SUSTAINABLE CITIES

LIVEABLE CITIES

CITIES AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT

▶ The urban population has grown by 20% in the past 50 years.

▶ The fast rate of growth is expected to continue, with urbanisation reaching 70% of the global population by 2050 (or the equivalent of over 2 billion more people in cities)

▶ Urban population growth is expected to continue and the UN estimates that by 2050, 66% of the global population will live in cities.

▶ This growth is predominantly occurring in Asia and Africa in countries that are often unprepared and unable to meet the growing needs of the urban residents.

▶ This unprecedented era of increasing urbanisation has massive effects on populations, economies, environmental and humanitarian aspects of cities all over the world.

Planning Sustainable Cities

▶ Urban planning is a tool for dealing with the growing challenges facing 21st – century cities and for enhancing sustainable urbanization.

▶ There is now a realisation that in many parts of the world, urban planning systems have changed very little and are often contributors to urban problems rather than functioning as tools for human and environmental improvement.

▶ It is against this background that we are requesting the urban planners of today to change the approaches to planning and a new role for urban planning in sustainable urban development has to be found.

▶ Future urban planning must take place within an understanding of the factors shaping 21st-century cities.

▶ It is crucial and critical important that government accept urbanization as a positive phenomenon and an effective means for improving access to services, as well as economic and social opportunities.

▶ If urban planning is to play a more effective role in sustainable urban development, countries need to develop overall national urban strategies.

Principles of Sustainable Cities

- SUSTAINABILITY – "The well being of the natural world and the responsible use of resources."

- RESILIENCE – "The ability of a city to cope with destabilizing forces"

- VULNERABILITY – "Exposure to negative environmental" for example climate change
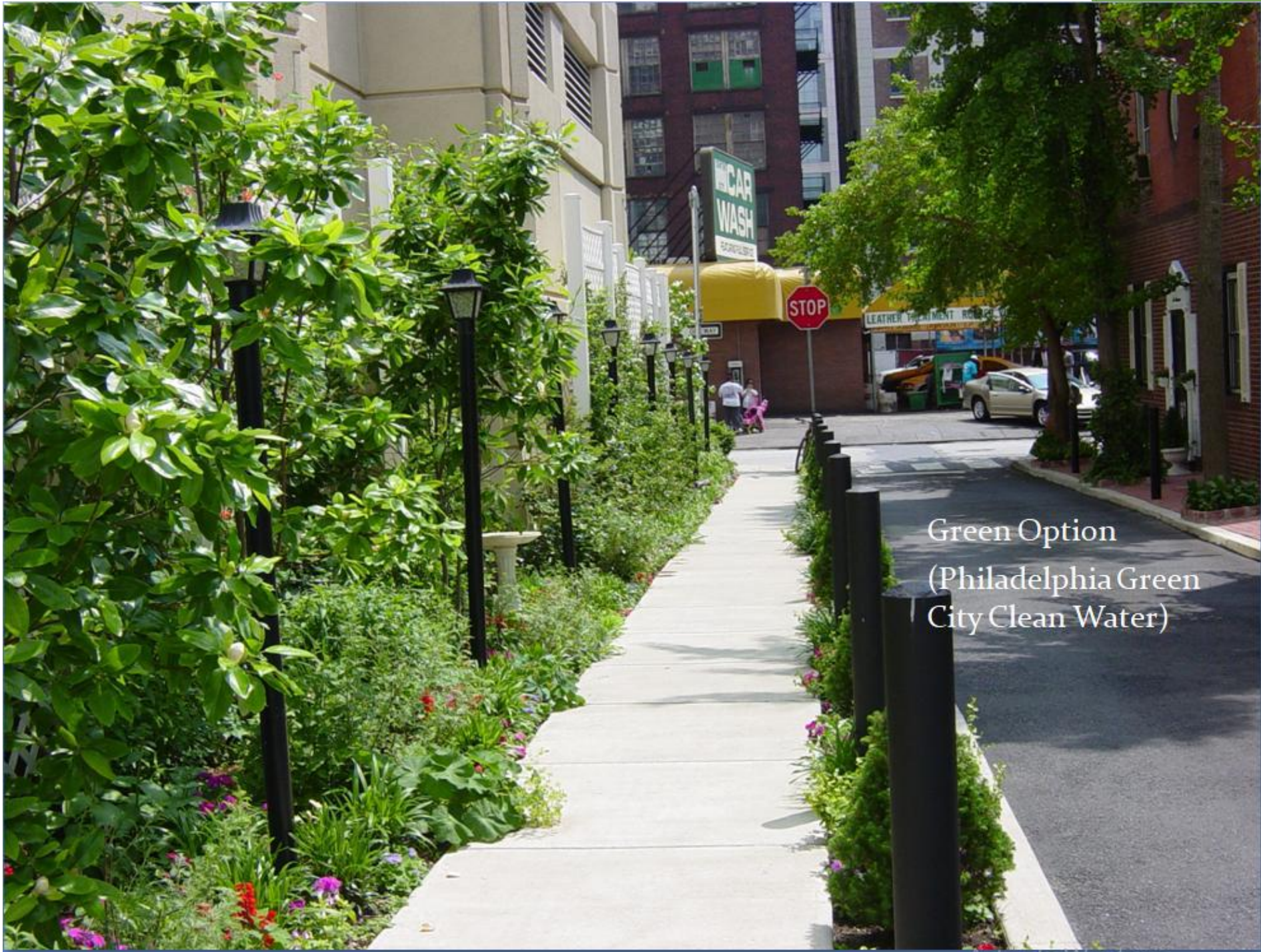
- DIVERSITY – "Various and/or different ways"

Sustainable Cities are attained when:

- Vulnerability is reduced

- Resilience is increased

- Diversity is also increased.

Hundreds of People Are Still Missing Due to Landslide in Sierra Leone

Green Option
(Philadelphia Green
City Clean Water)

What are the current and future urban challenges?

Demographic challenges

➢ In 2008, for the first time in history, over half of the world's population lived in urban areas and according to current projections, this will have risen to 70% be 2050.

➢ It is predicted that many new megacities of over 10 million people and hyper-cities of over 20 million will emerge during the next few decades.

➢ A key problem is that most of the rapid urban growth is taking place in countries least able to cope- in terms of the ability of governments to provide, or facilitate the provision of urban infrastructure, also the ability of the urban residents to pay for such services as well as building resilience with natural disasters

➢ The inevitable result has been the rapid growth of urban slums and squatter settlements

Environmental Challenges

▶ One of the most significant environmental challenges at present is climate change.

▶ It is predicted that within cities climate change will negatively affect access to water and that hundreds of millions of people will be **vulnerable** to coastal flooding and related natural disasters of global warming increasing.

▶ Moreover, it will be the poorest countries and people who will be most vulnerable to this threat and who will suffer the earliest and the most.

▶ High urban land and housing costs currently are pushing the lowest-income people into locations that are prone to natural hazards.

▶ Significantly such disasters are only partly a result of natural disasters and are also products of failed urban development and planning

▶ A second major concern is the environmental impact of fossil fuel use in urban areas especially of oil and its likely long-term increase in cost.

▶ The global use of oil as an energy source has both promoted and permitted urbanisation, and its easy availability has allowed the emergence of low-density and sprawling urban forms highly dependent on private cars.

Economic Challenges

▶ Processes of globalization and economic restricting in recent decades have impacted in various ways on urban settlements in both developed and developing countries and will continue to do so.

▶ Particularly significant has been the impact on urban labour markets which show a growing polarization of occupational and income structures.

▶ The global economic crisis that began in 2008 has accelerated economic restructuring and led to the rapid growth of unemployment in all parts of the world.

▶ One important and result of these economic and policy process on urban labour markets has been rapid growth of the urban informal economy in all regions of the world but particularly in developing countries.

▶ Among the most significant challenges that urban planning has to address in the next few decades, especially in the developing countries are increasing poverty and inequality as well as to the rapidly expanding urban informal sector.

Socio-spatial challenges

- Urban planners and managers have increasingly found themselves confronted by new spatial forms and processes, the drivers of which often lie outside the control of local government.

- Socio-spatial change seems to have taken place primarily in the direction of the fragmentation, separation and specialization of functions and uses within cities which reflect growing difference between the rich and the poorer areas in both developed and developing cities.

- In some parts of the world, including in Latin American and Caribbean cities, fear of crime has increased urban fragmentation as middle and upper-income households segregate themselves into "gated-communities" and other types of high-security residential complexes.

- In many poorer cities, spatial forms are largely driven by the efforts of low-income households to secure land that is affordable and in a location close to employment and other livelihoods sources.

Institutional Challenges

- Formal urban planning systems are typically within the public sector, with local government usually being the most responsible tier.

- Within the last three decades, and closely linked to processes of globalization, there have been significant transformations in local government in many parts of the world, making them very different setting from those within which modern urban planning was originally conceived about 100 years ago.

- The most commonly recognized change has been the expansion of the urban political system from "government" to "governance" which in developed countries represents a response to the growing complexity of governing in a globalizing and multilevel context as well as the involvement of a range of non-state actors in the process of governing.

- In addition, urban planning at the local government level has also had to face challenges from shift in the scale of urban decision-making.

- Another global trend has been in the area of participation especially now when inclusiveness is the word of the day in Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda: "Sustainable urban Development for social inclusion and ending poverty."

Key Messages towards a new role for urban planning to attain sustainable Urban development

Broad Policy Directions

- Governments, both central and local, should increasingly take on a more central role in cities and town in order to lead development initiatives and ensure that basic needs are met.

- Reformed urban planning systems must fully address a number of major current and emerging urban challenges, especially climate change, rapid urbanization, poverty, informality and safety.

- A particularly important precondition for the success of urban planning systems is that countries should develop a national perspective on the role of urban areas and challenges of urbanization, articulated in some form of national urban policy

- Capacity to enforce urban planning regulations, which is seriously lacking in many developing countries, should be given very high priority and should be developed on the basis of realistic standards.

Institutional and regulatory frameworks for planning

➢ In the design and reconfiguration of planning systems, careful attention should be given to identifying investment and livelihood opportunities that can be built on, as well as pressures that could lead to the subversion and corruption of planning institutions.

➢ Urban planning can and should play a significant role in overcoming governance fragmentation in public policy formulation and decision-making, since the national and local development policies and related investments have a spatial dimension.

Participation, Planning and Politics

- Governments need to implement a number of minimum but critical measures with respect to the political and legal environment as well as financial and human resources, in order to ensure that participation is meaningful, socially inclusive and contributes to improve urban planning.

- Governments, both national and local, together with non-governmental organizations, must facilitate the development of a vibrant civil society and ensure that effective participatory mechanisms are put in place.

Bridging the Green and Brown Agendas

- In order to integrate the green and brown agendas in cities, urban local authorities should implement a comprehensive set of green policies and strategies covering urban design, energy, infrastructure, transport, waste and slums.

- Many green innovations can, and should, be comprehensively integrated into statutory urban planning and development control systems, including planning standards and building regulations.

Urban Planning and Informality

- Governments and local authorities must, recognize the important role of the informal sector that ensure that urban planning systems respond positively to this phenomenon, including through legislation.

- More specific innovative and tried approached to land development and use of space should be adopted and implemented if urban policy and planning are to effectively respond to informality

Planning, Spatial Structure of Cities and Provision of Infrastructure

▶ Strategic spatial plans linked to infrastructure development can promote more compact forms of urban expansion focused around accessibility and public transport.

▶ To enhance the sustainable expansion of cities and facilitate the delivery of urban services, urban local authorities should formulate infrastructure plans as key elements of strategic spatial plans.

▶ Regional governance structures are required to manage urban growth that spreads across administrative boundaries, which is increasingly the case in all regions of the world.

The Monitoring and Evaluation of Urban Plans

▶ Urban planning should integrate monitoring and evaluation as permanent feature.

▶ Traditional evaluation tools – such as cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and fiscal impact assessment- are still relevant, given the realities of local government resource constraints.

▶ All evaluations should involve extensive consultations with, and contributions by, all plan stakeholders.

▶ Most routine monitoring and evaluation should focus on the implementation of site, subdivision and neighbourhood plans.

Planning Education

▶ There is significant need for updating and reform of curricula in many urban planning schools, particularly in many developing and transition countries where urban planning education has not kept up with current challenges and emerging issues.

▶ Finally, urban planning schools should educate students to work in different world contexts by adopting the "one-word" approach.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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