



***Road Map to improve air quality in cities: A tool to develop a public policy on sustainable mobility in Colombia***

***- Context***

Since 2012, 50% of the world's population lives in cities, which are responsible for generating between 60% and 80% of global GHG emissions, mainly due to the burning of fossil fuels in the transport sector. This makes urbanization as one of the main challenges human kind has to face, improving aspects such as the availability of public services, food security and perhaps the most critical one, efficient mobility systems. In Latin America, high urban densification has had an important impact on road systems, traffic congestion, transport facilities condition, among other aspects. By 2050 the car fleet in the region is expected to reach 200 million units, which will imply an increase in the demand for fuel and consequently a rise in GHG emissions (UN Environment, 2016).

The World Health Organization (WHO) affirms that air quality in cities is one of the most critical environmental problems at the global level. According to 2012 data, approximately 6,5 million of deaths (11,6% of total worldwide deaths) were related with indoor and outdoor air pollution, it means that 1 out of 9 people death as a consequent of poor air quality (WHO, 2016). According with Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) analysis, it's expected that air pollution will become the main environmental cause of premature mortality, even overcoming unhealthy water and lack of basic sanitation. It is estimated that the number of deaths due to exposure to particulate matter (PM10) will double by 2050 (OECD, 2012).





### *Inter-sectorial articulation to implement public policies: A need for Colombia*

In Colombia, according to the National Planning Department (NPD), around 10,527 people die annually due to poor air quality. Health costs associated with urban air pollution ascend to \$COP 15.4 billion, that is, 1.93% of Colombia's GDP for 2015 (NPD, 2017). In Bogotá, 10, 5% (3.219) of total deaths, are due to outdoor air pollution, it generated approximately costs of \$ COP 4.2 billion, 2.5% of Bogotá's GDP. In the Valle de Aburrá Metropolitan Area, the poor air quality was responsible for 12, 3% (2.105) of total deaths in this region, with an estimated cost of \$COP 2.8 billion, 5% of Valle de Aburra's GDP (NPD, 2017). Taking into account this situation, the government has defined the development of a sustainable mobility public policy as a priority line of action to improve air quality in cities.

Only 12% of the cities in the world comply with WHO air quality guidelines. By strengthening the capacities of decision makers to work in an articulated manner in the development and implementation of a public policy that improves air quality in cities, it's possible to reduce emissions of particulate matter, enhance public health and mitigate climate change. Taking into account the above mention, the objective of this project is to provide technical inputs to put in place a sustainable mobility public policy in Colombia to improve air quality in cities.

