



Side Event: UN Statistical Commission 2022
Progress on Implementation of the Global Urban and Rural Definitions

15-Feb-2022, Tuesday at 9:00 AM (New York Time)

Introduction

Since 2015 the global community welcomed two global agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in 2016. Within the SDGs, the international community recognized urbanization and city growth as a transformative force for development by endorsing a goal on cities (Goal 11)—make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This goal was further reinforced by the adoption of the 2016 New Urban Agenda in Quito—which is an urbanization action blueprint for member states, UN agencies, civil society, communities, the private sector, professionals, the scientific and academic community, among others.

In addition to placing urbanization at the centre of the sustainable development agenda, the SDGs also introduced a new reporting level—the city, with more than half of the agenda’s targets having an urban component. This not only placed cities and urban areas at the core of the SDGs framework, but was also a call for collection of data at the urban level and/or disaggregation of reporting between urban and rural levels. Generation of data that is comparable at the urban level, however, requires clear definitions on what constitutes a city, as well as globally applicable metrics/ thresholds that can be applied across countries.

During the Habitat III conference held in Quito (which resulted in the adoption of the NUA), a global voluntary commitment was established by the European Union, the OECD, World Bank, FAO and UN-Habitat to support efforts towards attainment of a globally applicable and people-based definition of cities, that would support harmonized monitoring for the SDGs and NUA. Through this commitment, a series of global consultations were held between 2018 and 2019, during which the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) was introduced to 250 participants from 85 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Arab States and Asia and the Pacific regions, and its applicability for supporting the monitoring and reporting against the SDGs and NUA targets at the local level assessed. Following these consultations, DEGURBA was endorsed by UN member states during the 51st session of the Statistical Commission (held in March 2020) as a sound method of classifying cities, urban areas and rural areas for statistical comparison purposes. With the endorsement of DEGURBA, the Commission asked the promoters of DEGURBA to pilot it in countries and report back progress over the next years.

The main objective of this side event is to present progress on the implementation of the degree of urbanisation harmonized global urban and rural areas definition, based on both ongoing global engagements and country level activities and experiences.

At the end of the side event, partners attending the session will learn more about the process towards endorsement of DEGURBA as the globally harmonized approach to defining urban and rural areas for statistical comparisons for the global agendas monitoring, how the approach works, ongoing and future planned activities related to the implementation of the approach at the global level, and also get a chance to seek clarifications where applicable.

Methodology: The side event will be virtual and will take 1.5 hours on 15th February, 2022 starting at 9.00am New York time. The session programme is as follows;

Tuesday, 15 February 2022 - 09:00 – 10:30 (New York time)

- **09.00-09.05: Welcome and Introduction Remarks**

MC: Robert Ndugwa, Chief, Data and Analytics Unit, UN-Habitat (5 min)

- **09.05 – 09.10: The need for a harmonized global urban and rural definitions for the SDGs and NUA processes:** *Lewis Dijkstra, Head of the Economic Analysis Sector, European Commission DG for Regional and Urban Policy*

This presentation will focus on the “why” a harmonized urban and rural areas definition is critical for the SDGs and NUA monitoring processes and what the lack of such definitions mean for the 2030 agenda.

- **09.10– 09.20: Overview of the Degree of Urbanization:** *Teodora Brandmüller, Eurostat*

This presentation will introduce the DEGURBA concept, its levels of implementation, input data and implementation workflows. It will also showcase some results from application of DEGURBA at the global level.

- **09.20 – 9.35: Experiences from applying DEGURBA in France:** *David Levy, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, France*

This country level presentation will share the experiences and lessons from the implementation of DEGURBA in France, and highlight some key messages for other countries aiming to implement the approach.

9.35 – 9.50: Experiences from applying DEGURBA in Lebanon: Ziad Abdallah, *Central Administration of Statistics, Lebanon*

This presentation will share the experiences from Lebanon’s recent implementation of DEGURBA at different levels using high resolution data from the National Statistical Office, and highlight some key messages for other countries aiming to implement the approach

- **9.50 – 9.55: Tools and resources for implementation of DEGURBA at the local level:** Thomas Kemper, *Project Leader, European Commission Joint Research Center*

This intervention will highlight some useful tools and resources (including data) that can be applied to produce urban boundaries based on DEGURBA at the local and global levels.

- **9.55 – 10.25: Q/A - Open session from participants**

Moderated by Robert Ndugwa

- **10.25 – 10.30: Closing Remarks and way forward**

Robert Ndugwa, Chief, Data and Analytics Unit, UN-Habitat (5mins)

Registration

Please use this link to register for the Side event “UN Statistical commission 2022- **Progress on Implementation of the Global Urban and Rural Definitions | 15 – February - 2022**”

https://teams.microsoft.com/registration/2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccA,1NnARkZNcU2-Y5vOsA7gdg,jmuMeOQgU2vRd99pCAowA,C3gF5Wqy50CFs-CwbaXVBg,rbjrrzn-zECvVnvA5qJzaQ,jNxCACqGGUW_ypk7znr2wQ?mode=read&tenantId=0f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70&skipauthstrap=1

Meeting connection details.

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For further information:

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