

Date: October 29, 2012
To: The Cities Alliance Consultative Group
From: Arab Hoballah, Chief
Sustainable Consumption and Production, UNEP

Alioune Badiane, Director
Project Office, UN-HABITAT
Ellen Hamilton, Acting Sector Manager
Urbanization and Resilience Management, World Bank

Subject: Joint Work Program on Cities and Climate Change

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Cities Alliance for its support of the Joint Work Programme (JWP) on Cities and Climate Change.

Since its establishment in 2009, the JWP has catalyzed closer collaboration among UNEP, UN-HABITAT, and the World Bank, to contribute to a more coordinated and focused response to the challenges of climate change in cities. An independent review concluded that Phase 1 of the JWP, implemented during 2009-2012, has been "a success in form and substance".

The results achieved in Phase 1 include a standardized protocol for measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in cities, piloting the mainstreaming of climate change into City Development Strategies (CDS), creation of a knowledge center on cities and climate change (K4C), and development of a guide to adaptation in cities and the Urban Risk Assessment (URA) tool.

Building on the achievements of Phase 1, and learning from that experience, we have developed a work plan for Phase 2 of the JWP. The overall objective of Phase 2 is to implement and refine existing tools and methods, and develop new ones – for the application of climate sensitive development strategies in cities and towns. Activities under Phase 2 would focus on knowledge management, urban planning, applying selected tools, and research and new tool development.

Each JWP partner is committing resources – consisting of existing funding, and in-kind contributions such as staff time – for the implementation of Phase 2. The JWP partners are also actively seeking to raise further funding to ensure that the full work plan for Phase 2 can be implemented effectively with participating cities. We appreciate the continued support that the Cities Alliance is providing to the JWP, and look forward to the successful implementation of Phase 2.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the JWP partners, should you wish to discuss the JWP in further detail. We wish you a very successful Consultative Group meeting in Hanoi.