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**Abstract by:
Gulnara Roll, Head, UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit**

**Promoting sustainable urban development through the UNECE/ITU Smart Sustainable City Indicators**

Housing and urban environment conditions have a direct effect on the physical and mental health of the population. Poor housing and indoor environments cause, or contribute to, many preventable diseases. A degraded urban environment, with air and noise pollution and a lack of green and public spaces and mobility options, poses health risks.

Building smart homes and smart cities therefore should aim most importantly at supporting the improvement of the quality of human life. To ensure the quality of life of the population and to promote long-term sustainability of cities, governments and stakeholders should make every effort to apply an integrated approach in planning smart cities, taking into account principles of: environmental protection; economic effectiveness; social inclusion and participation; and cultural adequacy (see more on the principles in [Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing](http://www.unece.org/housing/charter.html), 2015).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Telecommunication Union in cooperation with the Environment Agency Austria and other organisations elaborated **Smart Sustainable Cities indicators**, which are based on the integrated approach.

The indicators were developed as a tool to evaluate in a comprehensive manner the status of a city, assess its strengths and weaknesses, set priorities for actions and define measures to address them. The indicators can also be seen as a good monitoring tool to evaluate the changes in the city’s performance over a certain period of time and after several actions have been implemented.

These Smart Sustainable City Indicators have already reflected the content of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were approved in September 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. Therefore, the UNECE/ITU Smart Sustainable Cities Indicators will help cities to evaluate their performance against the SDGs. These indicators are expected to be used to develop cities’ profiles and support cities in improving their sustainable development.

The future application of the UNECE/ITU Smart Sustainable City indicators will promote the implementation of important UN policy documents, including the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. It will also provide an important input into the development the New Urban Agenda to be adopted by the [United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – HABITAT III](https://www.habitat3.org/) in 2016.