



Global Observance - World Habitat Day 2022

3 October 2022 – Balıkesir, Türkiye

Theme: Mind the gap. Leave no one and no place behind

A New Social Contract for Urban Resilience and Sustainability

Background and objectives

The triple C crisis - COVID-19, climate and conflicts – has generated a wave of new poor in urban areas. In 2021, there were almost 163 million newly poor, according to the estimates of the World Cities Report. This trend is likely to continue or accelerate if no action is taken, likely to affect the expected 2.2 billion people to be added to cities by 2050.

The United Nations Secretary General has called for ‘a new social contract for a new era’ to fight the ‘pandemic of inequality.’ There is an urgent need to empower cities to respond to the triple C crisis and potential future pandemics through new social contracts – by focusing on building greater resiliency and inclusivity through participatory governance processes.

Leaders around the world have demonstrated bold action in many contexts to reverse negative trends and accelerate the achievement of SDGs. Cities and communities should be seen as positive accelerators to address the current crisis, planting the seeds of a new social contract to address deepening urban divides and chart a more inclusive roadmap towards recovery.

The SDGs adopted by the United Nations in 2015, offer a comprehensive framework to address vulnerabilities of the urban poor and by facilitating access to affordable housing, provision of safe drinking water, and public transport systems. To make timely progress towards achieving sustainability goals, the targets and indicators of SDGs need to be aligned with the delivery process of development plans and the budgetary priorities of local governments. The New Urban Agenda adopted by the UN in 2016 has further expanded the scope for a new social contract in cities through localisation of the SDG targets for more inclusive and participatory processes of urban planning and governance.

The roundtable will explore the values that should underpin the new social contracts and potential shapes and modalities in different urban contexts, arising from challenges and opportunities from the triple C crisis – Covid-19, Climate and Conflicts. Speakers will discuss approaches that can help address multiple gaps and build resilient and sustainable cities and communities.

Expected results

- Challenges and opportunities from the triple C crisis will be highlighted in different urban contexts and from the point of view of different constituencies;
- A series of recommendations will be made on values, principles, shapes, and modalities of the new social contract in different urban contexts to create resilient cities and communities.

Guiding questions

- What are the main challenges arising from the triple C crisis – Covid-19, Climate and Conflicts – impacting inequalities in your own context?
- What are the key principles and values that should guide the new social contract?
- What are the main drivers of change to build a new social contract in urban contexts?
- Can you highlight successful solutions in urban contexts that can help shape a new social contract?

Moderator:

Ms. Christine Auclair, Head, Advocacy and Campaigns, UN-Habitat

Panelists:

H.E. Madame Martha Peralta Delgado, President, UN-Habitat Assembly

- *The New Urban Agenda, a road map and instrument to help shape the new social contract*

Mr. Hakan Bahadır, Mayor of Bahcelievler, Turkiye

- *Building a new social contract in Bahcelievler: key drivers of change for the future*

Mr. Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments

- *The role of local and regional governments in the new social contract, learning from the triple C crisis*

Mr. Mahmoud AlBurai, Middle East Cities Institute, American University of Dubai

- *Can innovation help shape the new social contract in cities?*

Ms. Zuzanna Tatara, Secretary General, URBAN Intergroup, European Parliament

- *Multilevel governance in the EU towards a new social contract*

Ms. Sri Husnaini Sofjan, Huairou Commission, Chair, World Urban Campaign

- *The role of grassroots communities in value co-creation towards a new social contract*

Prof. Siraj Sait, Noon Centre, University of East London

- *Human rights at the heart of the new social contract*