



ECOSOC • Integration Segment (27–29 May, 2014)
SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

**BUILDING
THE FUTURE**
we WANT

TURKEY

Contribution to the 2014 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment

ÇEVRE VE ŞEHİRCİLİK BAKANLIĞI SORU CEVAPLARI II

2014 ECOSOC Integration Segment: Sustainable Urbanization

27-29 May 2014, New York

1. What has been the experience of your country in using urbanization as a tool for the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development?

Urbanization is occurring rapidly in our country. The Ministry is working to balance Turkey's high rate of growth and urbanization with environmental sustainability. The Ministry's mission is defined as "Providing high quality of city life and sustainable environment via planning, construction, regeneration and environmental management also organizing these procedures with participatory point of view" in strategic plan 2013-2017. Thus, the Ministry is working to create sustainable urbanization with variety of projects, legislation works and certification systems.

2. What kinds of investments have been made in your cities to make them hubs of sustainability?

In order to overcome the impacts of the fast urbanization rate of our country the Ministry has started a movement of urban regeneration for which our General Directorate has been given certain duties to direct and finance this process. In order to use these duties and powers on behalf of environmental sustainability, work has been started to develop a standard to be applied to the urban areas redeveloped called the "Ecological Settlement Unit". With this a new urbanization model is tried to be figured out that intends to diminish the transportation and other infrastructure needs of the society and in this context to diminish land use (as more compact), energy and water efficient, with lower daily and construction wastes by recycling. By developing indicators to measure performance and encouraging the successful implementations by financial and development-wise incentives is intended.)

3. How have you addressed specific urbanization challenges in an integrated way?

The Law No 6306 on Regenerating Areas under Disaster Risks has been published in 2012. Within the framework of this law financial, legal and development wise incentives are being implemented to ease the regeneration efforts of the public either through their own or with the initiatives of the local governments. It is intended to provide incentives for the regeneration of 6.5 million condominium units spread to a time frame of 20 years.

4. What kinds of institutional structures are in place in your country for effective governance, policy-making and planning for sustainable urbanization?

In our country; Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, Municipalities and Ilbank are the institutional structures working for effective governance, policy making and planning for sustainable urbanization.

5. What are some innovations and partnerships that demonstrate the power of urbanization in the integration of three dimensions of sustainable development in your country?

Harmonizing Turkey's environment and urban development legislation with the EU acquis is a necessity of our country's membership perspective to the EU. Certain measures are developed to serve to the harmonization and the quality of the implementation of the acquis especially in the fields of energy efficiency, decreasing emissions and wastes and the construction products. In terms of sustainable urbanization EU efforts such as the Sustainable Communities and Smart Cities are being followed and works are continued to implement these principles.