM

able to withstand an increase of a maximum of two degrees (on average). This could be through installing resource efficient, low/zero carbon cooling mechanisms, as standard. In more tropical regions, this is essential to the continuous operation of urban environments.

    4.1.2.1.   A predicted rise in temperatures should also encourage the frequent adoption of solar technology. This is a well-researched area at the moment and the available expertise must be utilised, in residential as well as commercial construction.

4.2. Above all, I believe resilience stems from a proactive mentality. Planners should identify future potential risks and design accordingly – must avoid incrementalist beliefs.

5. Sustainable

5.1. All the above suggestions have sustainability in mind but specifically I feel cities must adopt more 'circular' economic models. The phrase refers to harnessing the maximum use out of resources in supply chains, in a low carbon manner. Specific to cities, there are many great case studies pioneered by the Helen MacArthur Foundation (see link), which could be learnt and adapted to various cities in the commonwealth. I have outlined some initiatives I would suggest incorporating.

    5.1.1. Cities need to be powered predominantly by renewable energy sources. This is a priority but it does not just have to take effect on a macro scale. In existing and future construction, buildings should be moving towards generating their own energy.

        5.1.1.1.   Residential developments should actively utilise more self-sufficient models. In urban environments (Western especially), mains electricity, water and waste infrastructures are so easily available that they're taken for granted. They are usually carbon intensive and not the most efficient solutions. Alternative sustainable technologies are available but at the moment are not being exploited. Again, this is admittedly broad but for example, residential buildings could implement sustainable features such as;

            5.1.1.1.1.   On-site energy generation to power each home efficiently (and perhaps a resident electric vehicle); renewable heating systems (air source heat pumps or alike); 'passive' solutions such as resource efficient thermal insulation as standard (e.g. vacuum insulation panels or VIPs); use of biogas from waste for heating/energy production.

        5.1.1.2.   Perhaps this should come in collaboration with governmental legislation as well.

    5.1.2. Progression towards zero fossil fuel transportation

        5.1.2.1.   All public transport run via electric means

        5.1.2.2.   Through a 'lease' system of electric vehicles. *ZipCar* runs a similar 'car sharing' model, that urges commuters to only use a car more infrequently, and if they are required all vehicles are electric anyway. Ideally, no one has ownership of a car, so people are more incentivised to use public transport. (This is only becomes more sustainable if electricity generation originates from renewable sources)

5.1.3. Reduction in household waste through economic incentives. (I appreciate this may need to come from a governmental level, but its importance is still paramount.)

5.1.3.1. Tax on domestic waste above a threshold value (depending on type of household). For example, single bedroom apartments would have a lower threshold value than a four bedroom house.

5.1.3.2. Conversely, could there be a monetary incentive for not wasting below a certain amount over a period of time - this is likely to be more popular by the general public. Maybe nectar/clubcard points if weekly waste is below a given value. Enforcing this may require some more in depth solutions, but it may seem more feasible in apartment blocks/estates

5.1.4. (On a more general note, architects and planners could begin to use lightweight (or minimal) design in an attempt to evoke a human behavioural change, which moved away from material obsessions)

In summary, there is huge potential to *experiment* here; it is the role of the architects and planners to lead this innovative wave across the commonwealth.

How can young people within the Commonwealth help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?

Cross-Sector Young Professionals' Networking Organisations

By William Steel

Young people have views of their own, needs of their own, and their own way of enjoying themselves. Young people can often be more altruistic and forward thinking, with less buy-in and attachment to the status quo. So, one of the things which young people can do to help to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 is to get together to break down boundaries, and amplify their collective voice within a given locality.

One such way which young professionals can achieve this is by setting up cross-sector young professionals' networking groups. Such groups may be open to students as well as professionals, thus broadening the spectrum of participation. Cross-sectoral networking groups can help to encourage inclusivity through bringing young people together to make contacts and friends with whom they might not otherwise engage. Such groups also help to foster economic resilience and sustainability through encouraging cross-sector collaboration, new business connections, and helping students to make contacts at the start of their careers, which may even help with graduate retention in university towns and cities.

Cross-sector networking groups provide young people with a forum and a platform through which to engage with local affairs, such as development issues. As the networking group grows, it will gain the ability to attract high profile local figures (such as council and business leaders), to participate in events in the form of presentations and panel events for example. This provides the opportunity for young people to engage with key figures directly and to raise the profile of their own priorities. Members' surveys can also be carried out as a networking group grows, to inform further events and provide a tool for young people to lobby for things which are of importance to them.

Case Study – Make York

I was previously Chair of Make York, a citywide cross-sector networking organisation for young professionals in York. Make York's mission statement was to bring young professionals together for business as well as social purposes, and to give young people a prominent voice on key issues within York.

Young people who attended Make York events during this time reported making business connections which they would not otherwise have made, and meeting new friends, even their future partners in some cases! Regular attendees at events worked in a wide range of professions, including professionals working in the finance sector, the creative and digital sectors, project managers, lawyers, architects, engineers, as well as town planners.

During my time on the Make York board, a 'Question Time' themed event was held, during which young professionals were able to fire questions at a panel of key figures in York. The core questions which structured the debate were drawn out of the results of a members' survey. This survey focussed on drawing out the issues which were of importance to young people within York, under themes such as the built environment, the economy and education. The findings of the survey, and the key outcomes from the event were relayed to the City of York Council's Economic Development team, and were taken into account in the production of York's Economic Strategy.

The amplifying effect of this successful networking group on the profile of young people's priorities was reflected by the fact that I was invited to speak at the York Lord Mayor's Breakfast event, as Chair for Make York. This raised the profile of the organisation further, and provided a platform on which to promote young people's views and priorities to influential figures.

Conclusion

Young people can help to foster inclusivity, as well as economic resilience and sustainability in any given locality through collaborating to set up and grow cross-sector networking organisations. In so doing, young people can collectively strengthen their own voice, and the profile of their priorities.

The following recommendations could be drawn from the case study of Make York:

- Young people should be provided with the resources, and guidance required to set up and grow cross-sector networking organisations in all manner of places across the Commonwealth.
- Avenues should be opened up to allow such groups to engage with and input into key local initiatives, such as development plans and economic strategies.
- Such groups should take the time to carry out member surveys and project their own voices to key figures in their local area, as this can help to grow the networking group, and increase capacity to influence key issues, including development issues.

How can young people within the Commonwealth help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?

In February 2018, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend World Urban Forum 9 (WUF9), led by UN-Habitat in Kuala Lumpur, with seven other students and two academics from the University of Sheffield. We worked as Policy Analysts for the Global Policy Journal, through a scheme set up by the University known as *Global Learning Opportunities in the Social Sciences* (GLOSS). GLOSS provides students with unique, fully funded opportunities to understand their courses in an international context and actively engage with international policy makers, stakeholders and partners.

World Urban Forum 9 provided a platform for a wide range of experts to discuss the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at HABITAT III in October 2016 as a direct response to the introduction of SDG11.

One of the most noticeable aspects of WUF9 was the low representation of young people. This is worrying, as the topics addressed regarding the future of our cities were not discussed with the people most likely to experience and contribute to them. In many of the sessions I attended, the responsibility of young people to help confront issues within our cities was not considered until I questioned the matter during the closing Q&A. I would argue that whilst many young people want to get involved, there is a lack of available platforms for them to enter the debate, and hence their opinions are not being heard.

In this respect, it is refreshing to see #urbanismchogm2018 trying to address the issue by bringing the debate to an accessible platform. Reflecting on the knowledge I gained from WUF9, I believe there is a key step that young people can take to help deliver Goal 11. Whilst the few young people I met at WUF9 were full of passion and enthusiasm, there was a visible gap between the 'young' and the 'experts'. It is vital that efforts be made to bridge this gap. Enabling young people to work part time during their studies within organisations present at world events such as WUF9 would be a possible solution to this. To make this more realistic, businesses and organisations must be encouraged to develop closer links with universities and schools, to engage with and listen to young people's ideas.

I believe that if universities and other educational institutions throughout the commonwealth could provide opportunities such as the one I had, SDG 11 would become even more achievable. I have come away from WUF9 hugely motivated to work for an organisation that is actively trying to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. With 12 years to achieve this goal, we must generate and nurture passion within the emerging youth through collaboration with established and knowledgeable experts.

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Urbanism CHOGM 2018

How can young people within the Commonwealth help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?
> *- **as an organisation** - Provide us with insight about how young people are influencing urban thought; Collaborate with us to deliver our webinar and discuss the final outputs.*

Delivering Sustainable Cities & Communities through Youth Empowerment

Malaysia is one of the most urbanised countries in East Asia with more than three-quarters living in urban areas. It is also witnessing high population growth, with an expected 30% increase by 2040. These two factors combined are putting enormous strain on Malaysia's cities with high numbers of rural and small town residents migrating to the large cities in search of better jobs and economic prospects.

Much of the infrastructure in the large cities is stressed to breaking point. Economic development has taken the front seat, with social aspects such as heritage, arts and culture, the environment and sense of community have been neglected. The result is that Malaysian cities are losing their sense of identity; their 'soul'.   This development model is not sustainable, and if these issues are not addressed our cities will become increasingly homogenous and overbearing, lacking human scale buildings and community ownership and result in poor social inclusion.

Think City aims to tackle these issue at the root. For cities to thrive, they have to have the right kind of talent, and by building a 'talent pipeline' the aim is to ensure that highly motivated, insightful and resourceful individuals can become a part of the city making process.

The young are a great asset for a city – they will be the architects, planners and city leaders of tomorrow. In line with the philosophy of the 'Power of Small' (creating change within the city through the curation of many small projects), Think City believes each individual has a role to play in creating more sustainable and liveable cities, and this especially applies to the young. Think City created the *Think Squad Programme* as part of our youth engagement to encourage the next generation of leaders to not just voice out their great ideas but become actively involved in developing initiatives and driving community-based urban rejuvenation.

The Think Squad programme consists of university students and young professionals (below 35 years old) from a diverse range of academic disciplines and backgrounds who are given a chance to lead demonstrative projects and receive guidance from our technical experts and partners. The programme hopes to inspire Malaysian youth, spur deeper thinking on urban issues and change the way we look at cities, with love, passion and a new sense of ownership.

Think City have also created a customised programme for primary and secondary school students such as the *Fort Cornwallis Young Archaeologists' Programme* which introduced

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children and teenagers to hands-on archaeological activities at the national monument of Fort Cornwallis in Penang. The *MY Butterworth Mapping* project encourages students from primary schools to explore and learn about their neighbourhood through exploring cultural assets in the area and interacting with the local community. Think City believes youth engagement and capacity building cannot be a mere afterthought but must be integrated into our modus operandi to ensure inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

About Think City

Think City is a community-focused urban regeneration organisation that aims to create more liveable, resilient and people-centric cities. Think City is a wholly-owned subsidary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad and funded by Yayasan Hasanah. Established in 2009, its first task was to rejuvenate the historic city of George Town, Penang. The success of this led to the expansion into 3 other cities, Butterworth, Kuala Lumpur, and Johor Bahru. Think City helps to bridge the gap between local government and the community through a number of initiatives including a public grants programme, placemaking and capacity building to enhance the role of communities in shaping public realm projects and the liveability of the city.

Our work is closely aligned with the New Urban Agenda, giving a voice to marginalised and disadvantaged groups, as well as building vibrant and inclusive communities through the leveraging of cultural heritage. The organisation works with local governments, community groups, NGOs, international organisations and civil society to deliver the transformation needed in heritage cities and the post-industrial urban setting.
https://thinkcity.com.my/

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Young Planners and Architects of CAP, RTPI, CAA and RIBA
Commonwealth Association of Planners
Commonwealth Association of Architects
Via email: urbanismchogm2018@gmail.com

1 March 2018

To the Young Planners and Planners and Architects of CAP, RTPI, CAA and RIBA,

RE: How can young people within the Commonwealth help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?

It is with great pleasure that we, the National Young Planners Network of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), submit our contribution to your discussion on Sustainable Development Goal 11.
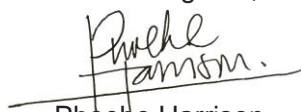
The Young Planners Network is a fierce advocate for the role of young people in the built environment. We believe positive disruption, innovation and change, can be brought about by creating supportive spaces that legitimise many voices, and enable young people's voices to hold equal weight. In the context of great uncertainty, we must give young people a chance to take ownership over their futures.

Our Network works tirelessly over the year across the six States and two Territories to deliver programs, professional development opportunities and events that will build the capacity of young professionals to become leaders in their profession. We contribute to policy reform, public commentary about the built environment profession, and create spaces for young people to contribute their ideas to this crucial discussion. In response to your call for submissions, the Young Planners Network, driven by the National Young Planners Convenors Committee, has prepared a statement for your consideration.

We look forward to tuning in to the international webinar in March, and will be sure to promote this to our broader networks. We look forward to any future opportunities to collaborate with CAP, and can't wait to bring the manifesto into the PIA Young Planners Network practice.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding the attached.

Kindest regards,

Phoebe Harrison
PIA National Young Planner Director,

On behalf of the Young Planners Network

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PIA Young Planners Network

Contribution to the Young Planners and Architects' Discussion on *Sustainable Development Goal 11*

Prepared for CHOGM London, March 2018

Key contributors, on behalf of the NYPN:

- Phoebe Harrison
  National Young Planner Director
- Hugh Utting
  State Convenor, Victorian Young Planners Committee
- James McLean
  Committee Member, Victorian Young Planners Committee

With input from the National Young Planner Convenors Committee.

Introduction

On behalf of the National Young Planners Network of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), we thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the manifesto at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London this year. We agree that young people have a crucial role to play in setting the agenda for urbanism and sustainable development in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11.

The National Young Planners Network supports the preparation of a manifesto that will clearly demonstrate the importance of young voices in planning and design. We support a document that will contribute to a progressive and active global new urban agenda, with clear and implementable goals that create a basis for immediate effect.

We firmly believe that young planners have a legitimate, indispensable role and a right to have their voices heard in the development of their cities and human settlements that are sustainable, resilient, safe and inclusive – in line with SDG11. Not only are they actors, but inheritors, of the places, spaces and experiences we create today.

Background

The opportunities and challenges facing cities and human settlements are infinitely complex. We plan today in a context of booming urbanisation, changing migration and increased displacement, climate change and a crisis of equal distribution. Among Commonwealth countries, as with the world, the gap between top earners and polluters, and those who face daily challenges to access basic goods and services, is growing. Meanwhile, despite an ever-sharpening understanding on the role of cities and how they shape communities and the environment, we struggle to affect meaningful change.

We believe that cities must embrace adaptive and innovative measures to address growing threats to environmental and social sustainability, whose effects will be most profound on the lives of urban inhabitants, and those living in places most likely to be affected by climate change impacts.

In Australia, an arid, highly urbanised country, water and food security, as well as impacts from sea level rise, are crucial considerations. We, like much of the world, face housing shortages and homelessness, along with relative vulnerability placed on people based on where they can afford to live. There is incredible disadvantage within our Aboriginal population, and at the same time more people than ever are choosing to move to Australia.

Young people can play a key role in facilitating knowledge transfer and opening public policy to create a foundation for positive urban futures on which emerge the types of cities and urban settlements Goal 11 envisages.

The PIA Young Planners Network has prepared its submission acknowledging many experiences will be Australia-centric, but that our submission may help contribute to the rich tapestry of information you receive, to be woven into the manifesto. Our submission will discuss:

- The voices of young people;
- The role of the city in the context of climate change;
- Social inequality in the city;
- The state of Australian cities; and
- Conclusion – to the manifesto!

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The voices of young people

Due to their strategic approach to problem solving, young planners and built environment professionals are incredibly well-placed to present hope, new insights, and illuminate ways forward. They are active, are engaged, and are up to the challenges before them in the current urban age.

The 2016 *Global Youth Development Index Report* showing that the world's youth population (15 to 29) is at an all-time high, of 1.8 billion people (more than 60% of the total population of the Commonwealth family of nations).[1] This alone is a statistic that supports their inclusion, if not significant contribution to leadership, in decision-making.

Despite the above, the report highlights that our potential to contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future could be obstructed by increasing joblessness, unequal access to health and education and lack of political influence. These issues are particularly prevalent throughout the Commonwealth.

Young planners are also young people. So, what role do we play in responding to SDG 11?

As young planners who live, work and play in towns, cities and regions, we see the problems and successes of the places in which we live first-hand; but we also engage with many populations whose triumphs and challenges are new to us. As young planners, we are both privileged with positions that are inquisitive and require deep analysis. This gives us the professional knowledge and power to shape cities and the places which we and others inhabit – and we must treat this power with caution and respect. We, through the very nature of our profession, can be among the 60% of youths who can actively engage in the work of creating a better urban world.

Given the above, we understand that key issues facing young people and urbanisation today are climate change and social inequality, compounded by the urban condition.

Young planners have never been more globally engaged, better educated and more connected. Our profession grows in prominence, and is considered a worthy and interesting career choice. Our profession is also a powerful one: we are responsible for immensely important decisions, made daily, from small local projects that create opportunities in the neighbourhood, to city-shaping infrastructure. **We must share our knowledge and experiences to build the capacity of our peers, and support a more equitable and sustainable world.**

Climate change and the city

Climate change has the potential to be the greatest disruptor to our way of life than we can imagine. Our profession is on the frontline to help cities adapt and mitigate to the consequences of increased extreme weather events and the effects of climate change. Around the world, many cities, regions and countries in the Commonwealth are already dealing with environmental consequences, such as rising sea levels, extreme heat, destruction of natural habitats, and extinction of species due to climate change and urban expansion. It is the countries and communities with the least resources are the ones that are most impacted.

Importantly, there is great opportunity to find wealth within the Commonwealth to address these risks.

Despite the above, too few nation states, actors in the corporate and non-government sectors, are taking reasonable steps to address climate change and its effects. Collective responsibility and appropriate governance models will be fundamental to addressing this wicked problem. The consequences of inaction will be felt across the Commonwealth. We call on the Commonwealth Secretariat to do more to seriously address climate change. A multifaceted approach forcing a

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[1] Commonwealth Secretariat, *Global Youth Development Index and Report*, London, UK: 2016.

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cross sector and industry approach must be undertaken. **The youth manifesto on SDG 11 must advocate for strengthened global agreements that will significantly reduce emission levels and change consumer, business and societal behaviour.**

What can young planners do?

Our profession has a unique role to play in combating climate and improving sustainability within urban environments. Urban Planners have a special role in shaping the form and function of how cities and their citizens interact within the urban morphology. Urban planners can foster sustainable building form and transport use. However, urban planners have also facilitated the formulation of low density, car-dependent cities, reliant on fossil fuels – Australian cities can attest. Cities, and their citizens, are among the biggest contributors to carbon emissions and more cities need to take responsibility in combating climate change.

Already, the C40 Cities climate change program shows that there is a commitment from some of the world's leading cities to combat climate change and enhance sustainability measures. While progress has been made, there is still a long way to go. **The following steps should be taken within our profession to act against climate change and its effects:**

- **Advocate for a 'one world' approach to planning decision- and policy-making that appreciates the precious and finite world;**
- **Create respectful spaces and meaningful ways for the community (and crucially, the youth population) to contribute to visioning our better futures;**
- **Review and assess urban planning and the built environment professions' role in the urban ecosystem[2];**
- **Review and assess urban policy orthodoxy to consider ways in which environmentally sustainable design techniques can be meaningfully and widely adopted;**
- **Adopt stronger regulations that lead the way for adaptive measures to mitigate growing threats to environmental and social sustainability;**
- **Make significant investment in public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure, acknowledging that driverless cars and new technology will not be the solution to emissions problems;**
- **Employ proven funding models such as value capture, infrastructure bonds and transport-integrated developments to deliver investments; and**
- **Demand higher return for public investment in private projects delivered through public-private-partnerships.**

Young planners and built environment professionals must be at the forefront of these conversations, and refuse to accept decisions that are 'less-than'.

Finally, young planners must do more to ensure areas and regions of high ecological value are protected and enhanced. Across the developed and developing world, open space and natural habitats are under both physical threat from urban and industrial expansion, as well as lifecycle threat due to human-induced climate change. We are living through one of the most rapid phases of extinction in human history, and must do more to protect the environment.

Social inequality and the city

Urban inequality is shaped by both spatial and social forces, and the two are closely intertwined. Sustainable and resilient urban places exhibit high levels of social-connectedness, mobility, relative wealth, access to health, and education. Design and delivery of the built environment

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[2] It should not be forgotten that in Western discourse, the contemporary urban planning movement arose from Sir Ebenezer Howard OBE, the founder of the *Garden City Movement*. Howard established the 'utopian' nature-based form of urbanism as a direct response to the ills of the industrial city. We believe that a similar, radical reinterpreting of the urban form is required.

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have significant roles to play in mitigating social inequalities, fostering inclusion and creating safe environments for everyone.

Recent research conducted in Australia found that, while cities provide many social and cultural opportunities and allow large numbers of people to stay connected, there is a negative relationship between the size of a city and income and wealth generation.[3] The agglomeration and spill-over effects of clustering related businesses, particularly finance and business service and "knowledge workers", is well recognised as contributing to the financial success of cities. However, these beneficial effects are highly concentrated and do not manifest as growth to the wealth of citizens spread equally across the population. **We must engage with ways to ensure that as cities get richer, citizens benefit equally from the growth.**

Today, high levels of debt, much higher housing and living costs and increasingly difficultly to access a very competitive jobs market have particularly impacted the ability of younger generations to take a greater economic, political and social role in civil society as they increasingly lack the time and resources to do so. Here, **there is a key role for young people in the built environment professions to engage with alternative housing models that provide flexibility and opportunity, rather than unmanageable debt and sprawling, dormitory suburbs.**

Younger generations are more adaptable and entrepreneurial, and open to change and new ideas. These characteristics provide us with the skills and motivation to bring about necessary change. They are incredibly able and capable of being able to work on reimagining the ways in which our cities are run, designed, and inhabited to overcome the abovementioned inequalities. **There is a need to reimagine the city as a space of social equality. Young planners must be open to new ideas, be inclusive, and advocate for policies that reduce the social and economic exclusion and segregation of the past and present. The manifesto must call for built environment professions to have such capabilities if SDG 11 is to be achieved.**

There are many ways to plan for a more socially inclusive city. We advocate for:

- **People-first decision-making;**
- **Universal design principles;**
- **Safe cities for all;**
- **Variety in housing typologies to ensure communities are not stratified;**
- **Flexibility in housing typologies so places can grow and change with their inhabitants;**
- **A focus on the 'local' and better connectivity between neighbourhoods, coupled with recast dormitory suburbs and a move away from costly urban sprawl; and**
- **Good access to transport, jobs and high quality, flexible open spaces and public places that encourage encounter and act as social 'bumping' points.**

Cities need to put people first, but people also need to put the city first. By putting people first, systems of governance and decision-making will deliver projects, both small and large, that serve the best interests of the city's inhabitants. If people can actively put their city first, from the neighbourhood, to suburb and metropolitan levels, decision-makers will have the tools and support necessary to deliver ongoing and positive urban change. Collective goal-setting and communicative planning can create a policy environment that will contribute to improved social cohesiveness and lead to a more resilient and inclusive social city.

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[3] Sarkar, S., Phibbs, P., Simpson, R., et al., 'The scaling of income distribution in Australia: Possible relationships between urban allometry, city size and economic inequality', in *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, Nov. 15, 2016 (Research Article).

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The state of Australian cities

Australia is fortunate to have some of the world's most liveable cities. Its cities prosper by having the 'great outdoors' on our doorstep, clean air, low population density and spaciousness, as well as a mixture of heritage precincts and modern conveniences.

This is a truly urban nation, with over 85% of the population living in major cities, most of which are concentrated along the east coast. According to the 2016 Census, the 'typical' Australian is likely to be married, have a mortgage in a suburban area and two children, than might be believed by classic narratives about rural lifestyles, rounding up cattle on an outback station or surfing along our stunning coastline.[4]

At present, Australia is moving away from a mining, towards an infrastructure, boom with new schools and hospitals being built. There is a strong focus on employment and the creation of social hubs beyond our city centres. New urban rail projects underway in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth are being undertaken to remedy the social and economic inequalities discussed above. Australian governments have continued to roll out a model of suburban sprawl model to deliver new housing, while ad hoc infill occurs in established areas. As a result, Melbourne and Sydney have some of the largest physical footprints in the world for populations of their size. Investment in public transport has not kept pace, and car dependence to access work in the inner-city continues despite many efforts to reverse the trend.

Australian cities are therefore at once successful, but at the same time are struggling to meet community and industry expectations for social, economic and environmental sustainability, and therefore urban equality too. **The key challenge for young planners therefore will be to find ways to facilitate affordable, sustainable and accessible housing for Australia's many urbanites. Part of this also will be advocating for integrated transport to keep people moving between work, home, family, friends and recreation.**

Conclusion

Australian cities have much to learn from other cities around the world, but also our cities can offer insights in return. As such, we look forward to reading the young planners' and architects' manifesto to address SDG 11 in March. The PIA National Young Planners Network puts forward the following key priorities for your discussion.

Young people will contribute to achievement of SDG 11 and must be given the space to contribute and power to:

- **Share knowledge and experience from around the Commonwealth**
- **Build one another's capacity to address economic, social and environmental challenges that limit resilience in cities and human settlements;**
- **Capitalise on the diversity of the Commonwealth nations to ensure diversity delivers better futures**
- **Advocate for 'one-world' planning and policy-making that rejects the status quo;**
- **Identify a nexus between economically prosperous cities and the distribution of value uplift among a city's residents;**
- **Support one another to become strong, fearless and flexible leaders that facilitate good governance and commit to constructive goals; and**
- **Share knowledge among the Commonwealth and close the spatial divide to the benefit of all nations.**

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[4] Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Who was the typical Australian in 2016?*, Accessed online 28 February 2018, From URL: http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/2016+Census+National.

AUSTRALIA

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF URBANISM IN THE COMMONWEALTH HELD AT THE FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA, NIGERIA.

THEME: HOW CAN YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH HELP TO DELIVER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11, TO MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE?

MANIFESTO

In response to the call by the Young Planners and Architects of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP, RTPI) and Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA, RIBA) towards the impending Commonwealth Summit taking place in the UK in April 2018; we the members of the Faculty of Environmental Design, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria in Nigeria have come together this day 26th February 2018 to share our vision as Young Architects, Planners, and Urbanists in the Commonwealth to help deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

We understand that the world is rapidly urbanizing where half of the world's 7 billion people live in cities today and is expected to reach 60 percent by 2030; where 95 percent of urban expansion will take place in developing regions especially sub-saharan Africa. Currently, Nigeria ranks as the country with the highest urban population in Africa and the 9th largest urban population globally. However, with more than half of its population living in slums, this poses a development challenge. Today, cities occupy only 3 percent of the earth's surface but account for 60-80 percent of energy consumption; 75 percent of carbon emissions, and 70 percent of global waste. Also, rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water and food supplies, the living environment, and public health and safety contributing to social, economic and environmental challenges that have become an existential threat for the future of people and planet. However, we also understand that sustainable urbanization is a tool for sustainable development, and as such, our greatest opportunity – where high density of cities can bring efficiency gains and technological innovation to boost economic growth, and also reduce resource and energy consumption.

In line with our obligation to ensure sustainability as future built environment professionals involved in the planning, development and management of cities and human settlements in Nigeria and the Commonwealth, we hereby share our vision on how young people can help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11 as follows:

I.   Encourage Youth participation in Urban Governance, policy formulation and implementation through employment in local, sub-national, national, and regional governments, ministries, and agencies responsible for housing and urban development.

II.   Deliver safe and affordable housing through fostering innovation in research, design and development of locally available materials that are sustainable and resilient.

III. Deliver affordable and sustainable systems through partnerships with government and private sector via subsidized transportation with universal access especially for vulnerable groups.

IV.   Deliver inclusive and sustainable urbanization by promoting participatory and integrated urban planning involving all key stakeholders in local communities, government, civil

societies, academia, professional practice and the private sector through advocacy, research and policy development.

V. Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage by promoting practices that integrate conservation and restoration in urban development for buildings of historical significance and natural habitats of ecological importance.

VI. Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters by promoting design solutions for resilient housing and infrastructure to protect people in vulnerable situations, and if possible, forestall future urban development in disaster prone areas through mapping of vulnerable locations, as well as provide alternative settlements for vulnerable groups.

VII. Minimize the environmental impact of cities through the promotion and implementation of clean and sustainable technologies in buildings, transportation, energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and waste management.

VIII. Implement youth-led community development initiatives that provide universal access to safe, inclusive and green public spaces within local communities.

In conclusion, we emphasize on the need to promote youth-led social entrepreneurship, public/private partnerships, as well as promote national, regional and international development and collaboration in order to successfully deliver the SDG 11 within the commonwealth. We bear a strong optimism and conviction that the journey towards a Common Future of Prosperity, Security, Fairness, and Sustainability can be achieved when we work together to create a better future for all, especially the 1 billion young people in the Commonwealth.

Signed:

Name	Department	Name	Department
Lot Kaduma	Architecture	Mohammed Abubakar Shittu	Urban Design
Ejeh E. David	Architecture	Yusuf Sulaiman Okubiyi	Urban & Regional Planning
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Baffa Asma'u J	Architecture	Muhammad Yunusa Umar	Architecture
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Ahmad Tajudeen	Architecture	Anzaki Faith	Architecture
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Emmanuel Samuel	Urban & Regional Planning	Donald Agah	Building
Nicholas Bawa	Urban & Regional Planning	Bukar Ahmed	Architecture

NIGERIA

Photos from the consultation on the Future of Urbanism in the Commonwealth, held on Monday 26th February 2018, at the Faculty of Environmental Design, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria.
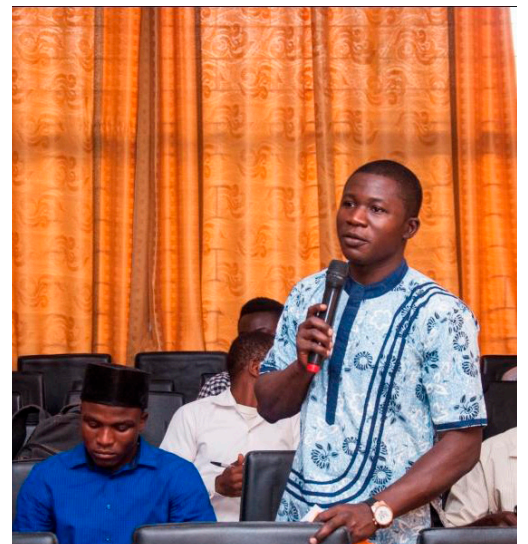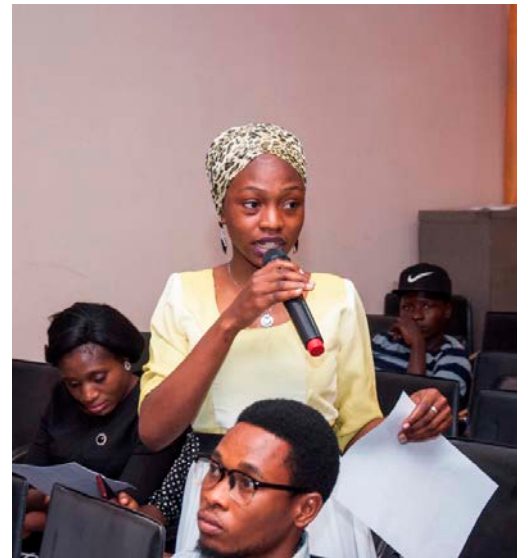
"A Caribbean Perspective:
Trading Ideas for a Vibrant Future"

A Response to Sustainable Development Goal 11 and How Young People Can Make Their Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable

Nassau

The Bahamas

Cuba

Turks and Caicos Islands

"One People"

Haiti

Puerto Rico

British Virgin Islands

Anguilla

Jamaica

Dominican Republic

US Virgin Islands

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Antigua and Barbuda

Montserrat

Guadeloupe

Dominica

Caribbean Sea

Martinique

Port of Spain

Saint Lucia

Barbados

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Grenada

2

Trinidad and Tobago

SOURCE: A photo of Caribbean children smiling. Taken from: Cornwall, S. (Feb. 2014). [Photograph]. Retrieved from Simeon Cornwall Tumblr database.

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Acknowledgements

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Content

Chapter

THE CARIBBEAN

Introduction

The goal and mission

1

8

From students to designers to the average striving member of society, a few of our Caribbean young people from the Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago shared episodes from their lives to justify a surmountable goal to help to advance our cities and human settlement.

The constant threats of a challenged city enduring criminality on one hand while also facing the ever increasing intensity of natural disasters of hurricanes and/or flooding on the other, were some of the concerns making Sustainable Development Goal 11 a timely and relevant agenda to our region now!

Being young designers trained to design for people, considering the concerns of our personal communities and cities of Nassau Bahamas, and Port-of- Spain Trinidad was a welcomed charge to advocate a greater and worthwhile design goal. It was another added assertion of the fact that design is universal and can very well impact and shape our communities.

We were tackled with the task of proposing ways our young people can deliver a city and human settlement that was inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Furthermore, we embraced our city's strengths which included our natural resources, tropical climate, and a vibrant people and culture. These coupled with a sensitivity to the visions and feedback from native young minds chartered our approach to produce design suggestions.

While some feedback was met with negativity and an unfortunate mindset dependency on government and policy makers to cause change, some more than most needed a little extra nudge in being made aware of the bigger picture - that as young people, much of the change we want to see for our cities has to first begin with us. Our voice and the little steps made now is important to reshaping our future to a form that we all can be proud of for generations to come.

We acknowledge that our cities are depreciating right before our eyes and we believe that by taking the initiative, we can save the Caribbean and by extension, the world's future – one person, one settlement, one city at a time.

We as young Caribbean architectural designers are proud to join the conversation…

THE CARIBBEAN

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In-clu-sive

To embrace
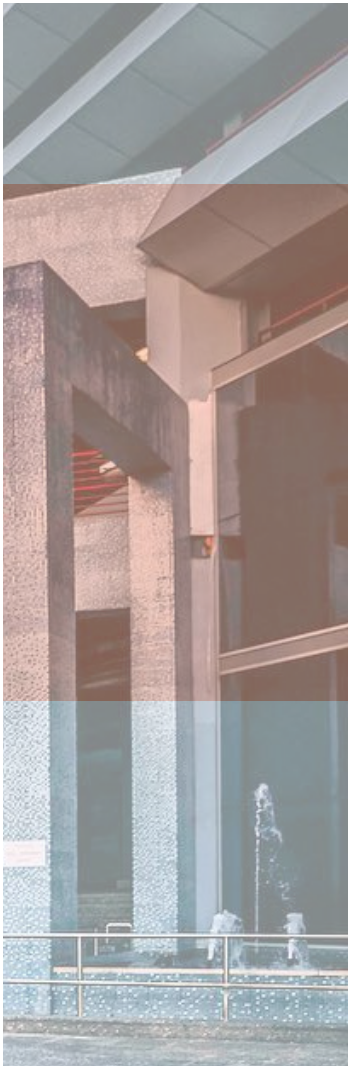
2

SOURCE: https://www.flickr.com/photos/robert25/5769855818

11

Richmond Street, Port-Of-Spain Trinidad

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Given the ever increasing density of motor vehicles that congest our city streets; fostering a culture that was inclusive of those that walk, bike, or move via wheelchairs became the proposal.

To do this, the sidewalk was suggested to be incorporated throughout the city whose advantages included accommodating the physically impaired, and linking human settlements to various districts whether commercial, recreational or otherwise. Where applicable, local trees and shrubs can be planted along the sidewalk while benches can be placed at strategic nodes to act as rest stops.
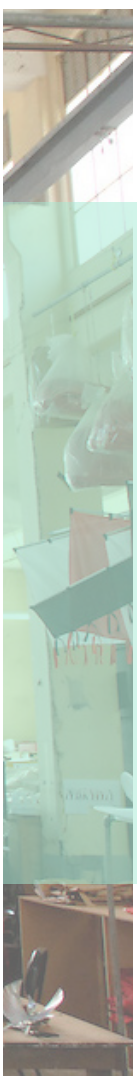
13

Safe

A way to eliminate the elements of criminality

3

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It is suggested that much of the criminality that exist in our cities stem from inner pockets of human settlements / communities. For the city of Nassau, Bahamas, the predominant crime pockets were said to be Bain and Grants Town, while in Port-of-Spain Trinidad, they were the communities of Nelson Street and Laventille.

One response to championing a safe city would be for our young people to embark on the implementation of a Cultural Center where the community can participate in the production of carnival costumes in Trinidad or junkanoo costumes in the Bahamas. Such costumes can be offered for sale, thus, generating income. Those community members are kept occupied by learning critical ingredients of their national culture.

Re-sil-ience

How best our cities can optimize natural resources to a sustain habitation?

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19
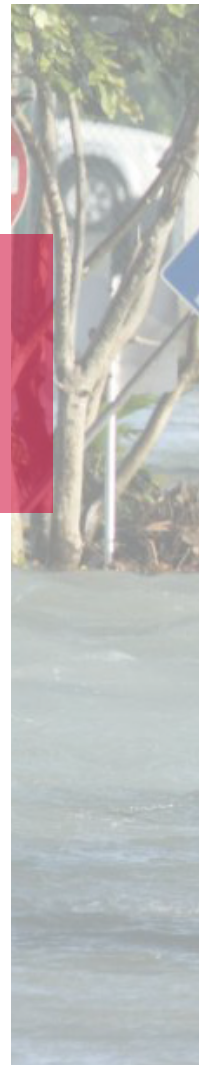
Using the natural resource of the conch shell as an example in Nassau Bahamas, it is proposed that young people can respond to the constant threat of flooding and sea-level rise by using those same conch shells to create a sea wall. Conch shells has properties that gives it strength that can withstand rising tides, on one hand, while to a lesser degree, the wall can become aesthetically appealing and symbolic, on the other.

Still, it is proposed that young people can harvest the rainwater produced via simple water catchment systems. Those systems should be able to be easily constructed and is anticipated to aid in the sustenance of people and crop during the dry or drought seasons.

Sus-tain-ability
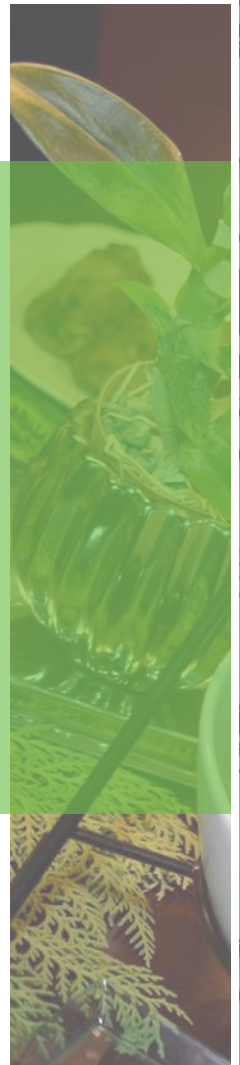
Maintaining and expanding the cultural
fabric of the city

5

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SOURCE: http://co-rd.com/project/beach-house-entertainment/

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Realizing and affirming from a few young people the lack of attractions that would help keep them positively engaged, raised the possibilities of coming together to create our own fun. This can be done by designing and building a temporary pavilion. Such pavilions can be the catalysts where young cultural talents are showcased. Furthermore, because the pavilions are temporary, they can roam various parts of the city and country as well as become tucked away when there is the threat of a natural disaster.

Temporary pavilions can also become venues to accommodate the roaming of Calypso, Food and Cuisine. These all become avenues to display culture, diversify tourism, and making Carnival and Junkanoo more sustainable by safeguarding the cultural heritage through youth engagement and new ideas.
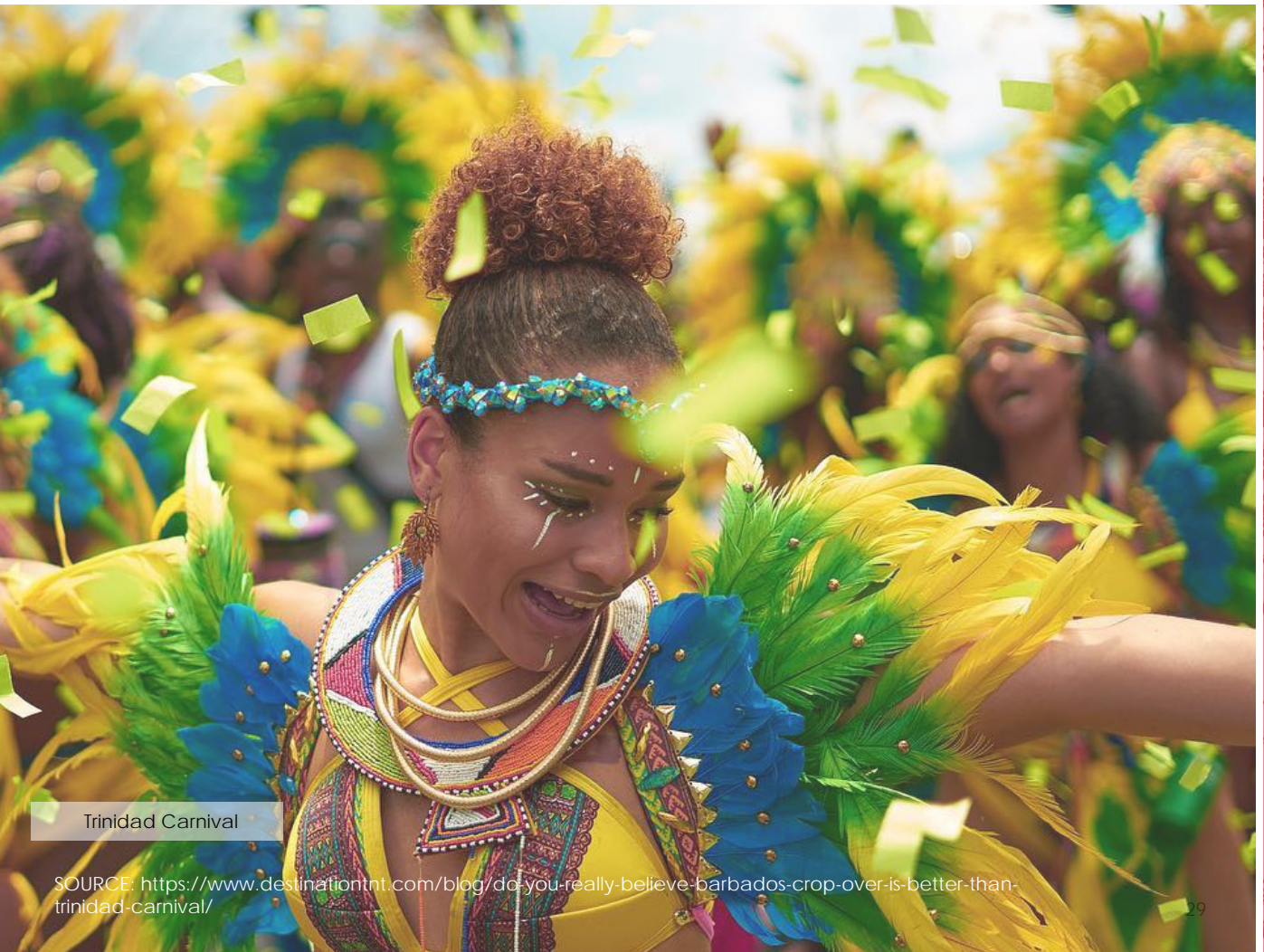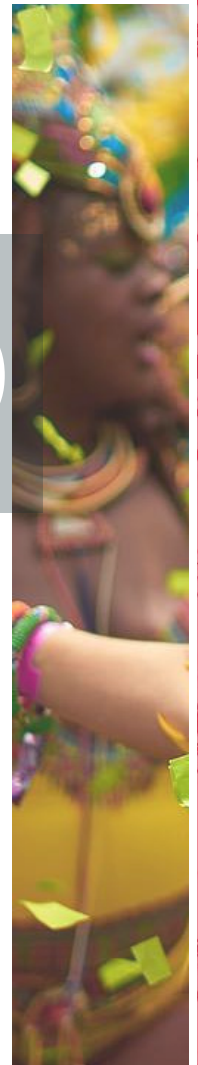
Bay Street in Nassau, Bahamas

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Conclusion

Inclusive, Safe, Resilience, Sustainable

6

Trinidad Carnival

SOURCE: https://www.destinationtnt.com/blog/do-you-really-believe-barbados-crop-over-is-better-than-trinidad-carnival/

Bahamas Junkanoo

SOURCE:https://www.europeanregionofgastronomy.org/creative-nassau-announces-official-launch-date/

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"Who are we?!" is a popular Bahamian chant shouted by excited Bahamians at the cultural junkanoo parades. The response to the exclaimed question is usually one of the names of the represented festive groups.

Still in Trinidad, as masqueraders serenade the streets of Port-of- Spain with bright lush feathers of Carnival, Trinidadians block the roads, dance, and commune to the sensations of live bands and music.

These can all be described as nothing short of national pride and culture personified. We as young architectural designers in the Caribbean envision our communities who in a same spirit of pride and national celebration, enjoy the harvest of seeds rooted to advance our city and settlement;

Seeds of inclusiveness and not bias where the impaired amongst us can reap the benefits as others;

Seeds of safety where our inner city areas can encourage a new lifestyle of commerce, trade and reflection through people-centered green spaces;

Seeds of resilience where local products and natural resources are used to preserve habitation from the risks of flooding, and;

Seeds of sustainability where our youths engage in fun initiatives to safe guard cultural heritage.

So who are we?!

We are young minds taking the initiative for a better people, city, Caribbean and world!

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References

Inclusive, Safe, Resilience, Sustainable

Tashon Lewis (centre) shares
SDG 11 with Bahamian students

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Nicholas Marshall (right) brain storm's SDG 11 with Interior Designer

What are some of the key challenges you see in achieving SDG 11 and why?

- *Achieving human health and wellbeing whilst concentrating people into urban areas* – Density strains infrastructure services and introduces risks that threaten health and wellbeing, especially when population growth is uncontrolled and undocumented. There will be a need to forecast trends that are likely to threaten health early (e.g. exposure to noise and pollution) and rapidly implement innovative approaches that curb issues before the problems become much harder to tackle and habits are instilled in the general public that will then be very difficult to change eg. car commuting, multiple car ownership, unregulated parking taking over otherwise smallerscale pedestrian spaces, growth of industry with unregulated air emissions etc.
- **Understanding the forces that underpin unplanned development and create multistakeholder incentives that encourage active engagement in planning ahead** – lots of urbanisation is unplanned and therefore we are constantly trying to improve something that's been done, rather than planning ahead. Is there a way to better plan ahead, or is it an unrealistic aim?
- **Community engagement** – people don't realise what can be done to change things and don't get involved in their own urban areas. There are opportunities for people to engage more in tackling problems close to them.
- **Environmental protection** – urban areas are concentrated, their impacts are not! Impacts go far wider, down supply chains, to waste management areas etc. Cities need to be responsible for their impacts, not just ignore them. The goal under the SDG on this is not enough, in our opinion. Boundaries of responsibilities for these issues need to be set to match extent of impacts and ways of measuring these extents need to be developed.
- **Understanding overlaps and interlinkages between SDG 11 and other SDGs to minimise duplication in monitoring efforts** - SDG 11 is about the more human aspects of resilience (whereas SDG 9 focuses on the more physical infrastructure aspects). SDG 11 covers a broad range of issues including housing, affordability, heritage, impact of disasters, equality, linkages between rural and urban ,local material. I think the challenge will be to understand overlaps between various SDGs and find effective ways of measuring progress that do not duplicate efforts.

What strengths and passions can young engineers use to drive change ?

- Young engineers bring **energy, enthusiasm and a reluctance to accept things the way they are!**
- Relentless w**illingness to learn and the curiosity** of passionate young experts is a great drive that could help untangle some of the more wicked and complex issues associated to interlinkages between SDGS and thematic issues.

- A **new fresh perspective** - there is a freedom of thought in not beeing overly accustomed to following specific approaches and ways of solving problems (which more seasoned practitioners may instead be constrained by).

- The young minds of today are the **leaders of tomorrow**, so getting them engaged and participating in tackling some of the challenges faced is also an investment in the future and a way of better **equipping them for the challenges ahead**.
- Young professionals are often at the **forefront experiencing many of the changes**, shocks and stresses that the SDGs and in particular SDG11 refer to, this gives them unique and valuable first hand experience of some of these challenges, which places them in an advantageous position for being innovators in these fields. Affordability of livelihoods in cities and the urban rural nexus are particular areas where younger professionals may be able to bring their own insight, as they are often experiencing the increasing un-affordability of large cities and often relocate to cities to study so may have roots in both the rural and the urban settings.
- **Networks** - like all age groups young professionals have networks of peers. Young professional networks are also strategically positioned to access both more senior professional networks whilst still retaining strong ties with their University and academic network, this is a broad reach that can be drawn on when trying to drive change at scale.

INDIA / UNITED KINGDOM

What areas may need to be further investigated to progress towards achieving SDG 11?

- More information / knowledge on urban planning mechanisms, how new cities are actually delivered and why things don't go the way they ideally would – to answer the right questions.. Is it money, capacity limits, land ownership structures, lack of appropriate government incentives or unhelpful incentives etc. etc.
- Linking the SDG goals to the wider visions set out in the New Urban Agenda and starting to investigate how the many City Resilience and other indexes and tools available can be used to help track progress across SDGs relating to resilience, effectively finding ways of unifying resilience practitioners, planners and architects, engineers, humanitarian and city government efforts.
- Defining and evaluating what resilience means at a small community scale and understanding what tools and approaches that are not excessively resource intensive and do not require substantive funding, can be used to measure it.
- How do the indicators overlap with other SDG indicators such as SDG 9, what linkages may need to be formalised.

How might young engineers help in this process of achieveing SDG 11 and SDGs in general?

- Specific commonwealth focus groups / blue sky thinking events around affordability of cities;
  - open discussions on re imagining the role heritage can play and how value of heritage can be represented and discussed;
  - implementation of the Sendai Framework at a local scale (in particular for engineers within disciplines linked to typical city risks such as earthquakes, flooding, droughts);
  - Innovative thinking around what initiatives and business could help achieve a happier balance and flow of people between urban and rural areas.
- **A platform which translates SDGs into measureable actions that the average citizen can undertake** and a competitive engagement process to encourage **SDG young champions** to showcase and celebrate small changes achieved within their realm of influence.
- **SDGs storytelling campaign,** getting young passionate engineers and professionals from all over the world to f**amiliarise themselves with the SDGs** and r**ecord short themed videos** explaining how they see a specific SGD affecting their day to day life, what small changes have chosen to implement to tackle it, and what they hope to achieve. The videos could be recorded with **non-technical audience in min**d, so that they capture the more human and compelling aspects of SGDs that are likely to inspire more compassion and engagement. They could be shared within your adults across the Commonwealth.
- **Local networking hubs** where **professionals from all sectors** who want to engage and help their cities or towns work towards achieving SDG goals can meet, discuss and prioritise small local activities to identify how they can help the organisations they are a part of drive small changes towards achieving sdgs.

Hope this is of use.

Kind Regards,

Anna Bruni MEng CEng MICE PRINCE2 Practitioner
Trustee
Engineering Communities

Sustainability Paper, extract from the Civil Society Organisations Submission to the Committe of the Whole

Commonwealth Committee of the Whole, Meeting with Accredited, Commonwealth Organisations, **Submission by Commonwealth Civil Society Organisations**, 20 March 2018. Marlborough House, London

Accredited Commonwealth Organisations contributors to the paper:

Commonwealth Pharmacists Association
Commonwealth Businesswomen
Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work
Commonwealth Association of Planners
Commonwealth Association of Architects
Rotary International
The Royal Commonwealth Society

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Clive Harrige, Secretary General, Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP);

Presented by:

Jyoti Soni Dhanak, Architect, Chair INTBAU India;
Simeon Shtebunaev, Student Representative on RIBA National Council and RTPI General Assembly.

Below is an image of the presenters at the event at Commonwealth House, London.

A More Sustainable Future

Recent extreme weather events in the Caribbean and elsewhere have provided a shocking reminder of the pressing need to work together to reduce vulnerability and achieve a more resilient and sustainable Commonwealth, protecting the planet, ending poverty and ensuring prosperity for all.

The challenges facing the people of the Commonwealth are varied and broad ranging and include climate change, civil conflict, youth unemployment, gender issues, poverty and population growth. Working in the spirit of the values and principles enshrined in its Charter, and underpinned by a shared commitment, the Commonwealth provides a unique forum for advancing sustainable development.

When Commonwealth Heads last met in Malta in 2015 they welcomed the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and committed to working together to support capacity building to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). In 2015, the Commonwealth Peoples Forum published its 'Malta Declaration on Governance for Resilience', which made a number of specific recommendations in support of the SDG's, and in 2017 the Commonwealth Secretary General presented proposals to the United Nations for the creation of a 'Blue Charter' of principles for sustainable ocean development. Much has already been done but more needs to be achieved.

Many parts of the Commonwealth, especially small island developing states, are particularly vulnerable to a range of risks which threaten their ability to achieve a sustainable future unless proactively addressed. Whether it is our coastal and marine environments, our rapidly expanding cities or our food producing capacity there is a pressing need for greater collaboration between the nations of the Commonwealth together with a need for new and innovative approaches to help ensure a more resilient future.

Recommendations for Commonwealth Governments

a) **Reduce emissions, develop resilience strategies and commit to building back better:** Many parts of the Commonwealth particularly small island states are facing increasing dangers such as adverse weather events linked to climate change and other natural hazards, which are having significant social, economic and environmental impact. Commonwealth countries must accelerate efforts to reduce their emissions, particularly those associated with energy, transport and buildings, while simultaneously reducing waste and promoting the development and application of sustainable technologies.

To mitigate risks such as the effects of climate change, resilience strategies need to be developed at national, regional and local level together with adaptation strategies which will enable communities to prepare for, cope with and recover more quickly from crises. There is also a pressing need to safeguard food systems to achieve food

security for the whole of the Commonwealth's growing population. In the event of a crisis, greater effort must be made to 'build back better' to reduce the impact of subsequent events thereby minimising recurring losses.

b) **Endorse the Blue Charter initiative:** Oceans together with coastal and marine resources support the blue economy and play an essential role in community well-being and social cohesion, economic and cultural development. Effective management of the marine environment is critical for the many millions of Commonwealth citizens who live in coastal locations or in small island states which are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and rely heavily on the blue economy for their livelihoods and food security.

c) **Focus on urbanisation:** Much remains to be done if the opportunities for capturing the social, economic and environmental benefits from the growth of cities are to be realised and risks avoided. UN Habitat estimates that cities today occupy only 2% of the total land area yet are responsible for 70% of global GDP, 60% of global energy consumption, 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and 70% of global waste. Many Commonwealth cities are now growing at an unprecedented rate and have become magnets for large scale rural to urban migration. Working within the Action Framework of the New Urban Agenda, Commonwealth countries should be encouraged to develop appropriate Urban Policies at national and local level supported by integrated development planning and sustainable urban design while striking a balance between policy led, market led, and community led development.

d) **Accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage:** In order to provide affordable healthcare for all, develop national strategies recognising the need for investment in the workforce delivering health and social services, noting the decisions of the Commonwealth Health Ministers in May 2017 and projections by WHO and the World Bank identifying the need for 18 million additional health workers. Focus on the mental health needs of young people and capitalise on existing initiatives such as the progress which has already been made in combatting diseases such as HIV, malaria, tuberculosis and the global eradication of polio ensuring that the significant contribution of polio-related assets, human resources and infrastructure is transitioned effectively for global health security and the strengthening of national immunization and health systems, which could help prevent or reduce the impact of other infectious diseases outbreaks.

e) **Improve information and data gathering to inform better evidence-based policy making:** Successful implementation of the SDGs across the Commonwealth requires a sound evidence base from which to develop appropriate policy and create effective implementation mechanisms. The Commonwealth Secretariat should encourage and help facilitate improved data gathering, data analysis and monitoring, and support should be given to help countries develop SDG National Action Plans.

f) **Encourage more effective Public/Private sector cooperation to create capacity and drive innovation:** Achieving a more sustainable future is a shared responsibility requiring more effective collaboration between the public and private sectors. By

developing appropriate fiscal measures, funding mechanisms and efficient procurement practices, the private sector can be incentivised to help deliver innovative responses to local needs supported by a well-trained workforce working in healthy environments with appropriate employment practices.

g) **Promote partnerships and knowledge sharing to accelerate learning:** Many groups of Commonwealth nations face similar challenges for example because of their geography, location, size or patterns of growth. The Commonwealth provides an opportunity for members to share their experience and expertise to accelerate towards a more sustainable future. Partnerships can be created at many different levels; eg national level partnerships such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and city level partnerships such as the Sustainable Cities Network established in 2015 by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. Research and knowledge sharing should be promoted more effectively within the Commonwealth, leveraging technology together with the unique nature of the Commonwealth so that knowledge is accessible by those who need it, when and where they need it most.

h) **Implement the Commonwealth Secretariat's Curriculum Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals,** developed in partnership with Commonwealth organisations across Commonwealth institutions and national education frameworks. This embodies principles of fairness in the competences required for implementation of the SDGs.

i) **Build capacity by promoting education, training and skills development:** Achieving a more sustainable Commonwealth requires effective education, training and skills development at all levels to meet the needs of the 'green' and 'blue' economies together with a just society. As the Commonwealth moves towards a low carbon future and as technology continues to evolve there is a need to develop new skills and a trained workforce adaptable to the changing working environment, ensuring 'Just Transition' so that no-one, particularly those currently in polluting industries, is left behind. Capacity issues and skills gaps in key sectors threaten sustainable development and need to be urgently addressed, particularly in local government, health and the built environment professions where shortages have already been identified.

j) **Strengthen leadership and governance to help create the future we need:** Sustainable development relies on governments at national, regional and local levels to provide effective leadership together with the necessary institutional, legal and policy frameworks. National governments must also empower and engage with local government, city leaders and communities, including youth leaders. Governance at all levels needs to be transparent and accountable to encourage public confidence, supporting inclusive approaches regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and wealth. Effective governance demonstrates respect for human rights and the rule of law, showing leadership in tackling corruption and managing vested interests.

CAA
Commonwealth Association of Architects

clgf

GAP
Commonwealth Association of Planners

2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
'Urbanisation': the need for a co-ordinated Commonwealth response

1. **Advocating 'Urbanisation' as a cross-cutting theme:** The purpose of this paper is to advocate for 'Urbanisation' to be incorporated as a critically important cross-cutting theme for inclusion on the agenda of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and related forum to be held in London in April 2018.

2. **Relevant to and aligning with the overarching theme of the meeting:** 'Urbanisation' is directly relevant to the Summit's overarching theme of 'Towards a Common future' together with its objectives of creating: a more sustainable future, a fairer future, a more secure future and a more prosperous future.

3. **A recurring and critically important subject:** While 'Urbanisation' has featured prominently in previous CHOGM agendas[1],[2] it is clear that much remains to be done if the opportunities for capturing the social, economic and environmental benefits from the growth of cities are to be realised and risks avoided.

   UN Habitat estimates that Cities today occupy only 2% of the total land area yet are responsible for 70% of global GDP, 60% of global energy consumption, 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and 70% of global waste[3].

4. **The unique character of the Commonwealth:** While urbanisation is a global phenomenon the diversity of the Commonwealth creates a unique set of challenges and opportunities, eg:

   - **The vulnerability of small island developing states (SIDS):** Many countries in the Commonwealth particularly in Pacific and Caribbean regions are small island developing states which are particularly vulnerable to climate change and other impacts due to their small size, fragile economies, lack of resilience in the face of hazards including sea level rise, cyclones, earthquakes and extreme weather events as evidenced most recently by hurricanes Irma and Maria.

   - **The unprecedented scale of the challenge[4] in the Commonwealth:** The UN's Department for Economic and Social Affairs predicts that the world's urban population will increase by 2.5 billion by 2050 with nearly 90% of that increase concentrated in Asia and Africa, and with much of that growth happening in Commonwealth Countries. India alone is predicted to add 404 million dwellers and Nigeria 212 million over this period, ie 18 million new urban dwellers per annum or 1.5 million per month in these two countries alone.

   - **High rates of urbanisation are anticipated in some of the Commonwealth's most fragile states (ie vulnerability to conflict or collapse):** 16 Commonwealth countries are urbanising at rates of more than 3% per annum[5], eg: Malawi (5.2%), Uganda (4.4%), Tanzania (4.2%), Rwanda (4.2%), Mozambique (4.1%), Solomon Islands (4.1%), Vanuatu (4.1%), Kenya (4%), Nigeria (3.8%), Bangladesh, (3.5%), Cameroon (3.5%), Ghana (3.5%), Lesotho (3.5%), Belize (3.1%), Malaysia (3%) and Pakistan (3%). For comparison purposes, the UK is urbanising at a rate of 0.5% per annum.

   Eight Commonwealth countries have a Fragility Index[6] between 90 and 100 (ie between 'warning' and 'alert'), ie: Nigeria (103.5), Pakistan (101.7), Kenya (98.3), Cameroon (97.8), Uganda (97.7), Rwanda (91.3), Sierra Leone (91) and Bangladesh (90.7). Seven of these countries are rapidly urbanising.

5. **CHOGM 2018 provides an opportunity to address these challenges:**

   - **An opportunity to use urbanisation to promote prosperity in some of the Commonwealth's poorest countries:** 13 of the 16 Commonwealth countries which are urbanising most rapidly are classified as either 'Low' or 'Low-middle' income countries by the World Bank[7]. Several of the countries with the highest rates of urbanisation are home to Commonwealth cities which score poorly on the UN's City Prosperity Index(CPI)[8],

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[1] http://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/commonwealth-peoples-forum-2013-outcome-document
[2] http://cpf.commonwealthfoundation.com/sessions/planning-for-resilient-urbanisation/
[3] http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/
[4] https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2014-Report.pdf
[5] https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2212.html
[6] https://germanwatch.org/en/download/16411.pdf
[7] http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.PP.CD?year_high_desc=true
[8] http://cpi.unhabitat.org/

namely Accra (40/100), Cape Town (42/100), Johannesburg (42/100) Lagos (38/100), Lusaka (38/100), Nairobi (55/100) and Dhaka (0/100). For comparison purposes London scores 64/100.

- **A need to improve the business environment in country's experiencing rapid urbanisation:** 20 Commonwealth countries score below 50 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index[9], 13 score below 33 and 4 score 25, namely: Bangladesh, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Uganda. Three of these countries are rapidly urbanising.

- **An opportunity to use urbanisation to improve the quality of life for some of the poorest people in the Commonwealth:** The five Commonwealth countries with the lowest Human Development Index (HDI)[10] are Sierra Leone (0.413), Mozambique (0.416), Malawi (0.445), Uganda (0.483) and Rwanda (0.483), all of which are in Africa. Rwanda and Mozambique are also rapidly urbanising and are classified as Low or Low-middle income.

- **An opportunity to engage young people in the creation of their future cities:** The Commonwealth's 52-member countries have a combined population of more than 2 billion, of which more than 60% are under 30 years of age most of whom live in cities. The Commonwealth sees young people aged 15-29 as assets to a country's development who should be empowered to realise their potential. Young people have a proven capability to lead change, and are a vital and valuable investment for the future.

- **A need to strengthen the resilience of cities, especially in those parts of the Commonwealth which are most vulnerable to climate change impacts:** High rates of urbanisation are anticipated in parts of the Commonwealth which are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. The five Commonwealth countries with the most vulnerable Climate Risk Indexes (CRI)[11] are: Bangladesh (25), Pakistan (30.5), India (37.5), Grenada (40.33) and Dominica (42). The five Commonwealth countries with the biggest financial losses attributable to Climate Risk are: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Australia and the United Kingdom. Two of these countries are rapidly urbanising.

6. **Working together towards a common future:**

Only by working collaboratively and in partnership will we be able to manage the challenges and opportunities created by the growth of cities. CHOGM 2018 provides an exceptionally powerful and timely opportunity to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders from government and civil society to focus on the process of urbanisation and the role of cities to help create a more sustainable future, a fairer future, a more secure future and a more prosperous future.

The Commonwealth Association of Architects and the Commonwealth Association of Planners are keen to work with other Commonwealth Organisations to convene around the topic of 'Urbanisation' and to engage with the Peoples Forum, the Business Forum, the Women's Forum and the Youth Forum. We would seek to use the forums to build coalitions around a range of topics including: Rapid Urbanisation, Resilience and Climate Change, Governance and Inclusion (especially in terms of gender and youth), and Local Economic Development helping to ensure our collective ability to deliver the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)[12].

We are also keen to ensure that the importance of 'Urbanisation' is included in the final communiqué and for Heads of Government to recognise the need for appropriate Urban Policy at national and local levels, focused (but not exclusively) on cities and skills/capacity development consistent with our commitments to the SDG's and working within the framework of the New Urban Agenda[13].

Tomorrow's cities are being planned today and only by addressing these issues now will we be able to realise the potential of urbanisation to create prosperity, stability and a truly sustainable future.

Submitted jointly by the Commonwealth Association of Architects, the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum
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[9] https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016#table
[10] http://hdr.undp.org/en/data
[11] https://germanwatch.org/en/download/16411.pdf
[12] http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/
[13] http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/

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