Concept note

Expert Group Meeting on
Monitoring of SDG Indicator 11.c.1

Introduction to SDG Target 11.c.1

The performance of the construction sector is important for the economic health of a country, and particularly relevant for enhancing resilience, sustainability and inclusiveness in Least Developed Countries. While no definition for the term 'local' building material exists, it commonly implies a lower impact compared to 'non-local' material associated with the embodied energy of transport requirements from extraction to manufacturing to site. The term also often implies higher degree of local job creation, and a connection to traditional, and often presumably more appropriate and accepted, building practices.

These assumptions may or may not be accurate. For instance, high-impact materials can be produced 'locally' while traditional building techniques may not be what is desired by the end-user or may have outlived their appropriateness to some degree. The appropriateness is dependent on changing needs taking into account climate change impacts, natural as well as man-made disasters or the requirements on materials to support higher density typologies in urban areas. For the purpose of this EGM, these caveats shall be acknowledged, while the term "appropriate" materials and technologies may be used, instead.

Nevertheless, the physical input of building materials, and the 'soft' components associated with their finance and labour for manufacturing, assembly, upkeep, replacement and disposal, can make a substantial contribution to a building's sustainability, with impacts on life-cycle emissions and resource-use, life-cycle costs, and impacts on job creation as well as the health and comfort of occupants.

This importance globally, but especially in LDCs, is recognized through Target 11.c.

Background of the SDG process and Indicator 11.c.1

During the 47th meeting of the United Nations Statistical Committee that was held in New York, the new SDGs indicators were agreed upon an initial starting point. This followed on from the September 2015 adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by member states where they agreed to a proposed global indicator framework for monitoring progress against the SDG. The framework, put forward by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG), includes 231 indicators that correspond to the 17

SDGs and their 169 associated targets. Now that the SDGs indicator framework has been agreed to, the framework will be submitted to ECOSOC and the General Assembly for further adoption.

Some of the issues that were answered and discussed are:
    a) How did this global indicator framework come about?
    b) What is in the global indicator framework?
    c) Tiering system for indicators
    d) Disaggregated data
    e) Metadata
    f) Who will be in charge of tracking performance on SDG indicators?
    g) How will the SDG indicators framework be used?
    h) Role of national data in global reporting
    i) Role of international agencies
    j) Proposed data mechanism

Tiering System for Indicators:

- **Tier I** indicators are those for which an established and acceptable methodology exists and data are already widely available.
- **Tier II** indicators are those for which an established methodology exists, but data is not easily available.
- **Tier III** indicators are those for which no internationally agreed methodology exists.

Indicator 11.c.1 is a Tier III indicator.

Categories of indicators that may be considered for refinement/review include those mentioned below

- Indicators that are not aligned with the target, that do not fully reflect the target, or that go beyond the scope of the target
- Indicators included in the global indicator framework that are not sufficiently measurable or specific
- Indicators for which methodological development or data collection efforts have encountered significant difficulties
- Indicators where new tools and/or methodologies have become available

Aim and Objective of the EGM

This initial virtual EGM will take place in order to gather key partners to begin to discuss the proposed indicator, work to further develop the metadata, or propose an alternative wording effective 2019. This EGM will aim to concretize the institutional partnership of organizations and individuals involved in the development of the metadata and methodology for this indicator. An initial version of the metadata will be shared prior to the EGM. A second draft of the metadata will be developed following the virtual EGM.

Summary of Key Issues

a) **Intent of Target 11.c**
b) **Identification of advantages and disadvantages of current indicator wording, most importantly:**
   1. **correlation of current wording with intent of 11.c;**
   2. **appropriateness for measuring progress in LDC contexts, and**
   3. **Possible implications for policy, institutions, and ODA flows**
   4. **feasibility (existing data sources, likely costs for creating data sources)**
c) **Methodological outline**
d) **Adoption of current indicator wording or**
e) **Suggestions for alternative wording effective 2019, including analysis according to b), 1-4.**

Expected Outputs

Report on the above key issues, refinement of methodology, if wording is adopted by the EGM, or recommendations for alternative wording and methodology effective 2019.

Virtual Expert Group Meeting

Indicator 11.c.1

Online Platform: TBC

Date and Time: 16th June 2017, 10am - 12.30pm GMT

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	**Welcome Remarks and Round of Introductions**
	Gregor Herda, UN-Habitat
10:15 AM – 10:30AM	**Intent of Target 11.c**
	Gregor Herda, UN-Habitat
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	**Discussion: Correlation of current wording with intent of 11.c**
	All
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	**Discussion: Appropriateness**
	All
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	**Discussion: Possible implications**
	All
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	**Discussion: Methodology and Feasibility**
	All
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	**Vote to Adopt or Suggest Alternative**
	All
12:30 PM - 12:35 PM	**Conclusion and Next Steps**
	Gregor Herda, UN-Habitat