

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3229

To direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to develop a strategy to foster sustainable urban development in developing countries that updates the Making Cities Work Urban Strategy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2010

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to develop a strategy to foster sustainable urban development in developing countries that updates the Making Cities Work Urban Strategy.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sustainable Urban De-
5 velopment Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Approximately 51 percent of the world's
2 population lives in cities of various sizes and produce
3 the majority of the world's economic output.

4 (2) It is estimated that by 2030—

5 (A) almost 4,000,000,000 people will live
6 in cities in the developing world;

7 (B) urban populations in Africa and Asia
8 will double; and

9 (C) the number of people living in slums
10 will double.

11 (3) Of the approximately 1,000,000,000 people
12 worldwide who live in slums, more than 50 percent
13 are younger than 25 years of age.

14 (4) In most countries, the largest urban areas
15 account for significant shares of gross domestic
16 product and, due to the economic advantages of
17 large integrated markets for skills, inputs and out-
18 puts are often drivers of national economic growth.

19 (5) More than 1,100,000,000 people lack ade-
20 quate access to safe water and nearly 2,500,000,000
21 lack access to sanitation services. These problems
22 may become more severe with rapid urbanization.

23 (6) The costs of diseases and productivity losses
24 linked to water and sanitation amount to—

1 (A) 2 percent of gross domestic product in
 2 less developed countries; and

3 (B) up to 5 percent of gross domestic
 4 product in sub-Saharan Africa.

5 (7) Insecure lease and real property ownership
 6 tenure often subject slum dwellers to arbitrary, often
 7 supra-market rents, forced evictions, threats, and
 8 harassment, particularly affecting women who are
 9 often heads of households.

10 (8) Insecurity of tenure—

11 (A) severely inhibits economic development
 12 by undermining investment incentives and con-
 13 straining the growth of credit markets;

14 (B) imperils the ability of families to
 15 achieve sustainable livelihoods and assured ac-
 16 cess to shelter; and

17 (C) often contributes to conflict over prop-
 18 erty rights.

19 (9) Although women constitute 66 percent of
 20 the world's work force, they own less than 15 per-
 21 cent of the world's private property. This disparity
 22 is particularly damaging in cities and towns in which
 23 women are disproportionately affected by forced
 24 evictions and insecure tenure as a result of discrimi-
 25 nation, gender-biased laws, and customs that—

1 (A) define women as legal minors or other-
2 wise prevent women from acquiring and secur-
3 ing property, housing leases, or ownership
4 rights; and

5 (B) increase the vulnerability of women to
6 poverty, violence, and sexual abuse.

7 (10) Cities can play an important role in eco-
8 nomic growth only if—

9 (A) there is appropriate infrastructure, in-
10 stitutions, and policies; and

11 (B) basic services are extended to every-
12 one.

13 (11) Connective infrastructure, such as roads
14 and telecommunications—

15 (A) plays a critical role linking cities and
16 their markets to rural production, to hinter-
17 lands, and to the global economy;

18 (B) reduces economic distances; and

19 (C) strengthens the ability of cities to take
20 advantage of the resulting market opportunities
21 and ensures that urban and rural development
22 policies are integrated into a holistic approach
23 that promotes economic growth throughout the
24 country.

1 (12) The 2006 National Security Strategy
2 states, “America’s national interests and moral val-
3 ues drive us in the same direction: to assist the
4 world’s poor citizens and least developed nations and
5 help integrate them into the global economy.”.

6 (13) In his October 2009 remarks for World
7 Habitat Day, President Obama stated, “My admin-
8 istration is committed to . . . bolstering our metro-
9 politan areas, the cities, suburban and rural areas
10 that are the engines of our economic growth. We are
11 investing in a clean energy sector that will generate
12 new green jobs, building affordable, energy efficient
13 homes and promoting more sustainable development
14 so that we can meet the needs of the present, for se-
15 curing the future for our children and grandchildren
16 . . . That is why we are committed to working with
17 the United Nations and our partners around the
18 world to help more families find a safe and secure
19 place to live.”.

20 (14) Target 11 of Goal 7 of the Millennium De-
21 velopment Goals states, “By 2020, to have achieved
22 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100
23 million slum-dwellers.”.

24 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

25 It is the policy of the United States—

1 (1) to recognize urban development, as an ob-
2 jective of United States foreign policy, and overseas
3 development assistance, particularly programs
4 that—

5 (A) foster improved urban governance,
6 management, and planning;

7 (B) increase land and real property tenure;

8 (C) promote the formal provision of, and
9 access to, essential urban services and infra-
10 structure;

11 (D) expand access to basic shelter, afford-
12 able urban housing;

13 (E) economically empower women and
14 youth;

15 (F) promote civic participation and social
16 cohesion;

17 (G) respond to, and proactively prepare
18 for, environmental and climatic challenges;

19 (H) promote economic growth and alleviate
20 poverty; and

21 (I) expand the availability of financing for
22 urban housing and infrastructure;

23 (2) to prevent waste and duplication in the use
24 of United States overseas development assistance

1 with respect to the programs described in paragraph
2 (1);

3 (3) to foster cooperative relations with foreign
4 governments, intergovernmental organizations, pri-
5 vate businesses, and nonprofit and community-based
6 organizations that support or implement programs
7 similar to those described in paragraph (1);

8 (4) to support innovative international mecha-
9 nisms designed to increase coordination and mutual
10 complementarity in the planning, financing, and im-
11 plementation of sustainable urban development poli-
12 cies and programs implemented by the United States
13 and other donors described in this section;

14 (5) to ensure access to—

15 (A) basic shelter and affordable housing,
16 particularly by residents of slums and informal
17 settlements and similar densely populated, im-
18 poverished urban areas; and

19 (B) safe water and sanitation;

20 (6) to promote—

21 (A) the security of land and other real
22 property use, lease, and ownership rights;

23 (B) the legal recognition and protections of
24 such rights by all income groups;

1 (C) equitable and sustainable national land
2 policies; and

3 (D) enhanced land administration services,
4 including services for groups that—

5 (i) are socioeconomically vulnerable or
6 institutionally marginalized; or

7 (ii) are subject to discrimination, in-
8 cluding women, children, the poor, and
9 people living in urban slums and informal
10 settlements; and

11 (7) to support efforts to enhance the technical
12 and financial capacity of developing country govern-
13 ments, including regional and municipal govern-
14 ments, to plan and manage urban growth in trans-
15 parent, participatory, and accountable manner.

16 **SEC. 4. SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
18 States Agency for International Development (referred to
19 in this section as the “USAID”) shall develop a strategy
20 to foster sustainable urban development in developing
21 countries that updates the Making Cities Work Urban
22 Strategy.

23 (b) CONSULTATION.—The strategy required under
24 subsection (a)—

1 (1) shall be developed in consultation with other
2 United States Government agencies with relevant
3 technical expertise or policy mandates pertaining to
4 urban development in foreign countries; and

5 (2) shall draw upon best practices and success-
6 ful models of urban development undertaken or de-
7 veloped by international intergovernmental organiza-
8 tions, international finance institutions, recipient
9 countries, United States and international non-
10 governmental organizations, private sector actors,
11 and other appropriate entities.

12 (c) CONTENT.—The strategy required under sub-
13 section (a) shall—

14 (1) review and assess existing or past United
15 States programs and foreign assistance strategies
16 for developing countries designed to improve urban
17 development, including—

18 (A) increasing access to basic shelter, af-
19 fordable housing, and shared communal infra-
20 structure;

21 (B) enhancing land tenure security;

22 (C) promoting environmentally sound
23 urban infrastructure and services;

24 (D) building capacity for municipal plan-
25 ning, management, and governance;

1 (E) leveraging innovative financing for
2 urban investments;

3 (F) promoting gender equality and wom-
4 en's empowerment; and

5 (G) promoting active participation of
6 urban dwellers in the planning and execution of
7 urban governance and social services programs;

8 (2) define short- and long-term objectives and
9 performance measures by which progress in urban
10 development in foreign countries should be meas-
11 ured;

12 (3) integrate United States programs and for-
13 eign assistance strategies that address urban devel-
14 opment and slums in developing countries;

15 (4) integrate into the broader strategic foreign
16 assistance plans of the Department of State and the
17 programs and objectives of the United States Agen-
18 cy for International Development related to urban
19 development and slums;

20 (5) assess the feasibility of establishing, in the
21 USAID, a senior advisor for urban sustainable de-
22 velopment, who would—

23 (A) provide—

24 (i) leadership for coordinated pro-
25 gramming;

1 (ii) technical support for urban devel-
2 opment; and

3 (iii) dissemination of best practices
4 with policy and technical staff with experi-
5 ence and expertise in urban planning and
6 development;

7 (B) guide urban programming;

8 (C) help build the capacity of government
9 officials in developing countries to more effec-
10 tively manage urbanization; and

11 (D) encourage the organization and in-
12 volvement of local civil society, including collec-
13 tive and municipal associations;

14 (6) evaluate options to leverage private sector
15 partnerships on issues related to housing, slum im-
16 provement, and finance though—

17 (A) the Global Development Alliance of
18 USAID and the Global Partnerships Initiative
19 of the Department of State;

20 (B) the Overseas Private Investment Cor-
21 poration;

22 (C) the Development Credit Authority;

23 (D) the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

24 and

25 (E) other relevant initiatives;

1 (7) support a policy of United States Govern-
2 ment collaboration and coordination with other do-
3 nors towards urban development issues, including—

4 (A) working to achieve Target 4 of Goal 7
5 of the Millennium Development Goals;

6 (B) supporting local development plans
7 and strategies;

8 (C) reviewing technical assistance and fi-
9 nancial resource needs for urban development
10 programming;

11 (D) fostering greater program coordination
12 among donors; and

13 (E) disseminating best practices in urban
14 planning and development;

15 (8) assess the feasibility of establishing a pilot
16 urban strategies initiative that would—

17 (A) support, through technical and finan-
18 cial assistance, a select number of cities in de-
19 veloping countries by identifying, developing,
20 and implementing long-term sustainable urban
21 development strategies to provide a framework
22 for future growth and development in identified
23 countries;

24 (B) provide support for such urban devel-
25 opment strategies through a variety of ap-

proaches, including direct financial support, innovative financial mechanisms, and private sector investment;

(C) raise critical global awareness of urban development issues, including the emergence of mega-cities and the increasing burdens placed on secondary cities in developing countries; and

(D) fully integrate the needs of women, who are often heads of households, yet do not have equitable access to land, resources, or services;

(9) analyze approaches to improve environmental sustainability in urban areas, while recognizing that developing cities are facing severe environmental stress as a result of the difficulties of expanding facilities fast enough to keep up with rapidly growing populations and industrial activity; and

(10) develop a plan for providing long-term United States support for sustainable urban growth and development initiatives in developing countries that—

(A) includes regular coordination between United States Government agencies that have relevant technical expertise or policy responsibilities, as appropriate, including—

1 (i) the United States Agency for
2 International Development;

3 (ii) the Department of State;

4 (iii) the Millennium Challenge Cor-
5 poration;

6 (iv) the Department of Housing and
7 Urban Development;

8 (v) the Department of the Treasury;
9 and

10 (vi) the Overseas Private Investment
11 Corporation; and

12 (B) draws upon the available expertise of
13 United States-based city and regional elected
14 officials and professionals in—

15 (i) community, real estate, and bank-
16 ing sectors;

17 (ii) major United States private foun-
18 dations, nongovernmental organizations,
19 and policy, education, and research organi-
20 zations;

21 (iii) United Nations organizations;
22 and

23 (iv) multilateral development banks.

24 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall

- 1 submit a report to Congress that includes the strategy re-
- 2 quired under this section.

