

## B. Plenary Session on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Meeting the global challenges related to climate change and resource use requires action at all levels, including national governments, local authorities, private sector and civil society. Globally, the building sector contributes more than one third of the energy consumption, nearly 25% of greenhouse gases emissions and up to 40% of resource consumption. At a time when rapid urbanisation and development in many parts of the world is increasing demand for resources and energy, the building sector plays a critical role in assuring that what is built, now and in the future, meets both the needs of the communities while contributing to address climate change and achieve broader sustainable development objectives.

Led by UN Environment, the Plenary Session on Climate Change and Sustainable Development will take place on 6 June (Day 2 morning) at WSBE17 Hong Kong. Through presentations and interactive panel discussion, influential leaders of several international organisations will discuss:

- Why the building sector is critical to mitigate climate change and achieve sustainable development
- The potential of the building sector to contribute to the less than 2-degree scenario as outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The pathways and that countries and other stakeholders, including local authorities and the private sector, can adopt to realise climate objectives
- How actions that organisations could take in the building sector contribute to achieving the targets in the SDGs

This session will feature key perspectives, including from Ms Christiana FIGUERES, Vice-Chair, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, and former Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other organisations representing the public and private sector and the international community. Through presentations and a moderated panel discussion, this session will provide an overview of environmental impact and highlight the potential of the building sector, focusing on solutions and necessary actions to achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### SESSION CHAIR

**Curt GARRIGAN, Cities and Buildings Programme Manager, UN Environment- Economy Division**

### SPEAKERS

#### **Topic: Hong Kong Government's Initiatives in Combating Climate Change**

WONG Kam-sing, GBS, JP, Secretary for the Environment, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

#### **Topic: The Paris Agreement Is a Blueprint for a Comprehensive Economic and Technological Transformation in the Way We Live, Move and Work, and Buildings are at the Nexus of This Revolution**

Christiana FIGUERES, Vice-Chair, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

### ABSTRACT

The Paris Agreement is not merely an environmental treaty. It is a blueprint for a comprehensive economic and technological transformation in the way we live, move and work. None of these are independent of each other, but rather they all mutually reinforce each other.

There are three main building blocks of the new urban paradigm: energy, transportation and the built environment. Energy is being rapidly decarbonized thanks to the dramatic drop in costs of renewables over the past 8-10 years and the incipient storage technology. Transportation is going shared, driverless and electric. Buildings are at the nexus of the energy and transportation revolutions. Buildings need to keep pace with those revolutions in order to benefit from them, and to provide an integrated living experience of high quality to dwellers.

**Topic: City Actions to Achieve Global Climate and Sustainable Development Objectives**

Jennifer LAYKE, Director, Global Energy Program, World Resources Institute

**Topic: Addressing National Housing Needs: Risks and Opportunities for the Environment**

Gregor HERDA, Regional Housing Advisor, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)

**Topic: Energy Technology Perspectives: Transitions to Sustainable Buildings**

John DULAC, Energy Technology Policy Building Sector Lead, International Energy Agency

**Topic: Survey of Effective Actions for Mitigating Climate Change**

Nils LARSSON, Executive Director, International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment

**Topic: Mainstreaming Sustainable Building and Construction - Collaboration Opportunities in the UN 10YFP on Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Pekka HUOVILA, Coordinator, The 10YFP Programme on Sustainable Buildings and Construction

**Topic: Engaging the Private Sector to Transform Our Cities**

Roland HUNZIKER, Director, Sustainable Buildings & Cities, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

Christine LOH, Under Secretary for the Environment, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Christiana FIGUERES, Vice-Chair, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

Jennifer LAYKE, Director, Global Energy Program, World Resources Institute

Gregor HERDA, Regional Housing Advisor, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)

Pekka HUOVILA, Coordinator, The 10YFP Programme on Sustainable Buildings and Construction

Roland HUNZIKER, Director, Sustainable Buildings & Cities, World Business Council for Sustainable Development