Successful, safe and sustainable cities: making cities fit for the future

13 July 2016, Marlborough House, London

Meeting report

Message from Mayor Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

'Hello and Welcome to London. I'm delighted you've chosen our great city to come together for this conference. I'm sorry that I can't be with you this year, but I'm pleased that my excellent Deputy Mayor Joanne McCartney will be joining you.

The Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network is a great initiative, cities across the Commonwealth are innovating and leading global action in many, many areas, and I look forward to sharing ideas and knowledge with you to deliver new and exciting solutions to the challenges that we share. From delivering a modern, accessible transport system to tackling air pollution, from fighting extremism to promoting greater social integration. We can and we should be working together to take on these big challenges as we strive to build more inclusive, sustainable and safer cities for the future. I look forward to working with you all in the coming weeks, months and years ahead. I hope you have a great, great conference. Thank you.'

Message from Rt. Hon. Helen Clark
UNDP Administrator and CLGF Patron

'As patron of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and Administrator of UNDP, I commend the creation of the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network. On current trends, up to 75 percent of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2050.

Most of the urban population growth will occur in developing countries in Africa and Asia. Cities of all sizes will need to gear up to be "fit for the future". The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development defines that future as one which should be free of poverty, hunger, disease, and want; free of fear and violence; a place where all people can thrive; and one where the environment is protected for future generations. For this vision to become reality, cities must be engines of inclusive growth, be peaceful and safe places, and be resilient and sustainable. UNDP believes that this will require the building of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions – and it is very important that this happens at the local level. This Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network will be a strong advocate for building inclusive and sustainable cities. As the level of government closest to the people, local government will play a crucial role in realising the 2030 Agenda. Localising the SDGs means translating global goals into local programmes which respond to local needs and aspirations. The New Urban Agenda, expected to be adopted at Habitat III in Quito in October, must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. I thank CLGF members for their active partnerships with UNDP on a wide range of issues relevant to local governance, particularly on local economic development strategies across the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. Working together we have built capacities to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerabilities. Overall, UNDP helps to strengthen the resilience of cities and local communities, including by responding to disasters and helping communities recover from crises. I look forward to strengthening our joint efforts to: align the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda; deliver effective, accountable, and inclusive local; institutions; build inclusive and sustainable cities; and ensure that urbanisation leaves no one behind. I wish you a successful and productive meeting.
Thank you.'

Second meeting of the **Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network** (CSCN)
13 July 2016, Marlborough House, London

Opening session
Building effective, accountable and inclusive local government institutions
Chair: CLGF Chairperson Rev Mpho Moruakgomo, President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities

Welcome message from Mayor Sadiq Khan, London

Message from Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP

Speakers:
- Mayor Angela Brown-Burke, Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica; CSCN Steering Committee
- Carl Wright, Secretary General, CLGF
- Hon Faiszer Musthapha, Minister of Provincial and Local Government, Sri Lanka
- Lord Howell of Guildford, President, Royal Commonwealth Society
- Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary-General
- HRH The Prince of Wales

Introductory session
Chair: Mayor Angela Brown-Burke, Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica; CSCN Steering Committee

Speakers:
- Lord Gary Porter, Chairman, Local Government Association (England and Wales)
- Sir Roger Gifford, Former Lord Mayor, Corporation of London
- Prof David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Making cities inclusive, resilient and safe; addressing the migrant crisis; encouraging social cohesion; combatting extremism
Chair: Mayor Angela Brown-Burke, Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica; CSCN Steering Committee

Panel:
- Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, President, Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities
- Mayor Sir Steve Bullock, London Borough of Lewisham
- Dr Josephine Ojiambo, Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat

Cities as engines of economic growth and centres of finance and innovation
Chair: Mayor Muesee Kazapua, Windhoek and CSCN Steering Committee
Panel:
- Cllr Clark Somerville, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Susana Laice, Town Clark and Irene Boane Tembe International Relations Advisor, Maputo, Mozambique
- Lord Marland, Chairman, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council
- David Jackson, Director, Local Development Finance, UNCDF

SMART Cities and using ICT to implement the sustainable development goals
Chair: Mayor Lazaros Savvides, Strovolos and CSCN Steering Committee
Panel:
- David Burrows, Managing Director, International Organisations – Worldwide Public Sector, Microsoft
- Lasantha De Alwis, Head of Operations Department, Commonwealth Tele-communications Organisation
- Gary Walker, Programme Director, Future City Glasgow, Glasgow City Council
- Joe Dignan, Interim Head of Business Development, Future Cities Catapult

Sustainable cities, holistic planning and the New Urban Agenda
Chair: Cllr Nick Small, City of Liverpool and CLGF Board member
Panel:
- Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand
- Mayor Isaac Ashai Odamtten, President NALAG, Chief Executive of the Tema Metropolitan Assembly
- Adrian Peters, Chief Strategy Officer, eThekwini (Durban) Municipality
- Ben Bolgar, Senior Director, The Prince's Foundation for Building Community
- Josep Roig, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

Closing session: Next steps forward
Chair: Cllr Philip McPhee, President, Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities and CLGF Vice-chairperson
Comments by:
- Luana Natali, Programme Analyst, UNDP
- Robert Lewis-Lettington, Coordinator Legislation, Land and Governance, UN Habitat
- William Cobbett, Director, Cities Alliance
- Carl Wright, Secretary-General, CLGF

Closing remarks
- Mayor Lawrence Yule, President, LGNZ, and immediate past chair, CLGF

Foreword and introduction Dr Greg Munro, Secretary-General CLGF

CLGF's **Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network** (CSCN) is a strong city-to-city network bringing together city mayors and managers from across the Commonwealth and helping cities in responding to the challenges of rapid urbanisation. The network is working towards advancing the New Urban Agenda and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 through programmes and advocacy to strengthen city leadership, make cities inclusive, safe and resilient, and ensuring that they become engines of growth and innovation. CLGF will capitalise on its unique local/central membership to focus the work of the CSCN on devolution and city empowerment; strengthening urban governance and democracy; enhancing urban trade and city investment; building smarter cities; and city inclusiveness and resilience. I want to thank all the contributors to the meeting, especially Prof. David Satterthwaite IIED for his excellent discussion paper and presentation at the meeting.

A number of key overarching issues emerged from the discussions: Although cities are sometimes perceived negatively, including by national governments, they have the potential to be **economic centres leading innovation and culture**. Urbanisation should be seen as an opportunity which can only be realised with capable, stable and accountable institutions at the local level. More attention should be given to **informal urbanisation**, the urban poor and informal governance, Cities nee do transform their **relationships with citizens** (both corporate and individual), and also look at peoples' wellbeing beyond finance and physical infrastructure to consider social cohesion and rights.

Whilst acknowledging the speed of change and the New Urban Agenda, it is important **not to ignore the need for basic services and functions**, and to ensure that city government is effective, efficient and accountable. It is important to ensure a **balanced economy**: economic growth within environmental and planetary boundaries. There is potential for local government to be involved in facilitating international trade agreements and attracting inward investment. City governments need to strengthen their capacity to deliver LED and the new urban imperative requires local government to have a seat at the table to negotiate access to finance.

The **urban/rural** interface is critical to sustainable development and secondary cities in particular need to be stabilised and have opportunities to grow.

Merging/amalgamation of councils can result in savings through economies of scale, and the capacity to plan and deliver large projects across the whole city. Improvements in central and local government coordination, more emphasis on place making, territorial development and resilience, are also key factors in strengthening city governance and services. Investment in **green infrastructure** is a useful mechanism to manage sustainable growth and **retrofitting new villages** into older communities needs careful consideration; new villages maybe more suitable to greenfield sites. Affordable and equitable access to **ICT** is critical for city sustainability. Territorial behaviour around data must be eliminated and information shared between government agencies and stakeholders.

Implementation: political leadership is key for visioning and supporting. It is necessary to agree the scale of planning and interventions, to keep it as simple as cities have different capacities to deal with complexity –plans should be flexible and implementable, having a high quality of design, managing rapid change. It is important that **Habitat III** does not just repeat other agreements and get drowned in goals and principles behind the **right to the city** (social and cultural) should underpin urban planning and actions. **All levels of government** should support the global local government movement and meaningful collaboration based on trust.

CSCN – the way forward….

Following recommendations at the 2015 meeting in Singapore and, reiterated in this meeting, we are looking to support the CSCN in **four areas:**

1) continuing to share lessons of what's going on around the world on localising the SDGs;

2) a best practice compendium drawing on the cases highlighted in the discussions below;

3) To look at a generic roadmap including implementation framework and toolkit, and

4) to look at local government capacity for change management and where there are training needs and capacity gaps.

Background paper presentation

Prof. David Satterthwaite, International Institute for Environment and Development
www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/ clgf-publications/research-reports/ successful-safe-sustainable-cities.pdf

Prof Satterthwaite presented his report: He explained that there are one billion people living in informal settlements globally with around 300 million of them in Commonwealth countries. The Sustainable Development Goals include a wide ranging set of commitments for urban areas including 'making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' (Goal 11). Many of the other goals are similarly very ambitious: such as ensuring decent work for all, leaving no-one behind, access to justice for all. However there is little explicit mention of urban government, despite the fact that achievement of the majority of the SDGs will fall clearly within their responsibilities. There is also very little mention of organisations of the urban poor which must partner with local government to achieve many of these goals. The SDGs are strong on **what to do**, but very weak on **how**, **by whom** and **with what finance**.

Urban challenges

There are 900 million urban dwellers in Commonwealth countries and this is projected to be 1.3 billion by 2030. To give an indication of the scale facing Commonwealth countries, the projected rate of new urban dwellers (2015-2030) per year in India is 10.9 million, in Nigeria is 4.8million and 1.1 million in Tanzania.

Additional population requires infrastructure expansion and investment annually, however it is complex to provide since infrastructure such as drains and flood protection require control over land use changes, which many local governments do not have. Taking one sector: water and sanitation, 400 million urban dwellers in the Commonwealth lack water piped to premises whilst 315 million lack rudimentary sanitation. In some countries the proportion of the urban population with water piped to premises declined between 1990-2015. This ranges from Nigeria where there was almost a 30% decline, to Guyana and Tanzania where it was around three percent decline.

Most urban centres in sub-Saharan Africa and much of Asia have hardly any or no sewers or covered drains. This includes the following primary cities but extends to many more: Dar es Salaam, Douala, Freetown, Ibadan, Kaduna, Kumasi, Lagos, Maiduguri, Nairobi, Kampala, Port Harcourt, Yaounde and Zaria.

Flooding and the city region

Many cities across the Commonwealth face more serious flooding but often the frequency and impact goes unrecorded. Much of the impact of these floods is on those living in informal settlements. Most of the urban flooding is not associated with issues of climate change, but is due more to the vast deficiencies in drainage and watershed management across cities. Addressing river flooding usually needs good management in the region and the cooperation of local governments further upstream.

Urbanisation beyond city capacities

Urban centres face very rapid change which can be difficult for local government institutions to keep up with. There is generally a lack of emphasis by national governments and international agencies to strengthen urban governments to be able to respond to these substantial challenges. For example, there has been no effective measures to increase supply and reduce the cost of housing plots, resulting in informal settlements and related infrastructure deficits continue to grow. For many cities the following represent major challenges: physical expansion (often into other jurisdictions), demands from influential businesses, water consumption, waste water generation, volume and velocity of floods, loss of wetlands/water bodies, road vehicles to name but a few

Drainage in an informal settlement

Photo credit: David Satterthwaite

How cities are viewed

There are both prevalent positive and negative views of cities and their governments. Some of these typically contrasting views are tabulated below. The key difference between when the positive views prevail over the negative is effective local governance, with strong democracy and the capacity to act in the (local and global) common good. Finally, it is important to understand what makes cities innovative: both within and outside the Commonwealth. There are good models, including eThekwini (Durban), South Africa, Rosario, Argentina and Manizales, Colombia. Whilst these and other innovative cities have different starting points, with varying physical and social features impacting on the environment, disaster risk, development etc, they do have common features: most notably in the context of urban management - a very competent local government, with investment capacity, a commitment to reach/work with low-income groups, an understanding of the importance of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and of socio-ecological systems, and the ability to work in the wider region.

NEGATIVE
Parasites on the economy and on rural areas
Centres that concentrate and generate air and water pollution
Drivers of climate change
Concentrations of poverty, inequality and violence

POSITIVE
Leading innovation, social justice and economic success
Centres with healthiest populations and low air pollution
Centres that reconcile high quality of life with low emissions
Centres that concentrate livelihood opportunities, cultural exchange and a high quality of life

In conclusion he suggested that it is essential for urban governments to be able to act and invest in (or manage investment in) infrastructure and services. They must be able to respond to and work with those poorly served or not served by water/ sanitation/ drainage etc. To achieve this it is essential for local governments to build meaningful partnerships with civil society organisations, including the slum/shack dweller federations in India, South Africa, Namibia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Ghana, and other Commonwealth countries. It is especially important to structure climate finance and development finance to support this. He encouraged city leaders to learn from fellow cities that have made progress, and from other good practice networks sharing experiences on developing healthy cities, participatory budgeting, and city resilience etc.

Finally, it is important for local governments and their associations to clearly voice what they want from Habitat III. It will be a missed opportunity if the New Urban Agenda is another list of goals and commitments. With the SDGs and Paris Agreements already in place, the New Urban Agenda must be relevant to and supportive of local government. He suggested that the best outcome would be a short, precise action-oriented framework for local sustainable development.

Increased impact of flooding

Photo credit: David Satterthwaite

Opening session:
Building effective, accountable and inclusive local government institutions Chair: CLGF Chairperson **Cllr. Rev Mpho Moruakgomo**

Following welcome messages from **Mayor Sadiq Khan**, Mayor of London and **Rt Hon Helen Clark, Administrator,** UNDP, and CLGF patron **Mayor Angela Brown-Burke** acknowledged that the formal recognition of the role of local government by the UN system in the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in goal 11 'making cities inclusive, safe and resilient cities' and goal 16 'building effective accountable and inclusive institutions **at all level**' was a significant development and result of successful advocacy by the CLGF and the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Government (GTF). CSCN was founded to ensure Commonwealth cities were in a position to help set, implement and monitor the SDGs whilst building their capacity to do so, and she noted that after the first CSCN meeting in Singapore, 2015members committed to making all SDS local. In the run up to the Habitat III conference, emphasis should be focusing on local responses to the challenges of urbanisation and emerging trends for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Mayor Brown-Burke continued by giving an insight into the key issues her city of Kingston and St Andrew faces, as well as the role of local authorities, social inequality and the designation of Jamaica as a so-called 'upper middle income country'.

In some influential quarters there continues to be a lack of confidence in the ability of local government practitioners to be honest, transparent and competent in the exercise of their duties and in the interests of the people they serve. This perception of an incompetent local authority is part of the context in which local governments operate, as is the age old confusion as to who is responsible for what. The average Jamaican citizen would not be able to say who was responsible for the repair of a particular road or for welfare assistance, or to whom to report issues of street light repairs or waste collection. Reform of local government in Jamaica has come along way however, with increased ability to generate its own sources of revenue, including dedicated sources of revenue, and recruitment of a more competent cadre of local government representatives.

Additionally inclusion of local government in the constitution of Jamaica and the passing of three strategic laws that provide a more modern framework for local governance with broader responsibilities such as local economic development and climate change has helped to emphasise the central role of local government. There is recognition that local governments are ideally placed to be facilitators and points of collaboration. Kingston council has come to realise the value of conversation, and has started to ensure an increased engagement with the public though town hall meetings where citizens have the opportunity to better understand the local councils' role and constraints, ask questions and make recommendations. The council also organises regular multi-stakeholder meetings where representatives from different public sector and private sector agencies get a chance to look at how our work affects each other and how we can pool our resources to address common issues. This helps build mutual respect and confidence in the institutions, including the city council.

Dr. Carl Wright, Secretary General, CLGF highlighted the acknowledgement by the international community of the rise of global cities as outward looking centres of cosmopolitanism, much needed in today's world. For cities, international cooperation around the Commonwealth and beyond makes perfect economic sense in a world where investment and jobs are increasingly driven by external factors. He highlighted the success CLGF and its partners have had in advocating for the recognition of city and local governments in the 2030 Agenda, in the provisions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and in the outcome statements of the Malta Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), as well as anticipated recognition in the New Urban Agenda. He highlighted that social inequality continues to be a major issue in all Commonwealth cities, and that there must be a strong focus on making cities inclusive as we move forward, including as a response to violent extremism.

Rt. Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, Minister for Local Government, Sri Lanka highlighted the long history of over 2,400 years of urbanisation in Sri Lanka, and noted that today the urban population is predominantly in small urban settlements around the coast, with only six cities of more than 100,000 in a country of just over 21 million people. Around 18% of the country is officially classified as urban, however there are many other settlements which have urban characteristics. Given the large floating population around the main urban cities – the proportion of the population which is urban is officially estimated at around 40%. The density of urbanisation is very uneven across the country, the Western region being home to nearly 25% of the population and the Colombo – Candy urban belt being the most densely populated producing 80% of the national output.

Urban planning was started by the Sri Lankan government several decades ago, and there are plans to make Colombo a major regional commercial trading, aviation and maritime hub. This year the government launched the Western Regional Megalopolis plan and aims to develop a megacity of 8.5 million by 2030, up from one million, including a ~ 500,000 daily floating population. The role of local government in urban plans includes the role they have in enabling women to engage in local politics. It is considered much easier for women and civil society organisations to influence local governments than national governments. The lack of women in local government means there is a lack of consultation with women on development issues at the local level, less than two percent, and so the local government acts have been amended to ensure a 25% quota for women. Quotas are not however enough to enable women to gain full influencing and policy making powers and so the Government is developing training programmes for women's representation in local government to further enhance the voice of women at the local level.

There are huge pressures on local governments to provide basic services to rapidly growing and transient populations. Whilst in some urban centres there continue to be issues of access to water and sanitation, across all there continues to be issues with public transport. Flooding is a key issue in the main urban areas, along with landslides, coastal erosion, drought and cyclones. Climate change disaster development plans are being developed by urban councils to help address these issues. The ministry is looking to improve inter-governmental fiscal relations to address empowerment and identify practical ways to increase the resources available to local governments to allow them to perform their mandated functions, and to strengthen mechanisms to ensure that local government is held accountable for their actions through the active participation of the community. He welcomed the CSCN as an excellent network to enable our cities to learn best practice from fellow cities across the Commonwealth.

Rt Hon Lord David Howell, President, Royal Commonwealth Society, highlighted what the recent UK vote to leave the European Union does and does not mean for the Commonwealth, including a likely re-examination and focus on trade across the member states.

Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary-General, highlighted how the Commonwealth family can work together towards more closely to support the achievement of the SDGs, especially in achieving gender equality. Looking forward, she noted that the role of cities will be central to trade across the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network will be integral to a Commonwealth approach. Baroness Scotland was followed by a speech given by **HRH The Prince of Wales**, welcoming collaboration between the CSCN and his Trust, and how all the key issues facing the world today, including achievement of the SDGS, will be lost or won at the local level. A copy of his speech is available at www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-reception-the-commonwealth-local-government-forum

Introductory session

Lord Gary Porter, Chairman, Local Government Association (England and Wales) spoke on the importance of devolution bringing powers and finance back to local authorities in the UK. He welcomed the city focused devolution deals and explained that the LGA has been partly successful in advocating for devolved finances. It is envisaged that local government will be free from central funding by 2020. Local government budgets will ultimately be financed solely from local taxes including business tax and property tax, and he noted that the LGA is currently looking at other taxes to wrestle from central government to make local government more sustainable. He said that local government in England and Wales still needs more freedom, more power and more responsibility to be accountable to the community, and would be happy to then take responsibility when something goes wrong.

Sir Roger Gifford, former Lord Mayor, Corporation of London, spoke on how cities can harness green finance, which is simply ordinary finance ring-fenced for green projects e.g. reducing emissions or raising efficiency. He reported that organisations that are working on green projects include Unilever, Apple, World Bank, Johannesburg City and Swindon Bough Council. The most popular product is the green bond, and total issuance is now well over $100bn. Although this is a fraction of the global bond market which is in the trillions, it is a growing sector. When the City of Gothenburg launched a green bond earlier this year to finance the development of a relatively mundane sounding water treatment plant, the city was inundated with calls including from pension funds and youth, showing the high demand there was for green investment. In the UK green crowd-funding platforms have raised more than £2bn for investment in renewable and green energy efficiency schemes across the country. The fact that green finance is rooted in the growing investor demand for high quality, low carbon assets and not political pressure or public subsidy, is one of the sectors greatest strengths. The projects that can be labelled as green will differ from country to country and independently verified as environmentally friendly investments. The focus until now has been on green bonds, but interest is starting to spread to green equities, green indices, green loans and so on.

The Commonwealth itself is strongly committed to developing deep liquid green capital markets and announced the landmark $1 bn green finance facility last year, which the Corporation was delighted to support. He explained that as the City is looking to internationalise access to green capital. In January this year, the City of London Corporation launched a green finance initiative and designated 2016 the year of green finance.

Making cities inclusive, resilient and safe; addressing the migrant crisis; encouraging social cohesion; combatting extremism

Chair **Mayor Angela Brown-Burke**, Kingston and St Andrew; CSCN Steering Committee

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock, London Borough of Lewisham spoke on the responsibilities of local government to ensure the safety of citizens. He explained that there has recently been a move backwards in the UK, fuelled by the rhetoric around the recent vote to leave the EU which has legitimised divisive behaviour which the country has spent decades addressing. A minority are harming social cohesion, including in Lewisham which is a place of real diversity and tolerance, where 46% of the population are black or ethnic minority. Cities have both soft powers, as leaders of their communities, and responsibilities set out in legislation, which vary by nation, to make cities sustainable. In London the relationship with the Mayor is crucial, elsewhere in the UK local authorities have come together to form joint authorities. To respond to recent escalation of racial tensions he reported that city leaders have brought together police, faith and community groups to issue joint statements and encourage hate crime reporting. There is a key role for the youth, and in Lewisham there is an initiative led by the youth mayor. On migration, Lewisham is proactively discussing how the authority can best house Syrian refugees, especially given the huge pressure on housing and other services the council faces. London has benefited hugely from migration through the years and has learned much about how to support migrants whilst recognising there is no single approach -: language, housing, support for children and the elderly all play a part. Today London is a city with a huge housing crisis – very different to other parts of the UK – and the city needs central government to work with local government to find and fashion solutions that will work.

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, President, Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities spoke about strategies for making Sri Lankan cities inclusive, resilient and safer. He said that this is imperative, now more than ever. Sri Lanka was plagued by disaster after disaster for almost three decades, from a brutal civil war to the devastating Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004. This has led to staggered development, haphazard planning and minimal growth in the urban centres. He explained that Sri Lanka is developing exponentially, in terms of infrastructure, the economy and socially, making it an ideal blank canvas for urban and sustainable development. The country is now trying a new experiment. The newly-formed government is currently enacting policy reforms with special emphasis on decentralisation and the role of local government in city development.

The Government of Sri Lanka is looking to decentralise to local authorities, thereby allowing cities to partake in their own development and ensuring that there is inclusivity within this development, especially social cohesion and sustainability. Implementing the SDG goals is seen as the "blueprint" towards global development, ensuring the five Ps: People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership, highlighting inclusivity and interconnection between city-to-city, central-to-local, citizen-to-citizen, and so on. This is especially relevant in Sri Lanka, in the aftermath of the brutal civil war, as people are working towards reconciling with their neighbours, putting aside ethnic differences.. Local authorities are developing forums bringing together civil society groups, representatives of all communities. Stakeholders ensure capacity building resonates across society and the Government is looking to develop cities with equal drive and measure. Colombo, , is undergoing tremendous change. The government has formed a Megapolis Ministry, which is dealing with the creation of the "megapolis" in and around the city of Colombo. The Ministry liaises with the Colombo municipal authorities on implementation, highlighting the central government's recognition of the notion that cities are engines of economic growth for the whole country. The Government is aiming for sustained growth, by encouraging innovation and believes that this is best done through a partnership between central and local government.

The government is looking to make Colombo a SMART city by 2035, and plans to ensure that the entire Western Province of Sri Lanka, in which Colombo is domiciled, is developed as a Megapolis, utilising sustainable and holistic planning working with all tiers of governance, and especially making full use of residents.

As Hon. Moulana explained that as Mayor of Eravur, a town in the conflict-ridden Eastern Province, he implemented a Disaster Risk Reduction Programme to make the city resilient, highlighting disaster preparedness, planning and mitigation. Eravur was recognised by the UNISDR as a role-model city for disaster resilience in South Asia. The council set about putting together a holistic planning approach for future development of the city, in which they developed master plans for sustainable and social development. They also mapped the economic centres of the city and worked towards developing all aspects of commerce diffusion, enhancing social cohesion. He concluded by emphasising that making cities resilient and safe does not just happen, it is achieved through inclusive and holistic development.

Dr Josephine Ojiambo, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat emphasised that the 2030 Agenda commits to leave no one behind and advocates a human rights approach, which along with the New Urban Agenda aims to ensure that cities work for the poorest and most marginalised – including women, people with disabilities, internally displaced people, minorities, indigenous people, migrants and refugees. She asserted that the New Urban Agenda must ensure sustainable and socially inclusive cities by promoting equality, addressing discrimination in all its forms, and by empowering individuals and communities to make cities work as places of opportunity for all, where they can live in security, peace and dignity. Human rights and democracy underpin the Commonwealth Charter, and the CHOGM in Malta prioritised migration and addressing violent extremism, affirming that a human rights approach to migration can improve the economic and social benefits for resilience and prosperity in Commonwealth member states. Terrorism and violent extremism are serious threats to the world, including the Commonwealth and it's peoples, undermining the core values and aspirations of international peace and security, social harmony and economic and social development.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is setting up a unit to share best practice and tools for countering violent extremism, building on the outcomes of the the Civil Paths to Peace report. Three recommendations from the report will inform the Unit's direction including: Development of alternative narratives as a response to process of violence, including violent extremism, criminal justice measures and democratisation, development and platforms for dialogue. The Commonwealth Secretariat recognises the need to empower youth, gender and women; to focus on education and employment; to utilise strategic communication, including the manipulative use of the internet and social media. The Secretariat is committed to supporting the Member States in achieving all the SDGs and whilst they are clear that all the goals are interrelated and that no goal should be prioritised over another, SDG 16 and 11 are particularly important   and the institutions which promote, protect and deliver electoral processes. The Commonwealth Charter is particularly vocal on democracy and the Secretariat is working at a practical level to strengthen electoral processes and election management bodies through the Commonwealth Election Network. She also explained that the Commonwealth is using advocacy to encourage elections to take place, including local government elections. She welcomed the recent local government elections in Guyana after several decades and with encouragement from the Commonwealth. Urbanisation and city dwelling carries substantial risks for women and girls, in terms of safety, violence, lack of employment opportunities, and decision making power. Ensuring the inclusion of women and girls shapes sustainable urban development and is fundamental to creating inclusiveness   and resilience that ensure that no one is left   behind. Schools in particular have an important role to play in encouraging social cohesion and responsible citizenship.

There was a lively **discussion and questions** from the floor reflecting on the first two sessions, including the role that municipal governments have in facilitating private investment in their cities, the need for inclusiveness and engagement with youth, and what lessons the global north can learn from the global south in the current climate of austerity on what resource-starved local authorities can do to enhance the wellbeing of their citizens. **Prof Satterthwaite** highlighted that it was clear that one of the key issues that most of the cities represented at the meeting were facing included massive infrastructure deficits and lack of finances, but if you only go back only a hundred years, cities such as London and New York were facing the same problems. New York infamously had the most corrupt local government that there has probably ever been, and yet pressures for reform came from the population and social movements, from the middle class who were frustrated by not having basic infrastructure delivered. Slowly this developed into a political system that addressed all these issues. Thirty years ago, Latin America was seen as the region with the worst urban problems – massive deficits, unrepresentative governments, enormous levels of urban poverty. However, strong citizen pressure through social movements changed the government, changed the constitution, changed the allocation of resources between national and local government and as that pressure came about , as countries came out from under military dictatorships and a new generation of mayors appeared. These mayors were engineers, planners, architects, academics - they were not part of the normal political system but they showed great innovation and great commitment. Latin America is where participatory budgeting is developing so that everyone in the city knows exactly what the priorities are for public investment, and can actually influence those decisions. In He suggested that in Latin America now, although national politics may be disastrous, local politics is working pretty well in many places. There are interesting lessons to draw from it and not just from the richer cities such as Porto Alegre and São Paulo but also the poorer municipalities which have managed to turn things around by focusing on new engagements between local governments and grassroots organisations.

Cities as engines of economic growth and centres of finance and innovation
Chair: **Mayor Muesee Kazapua,**
Windhoek and CSCN Steering Committee

Cllr Clark Somerville, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, gave an overview of FCM emphasising the uniting role the association plays in shaping the national policy agenda. He underscored the role of local government in addressing climate change, supporting local economic development, addressing inequality, transportation and child care in particular. Local government services are prerequisite for economic growth, showing how all SDGs are local particularly, goal 8, on the importance of ensuring inclusive economic growth. He shared the example of the Green Municipal Fund in Canada, which was set up by central government and is managed by FCM, supporting about 500 municipalities in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, create employment, and it contribute significantly to GDP. The fund has been so successful that in 2016, the government of Canada made available an additional CA$125mn to the fund. Cllr Somerville highlighted the importance of infrastructure such as public transport and water in promoting sustainable development and economic growth. FCM is working in 27 developing countries to support sustainable development and highlighted the case of CARILED where FCM is supporting 14 countries in the Caribbean region to promote SDG 8, with a particular focus on empowering women and youth. CARILED is promoting income generation for disadvantaged groups. He further emphasised the contextual nature of LED initiatives which vary from place to place, and depend on the needs and priorities of local communities. It is essential for local government to work with national government and the private sector in promoting local economic development. The importance of partnerships for economic growth and development is paramount and successful local governments, with the capacity to develop local economies, are critical in the development, success and competitiveness of nations.

Lord Jonathan Marland, Chair, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council introduced the CEIC which was launched two years ago and is funded by various organisations such as Vodacom and Rolls-Royce, as well as 10 member countries which include; Malawi, Nigeria and Rwanda. The CEIC unlocked an investment opportunity for Lesotho recently, the biggest foreign investment the country has ever attracted.

The Council holds events for Commonwealth countries, for example the Commonwealth Business Forum, which takes place before CHOGM. Additionally, the Council secured a meeting of Commonwealth Ministers of Trade and Commerce which will take place in March 2017 in the UK to discus how trade can be developed across the Commonwealth. CEIC works closely with the City of London on financial services, exporting expertise across the Commonwealth. Infrastructure is another area CEIC focuses on. CEIC is working with Tech City in Nigeria, where demand for UK expertise is high. Sustainability is another important priority and one of their projects is being developed under the leadership of the Prince of Wales, seeking to support the greening of oceans by small island states. Lord Marland emphasised that the CEIC is not a British-centric organisation but works from across Commonwealth countries and is planning to open offices in Nigeria and India. CEIC is also supporting small business development and participants were invited to use CEIC to promote investment opportunities in their respective countries.

Susana Laice, Town Clark, Maputo, Mozambique gave an introduction to Maputo City, the Capital of Mozambique on the East coast of Africa, bordered by the Republic South Africa and by the Indian Ocean. The City acts as the gateway to the rest of Mozambique, contributing about 30% of the nation's GDP. Maputo is 308 km^2 with seven municipal districts, one of which is an Island. The city has a population of between 1.3 million overnight and 2.0 million during the day. Over 60% of its population live in informal setlements. 30% of the city budget comes from central government. Maputo is attractive as an investment destination because it is the political and economic centre of the country as well as a strategic location in SADC through its access to the Indian Ocean. Maputo is the SADC gateway to the world through its international airport andinternational port providing access to more than five landlocked countries in the region and a market of over 250 million inhabitants in SADC. Maputo has a young and trained population with an open and friendly environment for domestic and foreign direct investment. There is a high concentration of services and national and foreign businesses and the city has highly attractive coastal and natural areas for tourism, good for hotel and resorts. She indicated that there are a number of invesment opportunties currently available, in , house construction, road infrastructure as well as hotels and tourism.

David Jackson, Director, Local Government Finance, UNCDF pointed out that there is a new development imperative which addresses issues such as urbanisation, climate change, economic transformation, migration and security. This comes as a result of four phenomena: urbanisation is increasing - there is 80% urbanisation in Europe and urbanisation is estimated to stabilise at 85% in the developing world. Two out of 7 billion people are living in secondary cities in developing countries, i.e. 200,000-700,000. A large proportion of these are cities *de facto* but not *de jure* ie they are urban populations but not governed as cities. He recalled that climate change is about people's future on earth and that there is need for the world to plan for adaption to a temperature increase of more than 2 degrees. A major outcome of climate change is the resulting migration and lack of security, and this especially the case for the two billion people living in secondary cities. He suggested that it is necessary to also consider the future of mega cities as there is a tendency for these to act as magnets for population movement. This has not always been the case as people could live in small cities and it was possible to have a middle class life, which is often not the case anymore. He emphasized the need to stabilise secondary cities, and the issues of migration and security related to that. Given this, Habitat III must adequately deal with this imperative. This also means a major role for local government as well as a new element of urban architecture, which should include reconfiguring the way national finances are allocated. He highlighted the need for new partnerships for funding local government: Towns and cities should be allowed to attract new financing, including working in partnership with other financing partners as the sector rethinks public funding. For example, Maputo receives 30% of budget from the centre but it is only one element of local government financing. The other elements need to be strengthened. The issue of local government financing should be looked at as a new imperative not a local government lobbying and advocacy issue for the developing world to adequately respond to the new imperative. UNCDF also seeks to address other issues including domestic fiscal resources and capital markets, which are often not investing in domestic economies at the local level in a way that promotes sustainable and equitable growth.

He explained that local economies and local governments are not able to attract investment and therefore the benefits of growth are bypassing many populations. Additionally, finance is often not available for catalytic investments with high impact in critical areas like women's economic empowerment, climate change, clean energy, food security and local economic development. He gave the example of the US$1 trillion of pension funds in Africa, which cannot be connected/invested in development in Africa. Additionally, he suggested that development /concessional finance could play a role in unlocking domestic finance, together with local government grants. He said that justification and verification for investments to attract concessional finance are needed, and that UNCDF identifies projects that can attract concessional financing. For example the mini hydro power project in Tanzania which is partnership project between a local government and an NGO organisation of nuns, financed through domestic finances. He concluded his presentation by emphasising that the new urbanisation imperative requires stakeholders to come up with new types of funding.

Questions and Answers

Issues raised included the skewed investment in capital cities at the expense of the regions, eg London receives ten times more per head than North of England. One barrier to greater investment is the need to improve local government credibility which would give an impetus for greater autonomy. Greater unity and voice within the local government sector through local government associations is key to profiling the potential of greater local action. Decentralisation has resulted in responsibilities but too often not the commensurate resources, so there is a need to lobby governments to match responsibilities with resources. There is a lack of attention paid to the potential of local property taxes and they are rarely used in smaller towns. In places like Sierra Leone and Malawi local taxes are not utilised, but could be used for debt financing. Countries also do not showcase investment opportunities enough and as a result of Brexit there is going to be more opportunities for UK investment however the type of infrastructure that local government requires is not attractive to foreign direct investment . Finally the Urban agenda should start with smaller cities to ensure that it is successful.

SMART Cities and using ICT to implement the sustainable development goals

Chair: Mayor Lazaros Savvides, Strovolos and CSCN Steering Committee

David Burrows, Managing Director, International Organisations, Worldwide Public Sector, Microsoft gave an overview of how technology is changing the way we connect around the world, and the potential this has to connect Commonwealth citizens. Whilst stressing that the digital revolution is having a profound and positive impact on cities, he highlighted that there is a significant digital divide which disproportionately affects Africa, Asia and Latin America, women and people living in rural areas. With a global population of over seven billion, there are around four billion internet users, and seven billion phone connections, with many in the room having at least two. Microsoft and others collaborated with the World Bank on the World Development Report 2016 – Digital Dividends[1], which highlights the digital gap. Earlier Prof. Satterthwaite highlighted the infrastructure deficits of water and sanitation and David explained that he would argue that the digital infrastructure deficits are becoming as important for inclusion and growth. 25% less women are connected to the internet than men, and women in the global south 15% less likely to own a phone. He highlighted the role of data and the need for a data revolution to support ICT, which has the ability to make a significant contribution to accelerating the achievement of the SDGs through enhancing capacity, providing opportunities and improving access to services. He indicated that ICT will be essential in measuring the SDGs. There is a lack of data both at the national and local level, and more importantly for city decision making, a lack of data disaggregated in a manner that can be useful to sub-national administrations. This could help significantly in targeting scare resources. The monitoring section in the Roadmap for Localising the SDGs[2] highlights the need for local data and indicators, but this is where there is most still to be done. He shared the Global e-Sustainability Initiative, of which Microsoft is a member, which is an initiative bringing together ICT companies looking to actively work towards achieving the SDGs through partnership with government, business and civil society[3]. Microsoft, with HP, Intel Cisco with UN Foundation, CRS, USAID and others supported NetHope in the preparation of the SDG ICT Playbook[4].

Lasantha De Alwis, Director of ICT Development, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation explained how CTO's currently focuses on the contribution of ICTs for development across the Commonwealth. CTO promotes enabling regulatory environments, cybersecurity and affordable universal high-quality broadband connectivity. It also promotes the development and use of ICT applications for socio-economic development e.g. e-governance, e-health, e-education and e-agriculture, etc., and works to effectively coordinate Commonwealth countries at international ICT conferences and meetings. He closed by reminding participants of their upcoming Commonwealth Smart Cities Conference which will be held in 2017 and will take up many of the issues being discussed.

Gary Walker, Programme Director, Future City Glasgow, City Council, shared the experience of their Future City Demonstrator Project. In 2013, Glasgow beat 31 other UK cities to win funding worth £24m from the Technology Strategy Board (now known as Innovate UK) to explore innovative ways to use technology and data to make life in the city safer, smarter and more sustainable. There were four key challenges that Glasgow was facing which became the themes that the programme was based around: health inequality in the city, transport, energy, and public safety. The project involved a series of demonstrator initiatives to showcase technology solutions in the city; creation of a city data hub; and a centralised operations room which opened in time for the Commonwealth Games. The operations room linked the 500+ CCTV and traffic engineers and Police Scotland along with emergency planning. This was a fantastic resource for keeping the city moving during the games. The cameras were all upgraded to smart cameras, so they could alert the operations room should an area become too crowded, or show whether an invisible barrier around an asset had been breached, allowing the city to proactively manage safety and security. The most advanced piece of software introduced was a suspect search that could search for a missing person through recorded footage using facial recognition. Glasgow introduced intelligent streetlights controlled through a central management system, which enabled the early direction of faults, as well as significant energy and carbon savings of up to 70% in some areas. The lamp posts also have air quality and noise monitors which alert the control room if breached. Glasgow also introduced foot-fall sensors. These have now been shared through the city data centre with the business community through a business index.

[1] World Development Report 2016 – Digital Dividends
[2] Roadmap for Localising the SDGs
[3] Global e-Sustainability Initiative [4] SDG ICT Playbook

Joe Dignan, Interim Head of Business Development, Future Cities Catapult spoke on how the organisation was set up by the UK government to help export smart city thinking globally. They bring together ethnographers with engineers, planners and economists to try come up with innovative thinking on city issues. They introduced the 'Bristol is Open' programme which takes data from smart lamp posts around the city and live feeds them to the planetarium as a venue for immersive visualisations of city data. One of the interesting examples given was how Bristol is using ICT to strengthen local democracy through the crowdsourcing of local ideas for how to cut the municipal budget, which helped to explain the impact of various levels of cuts to citizens. Cities Catapult also creating an innovation hub in Pune, where they run Smart City Academies. **Kunal Kumar**, City Commissioner for Pune spoke via a pre-recorded video on how the city is learning from experience around the world on smart solutions to many of the citiy's problems.

In the **discussion** following the session meeting participants raised a number of issues. While big data can be useful, in many Commonwealth cities simply getting basic data is a challenge. In this type of environment participants noted that it is important to target the most useful data to enable decision making and cost effective monitoring and evaluation. The issue of low data quality and the reticence of stakeholders to share data due to this was also raised. Local government has the ability to be a leader in making data available and building a relationship of trust with other partners, for example through pushing for data amnesties. strategies for using data and open source systems to help cities and citizens get the best value out of existing infrastructure systems which are normally only used to capacity for a small proportion of the day (for example roads and transport systems). Finally participants emphasised the need to update data protection, and to maximise data availability while ensuring citizens' anonymity is protected and data is used in an ethical manner.

Sustainable cities, holistic planning and the New Urban Agenda
Cllr Nick Small, Liverpool and CLGF Board opened the session by saying how important the issue of holistic city planning is and how it is at the heart of the New Urban Agenda. The New Urban Agenda links the challenges and opportunities around the physical planning agenda with the social agenda. He indicated that it is important to start to look at the planning process not just in isolation around infrastructure and physical assets of the city, but around the social policy goals and strategies for achieving economic growth in a sustainable, people-centred way.

Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-Iiga, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand spoke about Auckland City where he was previously a councillor and is now an MP. To give some context, New Zealand has a population of 4.7 million and its main industries are tourism, dairy, manufacturing and the growing ICT sector. He explained that the economy is growing at around 2.8% a year and they have created over 200,000 jobs in the last few years, and unlike most OECD countries the government is running a surplus. He indicated that people are New Zealand's best resource and the country is blessed with natural resources and landscape. Auckland's position in the country is similar to that of London in the UK, being home to around 1.5 million people/ 32% of the population and 36% of the GDP. Both of these are growing. The city is a very multi-ethnic, multi-cultural city – much like London, with over 200 ethnicities and spread across quite a large area, including three harbours. There are huge migration flows, and in the past year 70,000 new residents have been recorded from both internal and external migration. At around 5% of the total population, this is very significant and means that there are very high strains and demands on core infrastructure such as housing and transport. In 2010 there was a significant development in the governance of Auckland to enable the sustainable development of the city. Eight councils merged into one to form a super-city. This amalgamation followed a royal commission that was tasked to look at how the people of Auckland would be best served, and how the city would best serve the people of New Zealand. The key recommendation of the Commission was to merge the existing councils into one city.

This was important because the different municipalities did not share all the same priorities or vision, which meant city-wide infrastructure was incredibly difficult. Now that the councils have merged, there is a city-wide vision and plan which will guide infrastructure investment for the next 30 years. This unitary plan dictates what can be built, how high it can be built, the types of roads that can be built, right down to the type of developments that be permitted and the types of planning to be used. Whilst there have been some negatives with this change in governance, he indicated that overall the population feels the positives far outweigh the negatives. The whole region is now being planned cohesively throughout, Six years since the new system was implemented the water company was put into what in New Zealand is called a council controlled organisation; transport services have been brought together under one city-wide organisation, and by and large, it has led to positive outcomes. For example, in terms of the water company, there were rural areas that were not receiving the quality of services that Aucklanders demand and expect, so those services have now been upgraded. The City Council has been able to build a NZ$1.5billion pipeline across the middle of Auckland, supported by rate payers right across the city. Scale matters a lot in terms of delivering infrastructure, and planning matters a lot in terms of delivering those homes, roads and services that people in Auckland demand. The law has now been changed to enable long term planning rather than decisions on infrastructure spending be dependant on short-term electoral cycles. There are of course still annual plans, and ten year plans – but the 30 year infrastructure plans allow for councils to look at the state of their infrastructure at any one point in time to forecast when certain types of infrastructure needs to be replaced, which helps projection budgeting – including whether there needs to be infrastructure bonds, or an increase in rates. The government has just agreed a policy on infrastructure subsidies for those that cannot be avoided. He went on to explain that in terms of central government – local government collaboration, it has been important to work together on data, especially in the transport sector.

An alignment project called ATAP was put together so that central government and local government can work together to get the same data, access the same modelling, the same cost-benefit analysis, and the same business cases in order to work out the priorities for the city so that both levels of government can align their transport priorities and deliver better services. In conclusion he highlighted three lessons from the Auckland case: 1) Local government and central government need to work together: central government helps fund local investment and passes the laws that enable local government to deliver their services; 2) some of the functions need to be at a local level – such as footpaths, libraries, art galleries etc, some at a regional level, such as roads etc, major highways need to be shared, and some things must remain at the national level such as the New Zealand police, health, defence etc. 3) underpinning all of the reforms for Auckland was economic growth, creation of jobs and to a lesser extent migration into the city.

Mayor Isaac Ashai Odamtten, President NALAG, Metropolitan Chief Executive of the Tema Metropolitan Assembly spoke about how over the last two decades Ghana has been promoting decentralisation. The local governance system in the country is deeply enshrined in the constitution. There has been a lot of positive change over the past 24 years since the 4th republican constitution was adopted, but there is still a lot to be done. Local authorities in Ghana have committed to developing sustainable cities, holistic planning and the New Urban Agenda. Urbanisation has a huge potential for creating jobs and growth, and should be adopted across the Commonwealth as a catalyst for development. In Ghana urbanisation has increased from 32 to 52% since independence. In the next few decades it could rise to 80%, and he emphasised that it is vital to plan for how this urbanisation will be sustainable, and to manage the considerable environmental impact. He stressed that this must include identifying sustainable food systems, and dealing with issues of pollution, ensuring the country builds cities for future generations.

In the African perspective, he emphasised that this includes the need to pay particular attention to small towns and cities and not just large metropolises. Sustainable cities and town should work toward mitigating the affects of climate change and a reduction of greenhouse gases. This poses the challenge of how to balance economic and industrial development which leads to job creation and improved standards of living with cutting emissions. In Ghana another major challenge is managing the issue of informal settlement growth, which has always preceded planning. These settlements pop up without due cognisance to the planning principles resulting in squatter situations which often end up with evictions and non-eviction human rights issues. Planning he emphasised should always be holistic, looking both at the current needs and those of future generations. In Ghana, the National Development Planning Commission and the local authorities, through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development are committed to implementing planning guidelines, and the Commission has produced a 40 year development plan which seeks to harmonise every aspect of national development. This collaboration between the NDPC and the local government ministry has ensured that annual planning is dovetailed into the ministry's work. So whilst planning is bottom up from the local authority to the regional levels, there are overarching broad guidelines for implementation. These are aligned with international UN Habitat provisions, especially the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning. In 2016 local authorities were given a certain status that ensures that even though functions have been transferred without the necessary funding, there are resources for every local authority assembly use to invest in capital infrastructure development. In conclusion Mayor Odamtten emphasised the importance of recognising and not underestimating the contributions the local authorities are making towards the national agenda towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. What Africa needs is to keep at it and share best practice across the continent and around the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network is well placed to help us do that.

Adrian Peters, Chief Strategy Officer, eThekwini (Durban) Municipality started with a few statistics on the dimensions of the urban agenda for eThekwini/Durban, as a municipality where: a third of all households live in informal settlements, 40% of female headed household and 25% of male headed households live in poverty, only 32% of Durban children have a resident father, and 69% have a resident mother, 41% of children in KwaZulu Natal province live in households without an employed adult, and 71% of black children live in low income households. When considering the inclusion dimension of the new urban agenda, these statistics give some idea of the challenges the Municipality faces. Regarding sustainability challenges, 75% of the land area has been transformed, 90% of wetlands have been degraded and only 1% area in good condition and only 3 out of 16 bays/estuaries are in a good condition. Looking at the spatial dimensions, transportation costs average 17% but can be as high as 35% of total household budget, and in the areas of education and skills, tertiary education attendance are the lowest of most of the major cities in South Africa, and the lowest early childhood education enrolment rate in the country at around 17%. Although KwaZulu Natal province spends more than the national average on early childhood development, it still has one of the lowest spends in the world at 0.17% of GDP. He reflected on the inclusion dimension and the social cohesion divide. The gap is widening and in a context of global recession there are waves of conservatism emerging, which is symptomatic of the contestation which is taking place for scarce resources which accentuates the difference between people rather than highlighting the common humanity that is shared. Those differences are often accentuated to produce a competitive edge. In South Africa there are nuances to the social cohesion divide, often with rhetoric from one side that talks about incompetence and corruption, and voices from the other side that talk of racism. In eThekwini (Durban) Municipality, to help build cross-community trust, the Municipality has taken the route of setting up an external planning commission, which enables us to receive independent credible advice, but also an expert reference team that helps to guide our planning.

The plan is one for the whole city, not just for the municipality which talks to identifying roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders in the city. Place-making is the strategic thrust of the planning commission and the Municipality is at a stage where the diagnostic has been completed and the city development plan will fit in with the *integrated development planning* cycle.

As part of the 100 Resilient Cities project with the Rockefeller Foundation, eThekwini is planning to have its resilient strategy in place by June 2017. As a result of he planning commission the municipality is creating an urban observatory which will provide a database which is credible and independent and that cannot be manipulated for political purposes, putting the information in the public domain to enable informed decision making. EThekwini has developed a built environment performance plan which speaks to integration zones, urban network strategies and transport oriented development, which deals with both demand management as well as managing demand and alternative supply, renewable energies and also how to get better value out of existing infrastructure. More importantly it is helping the Municipality to internalise the SDGs into its planning. The city is working on urban management initiatives in regeneration areas and catalytic projects. It is also looking at properly defining the space between the political and administrative leadership, and there are many grey areas in the South African context which provide opportunity for abuse and corruption. Tackling this includes bringing in systems of evidence-based decision making and improving efficiency. The challenge on the finance side is not just about how to get better value from the existing sources of funding, but also how to broaden the funding envelope eg through the kind of green finance mentioned at this meeting. EThekwini is focusing on taking this forward radically. A major challenge in the new urban context is coproduction, and capacitation of others to build trust and understanding to work with the municipality.

He finished by reminding the meeting that during the 2015 meeting in Singapore in, the CSCN had agreed **four recommendations** some of which CLGF has started to take forward: first was taking stock of what is happening around the world on localising the SDGs; second was a best practice compendium which would be useful if it could capture all the initiatives shared at the meeting, third was the generic roadmap, including the implementation framework and toolkit, and the last thing which was the importance of change management and training, to get more people capacitated to participate in local governance and development.

Ben Bolgar, Senior Director, The Prince's Foundation for Building Community – working with CLGF and the Commonwealth Association of Planners on a rapid response planning framework or toolkit to be ready for CHOGM 2018. After mapping the issue it became clear that most of the existing tools are very sector-orientated and what are most common are checklists of sustainability. He explained that they had decided to focus on secondary cities: those with populations of around 100,000 to one million+ and particularly city extensions. Growing existing cities is the focus of the initiative. He explained that the reason why it must be rapid is that it is projected that up to three billion people will be moving into towns and cities in the next 35 years – equivalent to every major urban conurbation doubling in one generation. He indicated that the Foundation felt the need to start sharing some simple rules of thumb that talk to communities, local government and particularly urban planners, architects and engineers. The greatest challenge will be to plan efficient and well designed settlements that allow communities to thrive. Failure to do so will result in billions of people living in unplanned settlements or slums. The Prince's Foundation for Building Community is focusing on innovation, including experimental green housing. He gave examples from Port Talbot, Plymouth, Newquay and Northampton which showcased city expansion and walkable green communities, regeneration, and year round job creation. He went on to give examples of their water management programme in Gabon.

Josep Roig, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments discussed the concept of a holistic framework for co-creating the city with many actors – starting from the bottom with citizens, that organise themselves through elected government; they also run private business and create civil society at the local, national and global levels. The objectives of the different actors are not the same, so the resulting city will be very different depending on who has the power. A city that is government-led will be very different to a city that is led by the market (and this varies with global or local markets) and very different again from a city that is led by the citizens. The city is a complicated result of a complicated set of actors. He said that to know who is ruling the processes, you need to see the governance and resources. On governance you need to know who has set the rules and the legislation. A master plan should be seen as a governance instrument. In thinking about resources it is not just about finances, although these are very important, but also human resources, land and technology. In the New Urban Agenda there are four main objectives, which are part of this holistic view – It is about implementation of the 2030 Agenda, climate agenda, the finance agenda, and the resilience agenda. We defend this urban agenda through the right to the city, which includes social issues and culture. Secondly it focuses on the importance of sustainability and efficiency and the efficient use of resources. He acknowledged that there is a global call for a paradigm shift in patterns of production and consumption, explaining that there are seven types of economies going on in any city at one time: the corporate economy: the consumer economy, the collaborative economy, the civic economy (incl. the informal economy), the creative economy, the criminal economy, and the technology economy. He suggested that cities must prepare for just-in-time urbanisation to cope with growth, and finally that they must address resilience, which includes both climate change and the risk agenda. Central to all of these is the importance of innovation to prepare for the demands of cities in the future.

The **discussion** focused on the pros and cons of retrofitting old areas of cities, rather than building whole new neighbourhoods, and it was noted that it will often be necessary to plan both for expansion as well as retro-fitting. In Africa, municipalities near to major cities are encouraged to break away from the model of walled and gated communities to develop more diverse and integrated communities. Whether its brown fields (inner city land) or green fields (city periphery) development, the reasons for development are likely to be similar, it is the "how" that will vary. In retro-fitting high-density brown-field areas, around existing infrastructure, it is important to involve the various stakeholders more, possibly using special purpose vehicles where there is an equity stake. There was discussion about the tensions between city master-planning and metropolisation, and the legitimate claims for local democracy at the sub-city level, not least through extensive and pro-active public consultation, often over many years to agree major city-wide infrastructure developments. The sub-city local boards (in Auckland) have some limited responsibilities within the city now that it has a single mayor, and there is a constant discussion as to where certain responsibilities should sit. It was also mentioned that bottom up planning came out of the poor top down planning of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and there is a need to balance the level of consultation and urgency of need. For holistic planning to be realised it is necessary to connect policy, planning and implementation but where cities fall down is that they are using outdated laws and practices that are creating poor policy. Planning should use the built-environment approach and cities need to be more innovative in implementation, especially with respect to financing. Inequality is a very real issue and social cohesion is important – not just within communities, but also across communities (including minority and indigenous populations), and celebrating diversity. A focal issue must be around how fit for purpose city public institutions are and how they engage all the various stakeholders in the city. Whilst all cities have common issues, it is the nuances of each city that require different responses.

Closing session: Next steps forward
Chair: Cllr Philip McPhee, President, Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities and CLGF Vice-chairperson.

The session was opened by **Luana Natali –** Programme Analyst, UNDP who observed the need to adapt to a changing environment of rapid demographic shifts with demands for economic development in cities and urban centres. She highlighted the opportunities of urbanisation, mindful that as cities grow they increase in financial, economic and cultural clout. She noted the potential for green finance and unlocking local potential. She also highlighted the need for the disaggregation of local data after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, suggesting that greater use of ICT, including with respect to data, would complement the implementation of the SDGs. She emphasised that tools are required to link planning to implementation in localising the SDGs, and sharing good practices would support stakeholders in different places. Inclusive partnerships between national and sub-national will be essential to successful achievement of the SDGs. All of these steps she argued will require transformative action towards sustainable urban development which could be strategically addressed through the perspective of local economic development. UNDP's support for the 2030 Urban Agenda will be pursued through partnerships with organizations such as CLGF and UCLG.

Robert Lewis-Lettington, Coordinator, Legislation, Land and Governance, UN Habitat emphasised the importance of urban safety, financing, ICT and improvement in the quality of planning towards the 2030 development agenda. He suggested that the way forward requires: land management and regulatory requirements with more locally appropriate frameworks to enable incremental development and to guide land tenure, lot sizes, plot management etc, Property taxation tools to be examined and linked to land capture in addressing local financing, a paradigm shift towards the potential of urban centres as wealth-creators instead of wealth-consumers, so that money put into solving problems in cities is not seen as a financial burden, since safe cities will attract more economic growth. He emphasised the importance of planning according to the scale of investment, keeping plans simple and in sync with capacity, premised on the concept that simple approaches are better than complex thematic plans.

He suggested that Important priorities for effective implementation of the NUA include overhauling the regulatory system to enable flexibility and direct delivery, management of relationships between the different spheres of government (noting the CLGF principle of inclusion of ministerial alongside local government practitioner), and cognisance of the voice of local government and local priorities. He indicated that his organisation was mindful that about 90% of the legal issues that UN Habitat deals with are pivotal to local government

William Cobbett – Director, Cities Alliance observed that there were two over-arching challenges confronting rapid urbanisation and secondary cities: achieving equitable economic growth and managing change in alignment to the urban agenda to determine an incremental or revolutionary approach**.** He suggested that the framework established in the Paris Agreement was enough, to which political leadership could be added, for a transformational approach in order to deal with rapid urbanisation. He stated that the majority of existing problems were associated with bad decisions and planning, noting that policies should be informed by proper data. He observed that growing cities in Africa were not the result of urban migration but the result of birth rate ie: natural population growth, and this requires a relevant policy response. Mr Cobbett proffered the following conditions for success: A completely new relationship between local government and central government: a departure from the power struggle to a collaborative and coherent relationship, transforming the relationship between cities and their citizens, promoting partnerships, inclusive of corporate citizens, professionalization of the local civil service who run the cities, with adequate compensation packages, Institutions, he advised, must be solid in order to be efficient and achieve results, concluding that stability and rule of law were essential.

Finally, **Dr. Carl Wright,** Secretary General, CLGF in recalling the chief function of a city underscored the need for: Inclusivity, resilience and safety, economic growth with financing solutions, an advisory protocol for sustainable cities, a partnership approach with central government instead of a competitive relationship, greater use of ICT and holistic planning as a fundamental principle. He emphasise the need for local governments to focus on implementation.

Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN) the way forward:

A number of key recommendations emerged from the meeting and these were reflected on by the immediate past chairperson, Mayor Lawrence Yule. These will be encapsulated in the work plan of the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network:

- There is a need for specific advocacy from the local government community globally to change the perception of cities especially among national governments, highlighting the many opportunities of urbanisation and ensuring that the new urban agenda is driven by cities.

- CLGF should support the development of new relationships to improve local/central government trust and enhance multi-level governance and coordination, e.g. around revenue sharing, ICT protocols.

- The CSCN membership must have specific actions on urban informality and supporting informal governance arrangements.

- There should be a strong focus on the importance of the urban/rural balance and the needs of secondary cities.

- There must be enhanced professionalism of local government staff, helping to develop the "smart" people in local government to complement smart technology.

- CLGF must maximise opportunities from the Commonwealth Hub; enhance links with the Commonwealth Secretariat and facilitate greater engagement with thought leaders.

- Explore ways in which cities can participate in and benefit from international trade agreements.

- Encourage and enhance relationships between cities and citizens, including formal and informal private sector participation.

- There is a need to investigate new land management patterns and good practices on incremental infrastructure and plot sizes.

- The CSCN should look to facilitate its members to access resources such as climate fund.

- CSCN should support its member to improve locally generated revenue including property tax.

- The network should help ensure that toolkits around urban issues are coordinated.

- There is a need to support monitoring and evaluation.

- Disseminate best practices and good precedents around city sustainability and urban management.

Meeting participants at Marlborough House