

START

Good afternoon. My name is Justin Edwards, and I'm with the Social Progress Imperative. I'd like to thank the organizers for the opportunity to participate in this important part of the process.

This zero draft of the New Urban Agenda is an inspiring vision of the world I want to live in, and inspires hope that future generations will inherit a world that respects and prioritizes inclusion for all. I am taken by the aspirational statement leading the draft, stating its aim to be a concise, action-oriented, universal plan that takes into account a wide range of realities and contexts, cultures, and historical urban and human settlements landscapes, avoiding a one-size fits-all approach.

I want to share with you a movement that is currently underway that captures these aspirations, led by local, multi-sector networks actively engaged in driving a more inclusive growth agenda in a variety of geographic contexts – including cities – and that is helping to build effective monitoring and evaluation tools that will help track progress of the 2030 agenda.

The Social Progress Imperative aims to propel the development “paradigm shift” from believing that economic growth alone will improve lives, to a more inclusive development agenda that places equal emphasis on people and planet. We created the Social Progress Index to explicitly address this issue, believing that truly inclusive development is economic growth accompanied by improvement in the lived experiences of the whole population. And so, if we want to truly achieve a sustainable, inclusive development agenda, we must measure social progress directly.

The Social Progress Index sets out to do so by asking three fundamental questions about a society. First of all, does everyone have the basic needs of survival: food, water, shelter, safety? Secondly, does everyone have the building blocks of a better life: education, information, health and a sustainable natural environment? And does everyone have the opportunity to improve his or her life, through rights, freedom of choice, tolerance and freedom from discrimination and freedom of mobility, and access to the world's most advanced knowledge?

It measures these aspects of inclusion directly using only social and environmental indicators. By excluding traditional economic indicators from the model, it allows us to better interrogate the relationship between social progress, and each of its 12 components, and economic growth, and in so doing more richly unpacking their relationships and identifying the true drivers of progress of the society in question.

We launched a global index in 2014, analyzing 132 countries using 52 indicators of social and environmental performance. While initially intended for countries, we were soon overwhelmed by the desire to customize the index for cities and regions, nowhere more than in Latin America.

The first subnational Social Progress Index – Índice de Progreso Social na Amazonia, or Social Progress Index for the Brazilian Amazon – was co-created in partnership with a Brazil based NGO – Imazon – and local partners including Avina Foundation and regional Deloitte offices. The same backbone framework of the global index was populated with local, contextual statistics for 772 municipalities in the 9 states of the Brazilian Amazon, spanning urban and rural geographies, revealing key, highly contextualized priorities that were not part of existing development strategies by either national or regional authorities. It has since been adopted by state governors – first by the state of Para’s governor Simaoe Jatene, and has helped form the nucleus of what has become a national, multi-sectorial network of partners committed to advancing a social progress agenda.

Last month, the national network in partnered with Rio de Janeiro mayor Eduardo Paes and the Instituto Pereira Passos to develop a customized index of social and environmental performance disaggregated to the 32 administrative regions of the Rio, home to 6.5 million people.

This national network now plans to expand the IPS Amazonia model to the entire country, measuring 5,570 Brazilian municipalities.

Similar trajectories are underway elsewhere in South and Central America:

- **National network in Colombia:** Including SPI, Fundacion Corona, Avina, Deloitte, Compartamos por Colombia, and the Red Colombiana de Ciudades Como Vamos
 - Produced – a study of social progress in the 10 largest cities in Colombia, using secondary data and citizen sentiment data sourced from citizen surveys administered over 8 years by the Red Ciudades Como Vamos. This analysis encompasses more than 50% percent of the urban population of Colombia, responsible for more than 80% of the country’s GDP per capita.
 - Including an intra-city analysis of Bogota, cross-analyzing the lived experience of 7.7 million inhabitants across 19 localities.
 - Adopted by Cali mayor Rodrigo Guerrero as a framework to define priorities and pillars of public and private investment in the city

- Its data is all open as part of the Ciudades project led by Fundacion Corona to supply stakeholders with relevant information as they target goal 11 of the SDGs.

Central American adoption, including:

- In Costa Rica, a Social Progress Index for the 81 cantons of the country has been adopted as the basis for a new national social innovation strategy with strategic support of the government, specifically the Vice-President of Costa Rica: Ana Helena Chacon, and key ministries and private sector actors.
- Central America Health Initiative (CAHI) using tool to identify the greatest priorities in the poorest performing regions and cities.

Paraguay – adoption of SPI at the national level by the Ministry of Social Development as an official metric for the National Development Strategy.

Chile, Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama

This is a truly global movement, not limited to Latin America.

- European city frameworks being developed following the publication of SPI EU, Index for the 262 NUTS II regions of the European Union in partnership with the European Commission DG Regio and the ECJRC
- City of Reykjavik, Iceland
- 14 cities in the state of Michigan – is underway, as is
- A regional analysis of the San Francisco Bay Area, including the leading anchor cities of San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose

What we are finding is that the framework is both extremely robust and flexible to capture local, geographic and cultural context, and provides a practical measurement tool that is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, and SDG 11 in particular. 13 of the 17 goals thematically map to the SPI framework (excluding 1, 8, 10, 17).

Specific recommendations:

Paragraph 166 – calls for a periodic follow up and review, that feeds into and is coherent with the 2030 Agenda follow up and review, and to track progress. We encourage UN Habitat to review resources already deployed in the field such as ours to help build the most effective means of monitoring and evaluation.

Consider tools like the social progress index that are designed to give you a coherent, aggregate score, allowing you to track progress over time. This also enables the monitoring teams to establish peer groups of cities to develop

“scorecards”, identifying and scaling what works and learning from other relevant, contextual peers.

The role of data

1. I propose a bolder commitment to supporting an open and transparent data portal that enables stakeholders to remain part of the process and creating feedback loops.
2. **A more focused recognition of the data needs to effectively monitor and evaluate progress towards the goals of the New Urban Agenda – disaggregated data by gender, race, age, level of disability, and sexual orientation.**
3. **Establish partnerships with leading private sector entities** who today are the single largest holders of data that can help support an inclusive development agenda.

On partnerships

I'll end quickly by saying that our model of work relies solely on active, effective, financed and governed networks of partners. This helps us move beyond networking and quickly into collaboration, enhancing the key capacities. The role of multi-sector partnerships is critical, with each sector bringing a unique set of qualities and capabilities to the table.

1, 8, 10, 17

Social Progress Index




Basic Human Needs

2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 
16 PEACE AND JUSTICE 	

Foundations of Wellbeing

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 
15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE 

Opportunity

4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE 