

Joint Action Plan 2021 – 2022

Between

**Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Republic of India**

And

**The Delegation of the European Union to India
on Cooperation of the Implementation of the
India – European Union Partnership on
Smart and Sustainable Urbanization**

At the 14th Summit between India and the EU held on 6 October 2017, the Prime Minister of India and the Presidents of the European Council and European Commission adopted a Joint Declaration on a Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanization with the view to step up the cooperation including priority sectors such as the upgrading of Urban Infrastructure for Transport and Sanitation, Developing Smart Cities in India, as well as promoting the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations adopted in 2016.

The 15th Summit between India and the European Union (EU) was held in virtual format on 15th July 2020. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission met at the Summit.

The Leaders endorsed this “EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025” as a common roadmap to guide joint action and further strengthen the EU-India Strategic Partnership over the next five years. The Roadmap to 2025 includes Urban Development.

On 3rd May 2021, the European Union and India organized the 2nd Joint Working Group Urbanization as part of the implementation of the partnership and will organise 2nd India-EU Urban Forum on 4-5 May 2021.

The 3 days will take stock of the cooperation between the EU and India on urbanization to date which will contribute to shape the agenda for future engagement of the EU and its Member States in India’s urbanization.

At the India-EU JWG meeting on 3rd May 2021, the European Union and India have agreed on a Joint Action Plan which includes:

1. Promoting Smart and Sustainable Cities

Continue technical cooperation on all aspects of smart and sustainable cities :
Action 1.1: Facilitate sharing of best practices on the implementation of urban projects supported by the EU and Member States in India through the online EU-India project dashboard.

Action 1.2: Continue to work with Urban Local Bodies to promote integrated urban management actions and improve basic municipal services such as water, wastewater, sanitation and solid waste management and results are fed into Urban Projects Dashboard.

Action 1.3 Continue to support smart cities in India, such as under the EU-Agence Française de Développement Smart City project, focussing on sustainable mobility, public open spaces, social and organisational innovation and urban e-governance.

Action 1.4: Explore opportunities for collaboration in the urban sector under a recently approved regional intervention: Accelerating Climate Smart and Inclusive Infrastructure in South Asia (ACSIIS), which includes India and five other South Asian countries.

Action 1.5: Facilitate integrating urban big data systems with local data systems using cutting edge technology such as blockchains for inclusive municipal planning and increasing awareness of cities on better data management, drafting city data policies and complementarity to the Smart Cities mission.

Action 1.6: A new EU funded Technical Assistance Contract on International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) three year Programme in Asia and Australasia has been started in January 2021. The Programme will cover around 14 cities in India. This is to ensure continuation of the EU International Urban Cooperation (IUC) Programme in terms of:

- Continue Support to City-to-City pairings and cooperation between Indian and European Cities on sustainable urban development, with a focus on city pairings that shows the highest potential
- Support cities in obtaining funding for pilot implementation
- Establish a strong urban cooperation network and share knowledge and information between international, national and sub-national authorities
- Expand the IUC's reach and effectiveness.

Action 1.7: Enhance support on city-to-city pairing and cooperation between Indian and European cities on sustainable urban development, to contribute to the achievement of India's climate change commitments, and exchange/transfer know-how and capacities with EU cities in the fields of urban sustainable development, energy efficiency and climate action.

Action 1.8: Continue contribution to implement climate actions in cities through the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework under the ClimateSmart Cities Alliance instituted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Action 1.9: Further enhance collaboration between European and Indian institutions, start-ups, industry, student and the academia on the smart city standards and best practices through a series of tutorials, hackathons, webinars, and study tours.

Action 1.10: Explore further support to the development of IT platform for Indian smart cities (Initiated by the MoHUA) facilitating the creation of services based on combination and analysis of data, and using relevant standards for optimal interoperability.

Action 1.11: Share good practices in urban planning, especially on Pandemic & Climate Resilience, Transit Oriented Development, application of GIS and Remote sensing for urban mapping etc.

2. Promoting investments in Sustainable Urbanization

Continue cooperation on financing of sustainable urbanization:

Action 2.1: The EU's Asia Investment Facility commitment of leveraging loans of EUFI's providing technical assistance, investment grants, guarantees/de-risking investments, to attract stakeholders and bolster infrastructure investments including the following pipeline projects under discussion: Further support to the 2nd phase of the EU AFD "City Investments To Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain (CITIIS)" project will be explored.

Support to Chandigarh 24/7 Water Supply programme in partnership with Agence Française de Development, with the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation.

Explore possible collaboration through a regional programme on "Accelerating Climate Smart Investments in South Asia (ACSIIS), which includes India and five other South Asian countries.

Action 2.2: Explore technical support to make cities financially sustainable.

3. Promoting Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities

Continue technical cooperation related to promotion of climate action and disaster risk reduction in cities:

Action 3.1: Work towards the provision to cities a suit of tools (e.g., exchange

visits, workshops, training) that will support their effort to develop Climate Action Plans, to mainstream climate issues into the sectoral policies and other climate initiatives.

Action 3.2: A new EU funded Technical Assistance contract to support the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) in Asia been started in January 2021.

4. Developing effective solid waste management & treatment – Promoting circular economy

Action 4.1: Explore Government of India interests for technical assistance in infrastructure for integrated solid & liquid waste management, notably on development of facilities for the material processing of construction and demolition waste in for example Bihar.

Action 4.2: In cooperation with the government of India and state governments, facilitate the implementation of low-carbon waste solutions for a circular economy in Indian cities. This may include material flow analysis and waste inventory in target cities, as a basis for eco design, reverse logistics, repair, re manufacturing and up cycling.

Action 4.3: share expertise in waste management planning and explore supporting a ULB in the definition of a waste management Masterplan.

Action 4.4: work towards the setting up a training programme for senior officials of Government of India, State Government and Municipal Authorities to develop their expertise on waste management & treatment and circular economy. Selecting and training of targeted local agencies.

Action 4.5: share the expertise in Construction and Demolition waste management. This may include cooperation on three Resource Efficiency Committees and draft action plans under NITI Aayog on Construction and Demolition Waste, Dry Waste and Organic Waste.

Action 4.6: Facilitate a study visit for MoHUA/Govt. of India officials on Construction and Demolition Waste management/circular economy.

Action 4.7: Identify areas in which engaging in possible joint research and innovation projects could facilitate the implementation of the agenda.

Action 4.8: Identify potential pilot cities for remediation of legacy landfills.

5. Promoting involvement of European businesses in sustainable urbanization

Facilitate involvement of businesses in the Partnership on smart and sustainable urbanisation, as well as partnerships between the EU and Indian businesses, to support companies in identifying partners, access to financing, and adapting technologies and business models to the Indian context.

Through the EU funded Business Support project, have a strong focus on facilitating involvement of European businesses in the Partnership on Smart and Sustainable Urbanization through:

Action 5.1: Presenting business opportunities in India to EU businesses and policy makers.

Action 5.2: Identifying innovative EU business solutions and best practices relevant for smart and sustainable urbanization in India.

Action 5.3: Implementing pilot projects in order to advance on partnerships between the EU and Indian business and supporting them in identifying partners, offering advice related to the access to financing of projects, and supporting them in adapting technologies to the Indian context, if necessary by connecting with research institutes, and help in designing appropriate business models.

Action 5.4 considering joint research and innovation projects that will facilitate the realisation of the Urban Agenda, in particular through engaging with start-ups.

6. Developing effective water supply & sewage system

Explore technical exchanges on integrated water management and protection of water resources and environment:

Action 6.1: the organization of a seminar in the water sector, with Indian & EU Experts

Action 6.2: explore Government of India interests for infrastructure financing & technical Assistance on effective water supply.

Action 6.3: study the development of a mechanism, which will enable Urban Local Bodies to document actual climate actions potentials from the wastewater sector.

Action 6.4: consider the establishment of an Urban Water Association within the framework of the Gol AMRUT Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewerage networks and water supply for urban transformation.

Action 6.5: Facilitate technological cooperation for reduction of Non-Revenue Water (NRW).

Action 6.6: Support making cities 'water secure' through promoting water conservation, rejuvenation of water bodies and recycle and reuse of treated waste water.

7. Innovation in Housing

Initiate technical exchanges on cost-effective, sustainable and adaptable planning and design techniques, technology and construction principles and perspectives on the theme of mass housing within the framework of Housing for All Mission in urban areas.

This will be based on:

Action 7.1: Identification and validation of new construction technologies which are sustainable, faster and cost effective through Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), an autonomous body under the aegis of MoHUA in association with entities identified by EU side for social mass housing in India.

Action 7.2: Global Housing Technology Challenge- India (GHTC-India) provides opportunities for EU companies to establish practice of New and modern technologies for mass housing projects. Companies from EU will be encouraged to participate in ongoing initiatives under GHTC and beyond.

Action 7.3: Explore possibilities of joint research, in particular on recycling of construction materials.

Action 7.4: Explore technical support for promoting Slum free urbanisation, coupled with redevelopment existing slums in pilot cities.

Action 7.5: Continue to support affordable green housing, such as under the EU-Agence Française de Développement (AFD) SUNREF project, focussing on supporting and developing innovative green investments through environmental credit lines for local financial institutions.

8. Sustainable Urban Mobility

Continue to enhance and strengthen the existing cooperation; and exchange best practices in funding, organization and governance.

This will be based especially on:

Action 8.1: The European Investment Bank (EIB) will continue to appraise investment for new projects in the field of urban transport, notable metro rail Projects.

Action 8.2: Explore the potential for support of EIB and other EU financial institutions to Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).

Action 8.3: Explore the potential for support of EIB and other EU financial institutions in developing new public transport solutions: MetroNeo, MetroLite, WaterMetro and Bus Rapid Transit System.

Action 8.4: Active participation in the next Urban Mobility India (UMI) conference, planned in Kochi in November 2021.

9. Follow up of the Action Plan

Implement the activities identified in the second India-EU Urban Forum and the second Joint Working group on Urbanisation organised in 2021, including on technological solutions, policies and practise for smart and sustainable urban development.

Action 9.1: Jointly develop a more detailed 3 years rolling work programme for the Partnership on Smart and Sustainable Urbanization including on Mainstreaming Resilience in Metropolitan Planning, Mobility and Solid Waste Management including single use plastic. This will include development of a

Project Mechanism on Mainstreaming Resilience in Metropolitan Planning and resilient urban infrastructure.

Action 9.2: Establish five Sub-Groups on 1) Sustainable Smart City Development, 2) Construction Technology & Housing for All, 3) Promoting Circular Economy & Solid Waste Management, 4) Conservation & Integrated Urban Water Management and 5) Green Urban Transport. The Sub-Groups will meet once before the next Joint Working Group Meeting. The results of the work in the Sub-Groups will be presented at the Joint Working Group Meeting.

Action 9.3: Jointly facilitate involvement of European Member States, Indian States, Cities, Businesses, Research - and Financing Institutions.

Action 9.4: Organise the 3rd India –EU Urban Forum and Joint Working Group aiming to further strengthen the cooperation on all aspects of urban development. Implement the activities identified in the second India-EU Urban Forum and the second Joint Working group on Urbanisation organised in 2021, including on technological solutions, policies and practise for smart and sustainable urban development.


Signed in New Delhi on 3rd May, 2021

For Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs



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