

Ha Noi Declaration on Realizing Smart Cities and Communities in Asia through Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Solutions and Measures¹

Preamble

There is a clear global imperative to re-think the way cities and urban areas are designed, developed and managed in order to secure economic, social and environmental benefits. State-of-the-art urban design, integrated land-use and multi-modal transport planning, low-carbon transport solutions, climate and disaster resilient infrastructure, people and environment friendly transportation system and application of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) are not only vital to addressing current urban challenges and prepare cities to thrive in the future, but also critical to achieve inclusive and sustainable urban development and meeting the needs of all, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, ensuring that “no one is left behind”.

Currently more than half of the global population lives in the urban areas, and it is expected to be more than 68% by 2050. While Asia-Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable to climate change as well as the natural disasters, it also leads the global pace of urbanization. The ultimate goal of the smart city is to make the city safer, economically vibrant, social protective and environmentally sustainable by promoting effective use of resources and reducing the costs through smart solutions that enhance the quality of life of city residence.

Smart cities leverage state-of-the-art technologies such as modern information and communication technologies (ICT) to make cities more efficient and effective by optimizing its utilities and services towards improving the quality of life. It further helps in improving living standards by reducing the environmental burdens and carbon footprints, which help build cities safer, resilient, liveable, inclusive and sustainable as envisaged under SDG 11.

Urban mobility is fundamental to any city, and smart transportation is increasingly playing an important role to improve safety, efficiency and convenience by reducing traffic congestion, air pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities.

Declaration

We, the representatives of member countries and local governments of the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia,² international organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society organizations, the scientific and academic community, the private sector, sustainable transport professionals, and other stakeholders having met at the Twelfth Regional EST Forum in Asia, held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, from 28 to 31 October 2019, unanimously adopt the “**Ha Noi Declaration on Smart Cities Realizing Smart Cities and Communities through Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Solutions and Measures**” to give further inspiration and encouragement to all who are working on promoting environmentally sustainable transport with

Understanding that rapid population growth, inefficient urbanization and increasing private motor vehicle/automobile dependence are putting unprecedented pressure on many cities in Asia, and that such cities face common challenges including traffic congestion, air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, road accidents and fatalities, safety and security issues, insufficient infrastructure and financial resources, among others;

¹ The Ha Noi Declaration is a good-will, voluntary and legally non-binding Declaration.

² Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and observer countries (.....).

Noting the outcome of the 2018 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the central global platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, which was convened under the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies,” including a focus on SDG 11, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, that adopted a Ministerial Declaration “*From global to local: Supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities*”;

Reinforcing calls for the development of Smart Cities and Communities that harness new technologies for the betterment of the economy, society and environment in which environmentally sustainable transport can play a vital role in creating cities and communities;

Recognizing that environmentally sustainable transport and recent advances in state-of-the-art technologies and digital solutions which present significant opportunities in transport sector, such as: Artificial Intelligence (AI); Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS); Internet of Things (IoT); Information and Communication Technology (ICT) which helps with traffic management, and geospatial databases to monitor various aspects in the city; urban spatial data information systems; data analytics to support city operations and drive innovation; and automation;

Noting that the increase of private motor vehicle/automobile usage leads to many direct and indirect negative effects on public health, as fatalities and injuries caused by traffic accidents and vehicular air pollution;

Recalling the commitments to achieve the sustainable transport goals under the Bangkok 2020 Declaration on EST (2010-2020) agreed upon by the participants at the Fifth Regional EST Forum, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23-25 August 2010;

Noting the East Asia Summit Leaders’ Statement on ASEAN Smart Cities (13th EAS, Singapore, 15 November 2018), which calls inter alia for inclusive approach to smart city development with a focus on people-centric solutions, well-being and the quality of life, which creates opportunities across the rural-urban continuum, amplifies the voice of citizens, and leaves no one behind including women, children, youth, elderly people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;

Recognizing the ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High-level Meeting (Yokohama, 8-9 October 2019), which discussed the subjects and important issues in promoting smart cities, the ideal images, as well as the future view of the cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, and affirms the importance of the “Challenge-Oriented” concept, where advanced technologies are incorporated in order to solve various urban challenges, such as disaster risk reduction, water management, city planning, and transportation, and also the “Overall Optimization” concept, where optimizing the entire city or region through management using advanced technologies and wise know-hows is considered to solve the challenges cross-cuttingly and comprehensively;

- 1) **Express** our support for the sustainable transport-related commitments in existing interlinked and mutually reinforcing global agreements such as: the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the Habitat III New Urban Agenda; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; the Paris Climate Agreement; and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among others;
- 2) **Express** our intent to develop and introduce effective policies, planning and infrastructure development for smart cities through integrated and sustainable transport solutions to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes in cities and communities working with local governments to contribute to SDG 11, to combat growing private motor vehicles/automobile dependence and the associated issues;

- 3) **Promote** innovative public-private partnerships (PPP) that integrate land use and transport planning to attract private investment in transit infrastructure based on opportunities for integrated Transit-oriented Developments (ToDs), particularly when using new technology transit systems;
- 4) **Seek** to demonstrate how state-of-the-art smart technologies can be used to create better sustainable transport options rather than simply assisting greater use of cars and trucks, and share lessons learned in manuals of best practice in transport planning and engineering;
- 5) **Promote** integrated transport and urban planning to avoid "excessive motorization" because of rapid development of cities and agglomerations;
- 6) **Promote** smart transport solutions by integrating transport network of effective traffic management, public transport, dedicated cycling and walking facilities, optimized road networks, and well-managed city parking using various smart solutions such as – internet of things (IoT), information and communication technologies (ICTs), intelligent transport systems (ITS), electric mobility, autonomous driving vehicles, sensors, smart apps and mobile devices, among others;
- 7) **Endorse** solutions aimed to implement best practices in sphere of public electric transport, cycling and walking, including its reflection in transport and spatial planning and policies;
- 8) **Enhance** existing financing and **explore** new innovative financing mechanisms and investment opportunities to build sustainable, smart, quality and resilient infrastructure development to benefit urban, periurban and rural surrounding areas;
- 9) **Promote** and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship to unlock the potential of digital technology and start-ups, as well as to share best practices to spur smart cities' development while-taking into account different levels of city development, cultures and priorities;
- 10) **Strengthen** scientific cooperation in the field of sustainable development with joint research activities, coordination of experts, publishing of scientific journals and publications, organization of study and training programs on sustainable urban development;
- 11) **Encourage** the project formation of smart cities by sharing best practices with advanced technologies and success stories, and by promoting knowledge management through the Regional EST Forum in Asia, and relevant national sustainable transport fora;
- 12) **Advocate** for the sustainable transport options as outlined in this agreement to be part of climate change and sustainability related pledges and international agreements to promote international efforts in delivering the SDGs; and
- 13) **Request** the UN organizations, multilateral banks and donor agencies to minimize the capacity gaps of countries and cities in implementing sustainable transport solutions and measures in achieving the international agenda and agreements such as United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Habitat III New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Ha Noi Declaration.