

# H-MUNEA' 17

## MAKING CITIES SUSTAINABLE

A sustainable city implies a city that is well-planned, eco-friendly, where development is not at the cost of environment. Such compact cities are more efficient, inclusive and sustainable. There are better services, better facilities, and a better and eco-efficient living.

However, to the world at large this concept of making cities sustainable is a major challenge. A majority of the countries are still incompetent to rule out and manage the maps of these urban futures. As a result climate change, ecological imbalance, food insecurity, energy inefficiency and economic instability are still prevalent and have already become an alarming threat to the world.

An estimation of the United Nations has reported that by 2050, 70% of the world's population would be living in urban areas. Would the cities that provide the socio-economic benefits endure to sustain such major proportion of the population? The question that pertains is whether the present layout of cities is sufficient or reliable for the future. The cities that head towards an economic growth are they not also affecting ecological growth?

*Making cities sustainable* has now become a need. It is very much important to raise this agenda and welcome a change from concrete infrastructure to an environmentally safe one. This *safe* is in terms of a well-planned and well-executed layout of cities that is adaptive to the environment.

Social development, Economic development, Environment management and urban governance are the four pillars defined by the United Nations for achieving sustainable cities. Clearly, a better picture must be framed today that sustains a better tomorrow.