



International Green Model City (IGMC) Initiative Registration Guide (Trial version)

I. Background of IGMC:

It's expected that the world's urban population will have nearly doubled by 2050, which will make urbanization one of the most transformative trends in the 21st century. The population, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, and environmental and humanitarian impacts are increasingly concentrated in cities, which poses a major challenge to the sustainability of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent work, safety, natural resources and ecosystems.

In response to the above challenges, Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS) launched the *International Green Model City ("IGMC") Initiative* at the United Nations Headquarters in April 2011, in close collaboration with various international organizations including UNEP and national as well as local governments concerned. As an innovative green low-carbon urban development action plan, the IGMC stimulates forward-looking and responsible governments, businesses and social forces to work together on exploring sustainable urban development alternatives and urbanization models that can promote and contribute to sustainable cities and human settlements for all.

The IGMC Initiative has been registered with the United Nations as a voluntary commitment of Rio+20 and *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* as well as a conscious action to implement the *Sustainable Development Goals*, *Paris Climate Agreement* and *New Urban Agenda* at the regional and local levels.

II. IGMC Standards:

Drawing lessons from the promotion and implementation over several years and in various cities and communities of the previous version while giving due consideration to emerging issues and major new global agreements, the *International Green Model City Standards 3.0* (hereinafter referred to as "IGMC Standards 3.0") was publicly released at the 11th Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS - XI) on October 18, 2016 in parallel to the Habitat III Summit, which was attended by high-level representatives of UN-Habitat, UNEP and national and local governments, together with many relevant experts.

The vision of "IGMC Standards 3.0" is rooted in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *New Urban Agenda*, and is an advanced tool for assessing and guiding sustainable urban development, providing the technical methods and assessment means for their implementation at the local level to readdress the way we plan, develop, finance, govern and manage cities and human settlements and lead onto the path of necessary transformative change towards delivering sustainable development.

The main functions of IGMC 3.0 include:

1. Promoting implementation of SDGs and New Urban Agenda through formulation of action plans and policy recommendations with measurable targets.
2. Guiding the process of urban sustainable development projects. Providing innovative concepts, integrated strategies, methodologies, technologies, benchmarks and a monitoring framework for improved overall performance and efficient investment.

3. Appraising projects at planning or design phases to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement, avoiding various risks.
4. Assessing efficiency, inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience of existing urban areas for comparison with others. Identifying opportunities for improvement and transformation.
5. Providing a timely urban sustainable development training manual for relevant stakeholders including mayors, urban managers, developers, planners, architects, engineers and residents.

The vision of "IGMC Standards 3.0" is based on six basic principles: **Safety, Sustainability, Equity, Identity, Prosperity and Happiness**, and is carried out through the 18 categories of the six dimensions of environment, spatial planning and development, economy, basic services, society and culture. Furthermore, the 18 categories are further elaborated in terms of definitions and aims, key strategies and methodologies, key requirements and indicators, scoring systems and best practices. The structure of "IGMC Standards 3.0" is as follows:





III. Rating System of IGMC Standards:

The IGMC rating system has approximately 110 indicators that is calibrated according to the recommendations of UN-HABITAT, UNEP and GEF as well as best practices from around the world. In general, these indicators, benchmarks and scores reflect a general consensus among international organizations, academics and practitioners on essential aspects of urban planning, design and policy. They are relevant to a wide range of urban development projects in different contexts and are easily adaptable to local needs. It is based on information that can be readily obtained, used and independently verified.

The rating system of IGMC Standard sets a total of 320 points, which are allocated to the 18 categories of the six dimensions respectively. Any specific project or any city (district, town or community) can obtain points through the IGMC accredited certification process. Total points allow such projects or cities to gain IGMC status as follows:

≥280 points: International Greenest Model City/Community

≥245 points: International Greener Model City/Community

≥210 points: International Green Model City/Community

IV. Aims of IGMC:

In the new global context and evolving regional and local needs, the development of sustainable cities is facing severe challenges while offering many opportunities. IGMC Initiative aims to use IGMC Standards 3.0 as one of a variety of advanced planning tools by providing innovative concepts, integrated strategies and methodologies, benchmarks and monitoring framework as well as demand-oriented solutions for assessing and guiding sustainable urban development, conducting pilots, in conjunction with other approaches, to facilitate sustainable cities and human settlements for all, and to create a shared platform for dialogue and cooperation among the global stakeholders for the sake of establishing a new partnerships in support to the implementation of *SDGs* and *New Urban Agenda*.

V. Structure and Fees of IGMC Membership:

Level A: IGMC Global Partner, Registration fee: \$ 30,000 per year

Level B: IGMC Premium Partner, Registration fee: \$ 15,000 per year

Level C: IGMC Partner, Registration fee: \$ 7,500 per year

Non Profit Organizations and cities (districts, towns) with a population less than 100,000 enjoy a 30% discount of above registration fee. Cities from the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states can be entitled to a lower membership fee or a fee waiver, on a case by case basis.

The registration fees paid by members will be used to provide basic services such as trainings, workshops and other activities, the development and maintenance of the website and data system, media promotion, salaries for IGMC office staff and other operational costs.

VI. Procedures for Applying for Accession to the IGMC:

Cities, enterprises and nonprofit organizations in the process of transition to sustainable development are encouraged to submit an application letter to GFHS (using the unified format provided by GFHS), fill out the IGMC registry form, and wait to receive written confirmation by GFHS and then pay the registration



fees in order to become an active member.

VII. Valid Period of Registration:

After successful accession to the IGMC, members will have a valid registration for at least one year and normally three years, corresponding to the registration fee they paid. Two months before the expiration thereof, the GFHS Secretariat will inform each member to renew its membership for the next period. If the GFHS Secretariat timely receives a renewal of a member's registration fee, their registration status will be renewed. Otherwise, the registration status and all interests therein will be terminated.

VIII. Benefits of Joining the IGMC (in 3 levels of membership):

A. IGMC Partner

1. To be awarded the "IGMC Partner" plaque and registration certificate.
2. To be authorized to use the IGMC trademark and the name of "IGMC Partner" for publicity.
3. To access the full set of IGMC Standard 3.0 for reference, to facilitate the development of action plans and policy options with measurable goals to combine the implementation of the plans of regional and local level with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.
4. To use the IGMC Standard for assessment and diagnosis of existing urban areas, enabling city administrators to manage their cities, people and resources more efficiently.
5. To use the IGMC Standard for assessment and diagnosis of projects at the planning or designing stage, and identify challenges, gaps and opportunities so as to reduce risks and to facilitate the effective investment.
6. To strengthen capacity building through various trainings, workshops and activities, obtaining professional technical information and knowledge.
7. To access IGMC website and data system, learning from each other and comparing with counterpart.
8. To enhance the brand value, by using the media portfolio of GFHS and IGMC ((bilingual magazines, newsletters, IGMC website, Twitter, Weibo, etc.) to promote once a year.
9. To promote cooperation in green industrial capacity and green low-carbon technology to maximize business opportunities.
10. To have priority to apply for IGMC pilots as appropriate, which can be shared through the easy accessed IGMC platform, of which the specific ways of cooperation will be otherwise agreed.
11. Under this cooperation framework, to obtain demand-oriented solutions and inter-active consultation services to address existing challenges and gaps in certain cities and projects, including planning and design, strategic planning, program evaluation, project research, rating certification, etc, of which the specific content will be otherwise agreed. The relevant costs are not included in the registration fee.
12. Other agreed services.

B. IGMC Premium Partner

IGMC Premium Partners have the rights to enjoy all the Benefits of IGMC Partners listed in VI-A, while also enjoy the following benefits:

1. To use the name of "IGMC Premium Partner" for publicity.
2. To be awarded the "IGMC Premium Partner" plaque and registration certificate by GFHS officials or well-known experts.
3. IGMC Experts will provide on-site professional training course within 1 day and carry out field visit once a year so as to make recommendations and exchange ideas, and the relevant translation costs and travel expenses will be borne by the IGMC members.
4. To exchange with cities, enterprises, relevant United Nations agencies, international organizations, and think tanks with common and shared interest, build up new type partnerships.

C. IGMC Global Partner



IGMC Global Partners have the rights to enjoy all the Benefits of IGMC Premium Partners listed in VI-B, while also enjoy the following benefits:

1. The IGMC Partner award ceremony will be held, GFHS leaders or UN officials will present the “IGMC Global Partners” plaque and registration certificate.
2. To use the name of “IGMC Global Partner” for publicity.
3. To organize IGMC experts to provide a written report for assessment and diagnosis once a year (either in English or Chinese), identify problems and make recommendations, to provide a reference for decision makers.

IX. IGMC Members' Obligations:

1. To commit, recognize and support the aims, basic principles and concepts of the IGMC initiative and IGMC Standards 3.0, and to advocate internally and externally.
2. To refer to and learn from the innovative concepts and strategic measures of the IGMC Standards, and promote their application in local places and their own business based on local conditions.
3. To release a report annually on voluntary basis, sharing with the public the progress of promoting the application of IGMC Initiative and Standard, in particular through the member website and GFHS website.
4. To pay registration fee on time.

X. Types of IGMC Members:

- A. Local governments, including their departments, Committee of industrial parks;
- B. Real estate developers, infrastructure investors and operators, financial institutions, planning and design companies, and green supply chain enterprises relating to green city construction, development and operation, as well as environmental protection enterprises;
- C. Think tanks, research institutes and NGOs

XI. Signs and Brands:

The members who join the IGMC will receive a registration certificate and plaque from GFHS and will be authorized to use the IGMC trademark as long as it is a member in good standing. Different levels of membership are allowed to use different combinations of signs as follows:





XII. IGMC Consultation Committee:

A IGMC Consultation Committee will be established to guide IGMC initiative. Members as well as renowned experts can be selected to join the committee if they wish so.

XIII. Services and Activities:

GFHS will set up the IGMC Office, with the support of relevant United Nations agencies and partners. A senior coordinator will be designated to be responsible and other departments will provide positive cooperation so as to integrate efficient resources and provide valuable services and organize activities for IGMC members:

A. Training: United Nations officials as well as IGMC Standard drafting experts and other authoritative experts will be invited to organize webinars and provide relevant and tailored trainings from time to time, to which the members can have access for free of charge. Experts can also be invited to provide trainings at the sites of IGMC members' projects, and the relevant costs and arrangements may be separately determined through consultation.

B. Consultation: Corresponding member's specific context and needs, GFHS will organize relevant experts and partners to provide consultation services, such as assessment and diagnosing, planning and design, workshop, action plan formulation, advanced and applicable technology promotion and application, certification verification etc., of which the specific content and relevant costs will be otherwise agreed.

C. Annual IGMC conference: In the first half of each year, annual conference on the IGMC Initiative will be organized, where members may summarize their work, exchange and share successful experiences and dynamic progress, make recommendations and help to solve problems.

D. Annual Forum of GFHS: We will hold the IGMC sub-forum or seminar during annual forum to share progress, promote new ideas, technologies and expand the influence. Members will also have priority to apply for the Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards.

E. Other activities: Members will be organized to visit the cities which have successfully implemented the IGMC Standards for study and exchange, and participate in activities of enhancing green supply chain construction, relevant costs will be otherwise agreed.

F. Communication and Advocacy: We will have IGMC Monthly Newsletter, IGMC WeChat, MicroBlog and Twitter for members to spread industry information, and the World Best Practices Magazine will specially cover IGMC Member information.

G. Rating & Certification: We will conduct verification and guidance for any specific project or any city (district, town or community) submitted for IGMC certification. The relevant procedures and expenses will be released separately. The qualified project or the city will receive the plaque and certificate issued by GFHS according to above Rating System of IGMC Standards.

XIV. IGMC Pilots:

IGMC members can nominate appropriate projects to apply for IGMC pilots. Such projects will be listed as an "IGMC pilot" and able to use IGMC trademark and do publicity once they are approved by GFHS. The planning and design of an "IGMC pilot" must meet the basic requirements of IGMC Standards 3.0, of which principles and concepts should be fully implemented in the whole process. GFHS will organize relevant experts and partners to provide consultation services for the pilots. When conditions permit, the pilots can apply for the rating and certification, of which the specific ways of cooperation will be otherwise agreed.



XV. Interpretation and revise :

GFHS has the right to revise and interpret this Guide, in close consultation with the IGMC Consultation Committee. GFHS will post any update (if any) on the website in a timely manner and will also inform all members by mail.

Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS)

- In Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC -

Jan 2, 2018