

UNESCO - Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)

UNESCO-MAB – SCOPE
International Expert Group for the Urban Futures Programme
Terms of Reference

I. Introduction

The International Symposium on Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing was held in Shanghai, China, on 26-30 October, 2010. The symposium brought together scientists, researchers, planners and managers concerned by the impacts of rapid urbanization, unsustainable development and the excessive consumption of resources of cities on the ecological wellbeing of the larger region, including effects on biodiversity, ecosystems, natural resources, climate, human health, and cultural heritage.

All participants to the symposium were convinced of the need to further strengthen and support interdisciplinary and international cooperation on sustainable urban development in existing, new, and rapidly expanding cities. The adopted Shanghai Declaration on Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing (see Annex I) encourages the UNESCO-MAB Programme and its partners to establish a joint policy relevant, research, assessment, capacity building and outreach programme to further advance the concept of sustainable urban development. The joint programme, entitled “Urban Futures” will contain several major areas, including making full use of UNESCO MAB biosphere reserves to enhance urban sustainability and to improve the relationships between cities and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

UNESCO-MAB and SCOPE have formed a joint secretariat for the Programme and have decided to establish a joint *International Expert Group for the Urban Futures Programme* (hereinafter the Group) to assist this secretariat in designing and implementing the Programme. The objectives, composition, modes of action and duration of the Group are described below.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the Group are, in close cooperation with the Urban Futures Programme Secretariat to:

- a) Provide strategic input and coordination for the implementation of the recommendations contained in Shanghai Declaration with a special focus on the development of the Urban Futures Programme;
- b) Elaborate and implement work plans for the Urban Futures Programme;
- c) Draft project proposals and identify potential funding agencies for the Urban Futures Programme; Identify and propose cooperation and partnership actions with other organizations, initiatives and projects consistent with the objectives outlined in the Shanghai Declaration;
- d) Participate with UNESCO-MAB and SCOPE, as well as with other partners in the implementation of the Urban Futures Programme.

III. Composition

The Group shall consist of 7-10 experts selected by UNESCO-MAB and SCOPE. The composition of the Group and of the Urban Futures Programme Secretariat is given in Annex II.

IV. Modes of Action

The Secretariat is responsible for the coordination of the Programme and related projects with guidance from the Group who is also entrusted with the Programme development and project implementation in cooperation inter alia with participants of the Shanghai Symposium.

Through the Chair, the Group shall report annually to UNESCO-MAB and SCOPE. It shall conduct its business primarily using e-mail and the Internet as well as use opportunities provided by meetings organized in the framework of the Programme. UNESCO-MAB and SCOPE shall provide secretarial and logistical support and, as appropriate, consider establishing links with other relevant research organizations and programmes, as well as with stakeholder organizations especially those representing local authorities such as ICLEI-Local Governments for Suitability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the international Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the United Towns Organization (UTO/FMCU), the EU's Covenant of Mayors and the City Mayors Foundation.

V. Duration

The Group shall operate for a period of 3 years, starting in March 2011 and ending in February 2014, at which time UNESCO-MAB and SCOPE will review progress in the programme and decide on a possible extension of the Group's mandate.

Annex II

List of Members of the Urban Future Programme's
International Expert Group for the Urban Futures Programme
and
Secretariat
(2011-2014)

Name	Organization
Members of the International Expert Group for the Urban Futures Programme	
Mr Ian Douglas (Chair)	School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, UK
Mr Rusong Wang (Co-Chair)	Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
Mr Andrew Merton Bell	UK Committee for the UNESCO MAB Programme, UK
Mr Cipriano Marin Cabrera	Starlight Foundation, Spain
Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar	Sustainable Urbanism International Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University, US
Ms Nancy K.N. Karanja	University of Nairobi, Nairobi
Mr Kwi-Gon Kim	Seoul National University & Master Planner of the Gangneung Low-Carbon Green Demonstration City, Korea
Ms Helen Ross	School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, The University of Queensland, Australia
Mr Rodrigo Antonio Braga Moraes Victor	São Paulo State Forest Institute, Brazil
<u>Secretariat for the Urban Futures Programme</u>	
Mr Natarajan Ishwaran	Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences Secretary, UNESCO-MAB, France
Ms Véronique Plocq Fichelet	Executive Director, SCOPE, France
Mr Ron Van Oers	UNESCO-World Heritage Center, France
Mr Peter Dogsé	UNESCO-MAB, France
Mr Zhijun Yi	UNESCO-MAB, France

Shanghai Declaration on Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing



We, the participants to the International Symposium on “Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing” held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 26-30 October 2010,

Recognizing cities as engines of economic development and wealth in the past and in today's urbanizing world and recognizing their immense potential in the future to contribute to human and social welfare and the diversity of cultural expressions, tangible and intangible heritage, as well as to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Concerned by the impacts of rapid urbanization, unsustainable development and the excessive consumption of resources of cities on the ecological wellbeing of the larger region, including effects on biodiversity, ecosystems, natural resources, climate, human health, and cultural heritage,

Confident that cities and conurbations can significantly reduce their ecological footprints and that they can become engines of innovation for green, climate-friendly economies, promote climate sensitive development, demonstrate energy efficiency, and advance the use of non-fossil sources of energy, good management of natural resources, and adaptation strategies to manage the impacts of climate change, and be safeguards for cultural creativity, diversity and human and ecosystem wellbeing,

Appreciating the focus of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, on the theme "Better City, Better Life" that promoted a rich exchange of experiences of urban development and

explorations of future urban habitats, lifestyles, consumption and production patterns, and governance around the world,

Expressing gratitude to the Shanghai Advanced Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS-SARI), the Shanghai Branch of the Chinese Academy of Science and the City of Shanghai for the organization of the International Symposium on “Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing”,

Welcoming the objective of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) to build on the inspiration and outcomes of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai and of this symposium to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among researchers and practitioners so as to promote a positive relationship between cities and the ecosystems of which they are a part, and to set cities on trajectories of sustainability that are energy and resource-efficient, low emission, promoters of social and economic enterprise, expressions of human creativity and cultural diversity and human wellbeing,

Recognizing that the UNESCO MAB biosphere reserves provide ecosystem services for human wellbeing and can also function as learning sites at local and regional levels to promote and enhance cooperation between the cities and the regions in which they are located,

Convinced of the need to further strengthen and support interdisciplinary and international cooperation on sustainable urban development in existing, new, and rapidly expanding cities,

- Encourage UNESCO MAB, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) to establish a joint policy relevant, research, assessment, capacity building and outreach programme to further advance the concept of sustainable urban development;
- Invite regional, national, state or provincial, and local authorities, experts and other stakeholders to promote sustainable urban futures through the UNESCO MAB, CAS and SCOPE joint programme founded on integrated approaches that consider *inter alia* local knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of urban, rural and natural systems;
- Encourage all relevant stakeholders to take the cultural heritage dimension into due consideration, including UNESCO’s Historic Urban Landscapes approach and, as appropriate, the proposed UNESCO Recommendation on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes that seeks to integrate the aims of urban heritage conservation with the goals of sustainable social and economic development;
- Urge regional, national, state or provincial, and local authorities to help address climate change, environment and pollution issues, including light pollution, through a range of resource use efficiency programmes and renewable energy production and to allocate sufficient resources to achieve the objectives of economically sustainable and environmentally sound urban development;
- Call upon the international, national, regional and local communities to make full use of UNESCO MAB biosphere reserves to enhance urban sustainability and to improve the relationships between cities and the ecosystems of which they are a part;
- Emphasize the need for raised awareness throughout civil society of the consequences of choices in lifestyle and in the design and management of the built environment and for new models of urban development that promote ecosystem and human wellbeing;

- Call on governments at all levels to integrate the safeguarding and further expansion of ecosystems in urban planning and design interventions, including enhanced provision of multi-functional green and blue areas;
- Welcome collaboration, networking and partnerships in the context of the joint programme with other relevant organisations, institutions and initiatives, as well as with urban stakeholders around the world to advance sustainable urban development and its social, cultural, scientific and technological dimensions.