UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – Seoul National University

Governance Capacity Development Session Series

Strengthening Public Governance
& Accelerating Innovation to Achieve Agenda 2030

Session 2

Infusing ESG Principles into Smart City Development and Sustainable City Governance

Draft Session Guidance Note

Friday, 09 April 2021
15:00 -16:30 Seoul GMT+9

I. Background and Context

The world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history. More than half of the world's population now lives in towns and cities, and by 2030 this number will swell to about 5 billion. The importance of cities is enshrined in global development agendas, particularly the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The role of cities is prominently highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 and the urban dimensions of the SDGs. The whole spectrum of city planning, building design, architecting basic civic infrastructure, and organizing and implementing such plans should be fully framed and guided by the totality of elevation of citizen values, environmental and ecosystem protection, safety and security, health, life-long talent development, open business opportunities, social transparency, gender equality, respect for minor groups, and enriched cultural openness. In order to ensure that the urbanization could lead to building more climate-resilient, sustainable, inclusive and continuously improving societies, the smart city development should be fully framed and guided by an integrated and balanced benchmarking process, which could be measured by a set of indicators including the elevation of citizen values, environmental and ecosystem protection, safety and security, health, life-long talent development, open business opportunities, social transparency, gender equality, respect for minor groups, and the enriched cultural openness. For fulfilling this objective and making the cities of the future smarter and more sustainable, the ESG principles and approaches should be applied to Smart City development.

This Session will focus on how the principles and framework of ESG can be applied to the whole Smart City implementation projects through infusing the spirit, the core principles and the best practices of ESG into envisioning, planning, architecting, and implementing such Smart Cities. This Session will also cover how the Smart City management, based on ESG principles, can be governed through establishing the holistic framework with engagement of all stakeholders including municipal agencies, civic service entities, civil society organizations, private sector and citizens.

II. Structure & Agenda

Time (Seoul, GMT+9)	Session
15:00-15:05	**Opening by the Overall Moderator** **Dr. Hyenyoung Yoon,** Adjunct Professor, Deputy Director of Global R&DB Center(GRC), Seoul National University
15:05 - 16:25	**Presentations**
15:05 – 15:35	**Infusing ESG Principles into Smart City Development** **Dr. Junseok Hwang,** Professor, Director of Global R&DB Center(GRC), Seoul National University
15:35 – 16:05	**Smart for Whom? On the Governance of Smart City Infrastructure** **Dr. Martin BH Weiss,** Professor, Associate Director of Center for Governance and Markets, University of Pittsburgh
16:05 – 16:25	**Q&A**
16:25 -16:30	**Summary & Wrap-up by Moderator**

III. Bio of Presenters

Dr. Junseok Hwang

Dr. Junseok Hwang is a professor of Technology Management, Economics, and Policy Program in College of Engineering and hold important positions at Seoul National University that include Director of Seoul National University Global R&DB Center and Director of Transdisciplinary Graduate Program in Smart City Global Convergence.

Dr. Hwang is leading various meaningful initiatives on smart green digital transformation of cities, business ecosystems and global societies with energy, passion and vision to actively implement the goals and objectives of Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Martin BH Weiss

Dr. Martin BH Weiss is faculty member in the telecommunications and undergraduate programs in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and associate director of Center for Governance and Markets. He has a PhD. in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University and a MSE in Computer, Control and Information Engineering from University of Michigan. His research is on analyzing situations where competing firms must cooperate technically through standardization process, internet interconnection and radio spectrum sharing.

His current research focus is on dynamic spectrum access and intelligent wireless systems. He is currently studying spectrum sharing and spectrum trading with a focus on understanding the system-level factors supporting and constraining the adoption of these technologies. Recent aspects of this have involved studying enforcement in cooperative spectrum sharing approaches, secondary users' constraints and decisions using decision analysis and real options analysis. He has also been studying governance in and of technological systems, with a focus on radio spectrum and blockchains. Past projects include technical and cost studies new technologies, bandwidth markets, interconnection of packet networks that support quality of service (QoS), and technical standards.

IV. Pre-Registered/Guiding Questions

- How can ESG bridge the gap of economic growth and sustainable development of the smart city? (Rahmahwati Rosidah, SNU, Republic of Korea)

- What are your recommendations for emerging cities to follow as a strategy in utilizing the PPP for smart city planning? (Hachalu Daba, Ghana, SNU student)

- What innovative approaches can be implemented to improve the inclusion of citizens in governance matters? (Camilo Varón Villalobos, GMPA, Republic of Korea)

- Which priority governance reforms should be focus on in the post-COVID phase? (Youness Abouyoub, Chief, Governance and State-Building United Nations, United States)

- What are the main features of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals?

- What are the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development?

- How can the Principles be transformed as good benchmarking for strengthening public institutions?

- Why is SDG 16 an accelerator for the entire 2030 Agenda?

- How to engage stakeholders and form partnerships on SDG 16 implementation and follow up?

- What are concrete examples of how SDG 16 contributes to other goals and targets, as

well as the broad objectives of the 2030 Agenda?

- How do we mobilize all sectors of society to mobilize for Decade of Action[1]?

- What are the major linkages between the sustainable financing for SDGs and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) approach-based investment decisions, and how they can the ESG approaches and values help mobilize financial resources for SDG implementation?

V. Certificate of Attendance

Upon successful completion of this Governance Capacity Development Session Series, you will receive a Certificate of Attendance jointly issued by UN DESA and SUN GRC, which will be a valuable proof of acquiring in-depth knowledge on SDGs and ESG approaches for your professional practice.

VI. Online Participation via Zoom

You can join the Governance Capacity Development Session Series through either ZOOM or YouTube with below links. When you are registered to the Session Series, you will be given a security code to access the training for receiving a Certificate of Attendance while YouTube will be open for general audience.

- Via ZOOM:
  https://snu-ac-kr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AELAJxbUQJGz9hW1GsYvCA

VII. Registration and Inquiry

If you may have difficulties to register through the weblink or any other queries, please contact us:
- UNPOG: Ms. Jihyun (Jenny) Joung, jihyun.joung@un.org
- SNU GRC: Ms. Rosie Hyein Lee, hyein.lee@snu.ac.kr

VIII. Background Readings

Sustainable Development Goals Fund (2018). Business and SDG 16 Contributing to Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.
https://www.sdgfund.org/sites/default/files/Report_Business_And_SDG16.pdf

Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network (2015). Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit.
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9935TAP%20Network%20Goal%2016%20Advocacy%20Toolkit.pdf

UN Global Alliance on SDG16 (2019). Enabling the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Through SDG 16+. https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2019-

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[1] https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/decade-action

07/Global%20Alliance%2C%20SDG%2016%2B%20Global%20Report.pdf

UNEP Finance Initiative and United Nations Global Compact (2018). UN Principles for Responsible Investment. https://www.unpri.org/download?ac=10948

UNEP Finance Initiative and United Nations Global Compact (2018). Investing with SDG Outcomes: A Five-Part Framework. https://www.unpri.org/download?ac=10795

United Nations (2020). Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2020. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26727SDG_Chart_2020.pdf

United Nations (A/RES/70/1). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf

United Nations, Committee of Experts on Public Administration (2018).   Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development. https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-08/booklet%20-%20Principles%20of%20Effective%20Governance%20for%20Sustainable%20Development.pdf

United Nations. Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/

United Nations. SDG Good Practices - Featured Stories. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/goodpractices/featured

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