To direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to develop a strategy to foster sustainable urban development in developing countries that updates the Making Cities Work Urban Strategy.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to develop a strategy to foster sustainable urban development in developing countries that updates the Making Cities Work Urban Strategy.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sustainable Urban De-
5 velopment Act of 2010”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress makes the following findings:
(1) Approximately 51 percent of the world’s population lives in cities of various sizes and produce the majority of the world’s economic output.

(2) It is estimated that by 2030—

(A) almost 4,000,000,000 people will live in cities in the developing world;

(B) urban populations in Africa and Asia will double; and

(C) the number of people living in slums will double.

(3) Of the approximately 1,000,000,000 people worldwide who live in slums, more than 50 percent are younger than 25 years of age.

(4) In most countries, the largest urban areas account for significant shares of gross domestic product and, due to the economic advantages of large integrated markets for skills, inputs and outputs, are often drivers of national economic growth.

(5) More than 1,100,000,000 people lack adequate access to safe water and nearly 2,500,000,000 lack access to sanitation services. These problems may become more severe with rapid urbanization.

(6) The costs of diseases and productivity losses linked to water and sanitation amount to—
(A) 2 percent of gross domestic product in less developed countries; and

(B) up to 5 percent of gross domestic product in sub-Saharan Africa.

(7) Insecure lease and real property ownership tenure often subject slum dwellers to arbitrary, often supra-market rents, forced evictions, threats, and harassment, particularly affecting women who are often heads of households.

(8) Insecurity of tenure—

(A) severely inhibits economic development by undermining investment incentives and constraining the growth of credit markets;

(B) imperils the ability of families to achieve sustainable livelihoods and assured access to shelter; and

(C) often contributes to conflict over property rights.

(9) Although women constitute 66 percent of the world’s work force, they own less than 15 percent of the world’s private property. This disparity is particularly damaging in cities and towns in which women are disproportionately affected by forced evictions and insecure tenure as a result of discrimination, gender-biased laws, and customs that—
(A) define women as legal minors or otherwise prevent women from acquiring and securing property, housing leases, or ownership rights; and

(B) increase the vulnerability of women to poverty, violence, and sexual abuse.

(10) Cities can play an important role in economic growth only if—

(A) there is appropriate infrastructure, institutions, and policies;

(B) basic services are extended to everyone.

(11) Connective infrastructure, such as roads and telecommunications—

(A) plays a critical role linking cities and their markets to rural production, to hinterlands, and to the global economy;

(B) reduces economic distances; and

(C) strengthens the ability of cities to take advantage of the resulting market opportunities and ensures that urban and rural development policies are integrated into a holistic approach that promotes economic growth throughout the country.
(12) The 2006 National Security Strategy states, “America’s national interests and moral values drive us in the same direction: to assist the world’s poor citizens and least developed nations and help integrate them into the global economy.”.

(13) In his October 2009 remarks for World Habitat Day, President Obama stated, “My administration is committed to . . . bolstering our metropolitan areas, the cities, suburban and rural areas that are the engines of our economic growth. We are investing in a clean energy sector that will generate new green jobs, building affordable, energy efficient homes and promoting more sustainable development so that we can meet the needs of the present, for securing the future for our children and grandchildren . . . That is why we are committed to working with the United Nations and our partners around the world to help more families find a safe and secure place to live.”.

(14) Target 11 of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals states, “By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers.”.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—
(1) to recognize urban development, as an objective of United States foreign policy, and overseas development assistance, particularly programs that—

(A) foster improved urban governance, management, and planning;

(B) increase land and real property tenure;

(C) promote the formal provision of, and access to, essential urban services and infrastructure;

(D) expand access to basic shelter, affordable urban housing;

(E) economically empower women and youth;

(F) promote civic participation and social cohesion;

(G) respond to, and proactively prepare for, environmental and climatic challenges;

(H) promote economic growth and alleviate poverty; and

(I) expand the availability of financing for urban housing and infrastructure;

(2) to prevent waste and duplication in the use of United States overseas development assistance
with respect to the programs described in paragraph (1); 

(3) to foster cooperative relations with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, private businesses, and nonprofit and community-based organizations that support or implement programs similar to those described in paragraph (1); 

(4) to support innovative international mechanisms designed to increase coordination and mutual complementarity in the planning, financing, and implementation of sustainable urban development policies and programs implemented by the United States and other donors described in this section; 

(5) to ensure access to— 

(A) basic shelter and affordable housing, particularly by residents of slums and informal settlements and similar densely populated, impoverished urban areas; and 

(B) safe water and sanitation; 

(6) to promote— 

(A) the security of land and other real property use, lease, and ownership rights; 

(B) the legal recognition and protections of such rights by all income groups;
(C) equitable and sustainable national land policies; and

(D) enhanced land administration services, including services for groups that—

(i) are socioeconomically vulnerable or institutionally marginalized; or

(ii) are subject to discrimination, including women, children, the poor, and people living in urban slums and informal settlements; and

(7) to support efforts to enhance the technical and financial capacity of developing country governments, including regional and municipal governments, to plan and manage urban growth in transparent, participatory, and accountable manner.

SEC. 4. SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as the “USAID”) shall develop a strategy to foster sustainable urban development in developing countries that updates the Making Cities Work Urban Strategy.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a)—

1 (C) equitable and sustainable national land policies; and

2 (D) enhanced land administration services,

3 including services for groups that—

4 (i) are socioeconomically vulnerable or institutionally marginalized; or

5 (ii) are subject to discrimination, including women, children, the poor, and people living in urban slums and informal settlements; and

6 (7) to support efforts to enhance the technical and financial capacity of developing country governments, including regional and municipal governments, to plan and manage urban growth in transparent, participatory, and accountable manner.

SEC. 4. SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as the “USAID”) shall develop a strategy to foster sustainable urban development in developing countries that updates the Making Cities Work Urban Strategy.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a)—
(1) shall be developed in consultation with other United States Government agencies with relevant technical expertise or policy mandates pertaining to urban development in foreign countries; and

(2) shall draw upon best practices and successful models of urban development undertaken or developed by international intergovernmental organizations, international finance institutions, recipient countries, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, private sector actors, and other appropriate entities.

(c) CONTENT.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) review and assess existing or past United States programs and foreign assistance strategies for developing countries designed to improve urban development, including—

(A) increasing access to basic shelter, affordable housing, and shared communal infrastructure;

(B) enhancing land tenure security;

(C) promoting environmentally sound urban infrastructure and services;

(D) building capacity for municipal planning, management, and governance;
(E) leveraging innovative financing for urban investments;

(F) promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment; and

(G) promoting active participation of urban dwellers in the planning and execution of urban governance and social services programs;

(2) define short- and long-term objectives and performance measures by which progress in urban development in foreign countries should be measured;

(3) integrate United States programs and foreign assistance strategies that address urban development and slums in developing countries;

(4) integrate into the broader strategic foreign assistance plans of the Department of State and the programs and objectives of the United Stated Agency for International Development related to urban development and slums;

(5) assess the feasibility of establishing, in the USAID, a senior advisor for urban sustainable development, who would—

(A) provide—

(i) leadership for coordinated programming;
(ii) technical support for urban development; and

(iii) dissemination of best practices with policy and technical staff with experience and expertise in urban planning and development;

(B) guide urban programming;

(C) help build the capacity of government officials in developing countries to more effectively manage urbanization; and

(D) encourage the organization and involvement of local civil society, including collective and municipal associations;

(6) evaluate options to leverage private sector partnerships on issues related to housing, slum improvement, and finance though—

(A) the Global Development Alliance of USAID and the Global Partnerships Initiative of the Department of State;

(B) the Overseas Private Investment Corporation;

(C) the Development Credit Authority;

(D) the Millennium Challenge Corporation; and

(E) other relevant initiatives;
(7) support a policy of United States Government collaboration and coordination with other donors towards urban development issues, including—

(A) working to achieve Target 4 of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals;

(B) supporting local development plans and strategies;

(C) reviewing technical assistance and financial resource needs for urban development programming;

(D) fostering greater program coordination among donors; and

(E) disseminating best practices in urban planning and development;

(8) assess the feasibility of establishing a pilot urban strategies initiative that would—

(A) support, through technical and financial assistance, a select number of cities in developing countries by identifying, developing, and implementing long-term sustainable urban development strategies to provide a framework for future growth and development in identified countries;

(B) provide support for such urban development strategies through a variety of ap-
proaches, including direct financial support, innovat

e financial mechanisms, and private sec-
tor investment;

(C) raise critical global awareness of urban
dev development issues, including the emergence of
mega-cities and the increasing burdens placed
on secondary cities in developing countries; and

(D) fully integrate the needs of women, who are often heads of households, yet do not have equitable access to land, resources, or services;

(9) analyze approaches to improve environ-
mental sustainability in urban areas, while recog-
nizing that developing cities are facing severe envi-
rornmental stress as a result of the difficulties of ex-
panding facilities fast enough to keep up with rap-
idly growing populations and industrial activity; and

(10) develop a plan for providing long-term
United States support for sustainable urban growth
and development initiatives in developing countries
that—

(A) includes regular coordination between
United States Government agencies that have relevant technical expertise or policy respon-
sibilities, as appropriate, including—
(i) the United States Agency for International Development;
(ii) the Department of State;
(iii) the Millennium Challenge Corporation;
(iv) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
(v) the Department of the Treasury; and
(vi) the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and
(B) draws upon the available expertise of United States-based city and regional elected officials and professionals in—
(i) community, real estate, and banking sectors;
(ii) major United States private foundations, nongovernmental organizations, and policy, education, and research organizations;
(iii) United Nations organizations; and
(iv) multilateral development banks.
(d) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
1 submit a report to Congress that includes the strategy required under this section.