

**Global Observance - World Habitat Day 2022****3 October 2022 – Balıkesir, Türkiye****Theme: Mind the gap. Leave no one and no place behind**

## Guiding Social Inclusion in Cities

### Background

We are witnessing growing inequalities and poverty around the world. The gap between the haves and have-nots is getting wider. Over the last years, people living in cities and towns have been extremely challenged by the global health crisis, as well as connected crises related to supply chains, food systems, global energy supply and the climate crisis.

However, urbanisation is a powerful mega-trend that will define our future. Cities should be envisioned as spaces of opportunities to create change. They can offer innovative solutions to address inequalities, deliver climate actions and ensure a green and inclusive recovery from the pandemic. Leaders around the world are demonstrating bold actions to reverse negative trends in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

The roundtable will explore how urban development can be better guided by adequate policies and approaches anchored into human rights addressing the severe realities of inequalities. It will present examples of integrated and mixed-use urban planning and design approaches, and multi-level governance geared towards achieving better social and spatial inclusion.

### Expected results

- A series of successful approaches will be highlighted in different urban contexts illustrating various levels of action: regional, national, local.
- A series of recommendations will be made on how to better address the new realities of inequalities in urban contexts.

### Guiding questions

- What are the inequality gaps in your context, on regional, national or local level?
- Could you give an example of a socially inclusive city, and what aspects of planning policies and systems have promoted this?
- What are the main drivers of change to provide adequate housing and living standards at scale?
- Could you share successful examples of participatory processes in urban development that generated inclusion with tangible impacts?

## The session

### Moderator:

**Ms. Naomi Hoogervorst**, Programme Management Officer, Planning, Finance and Economy Section, UN-Habitat

### Panelists:

**Hon. Yucel Yilmaz**, Mayor of Balikesir, Türkiye

- *Social inclusion in Balikesir in the context of the triple C crisis*

**Ms. Dipti Mahapatro**, General Manager of Capital Region Urban Transport, Odisha State Road Transport Corporation, India

- *Women at the heart of urban transformation: the example of transport in Odisha State*

**Mr. Paulius Kulikauskas**, Chief of Office for European Union, UN-Habitat

- *Guiding social inclusion in the European Union: tools and approaches*

**Dr. Catalina Ortiz**, Associate Professor, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, UCL (online participation)

- *Co-creating an inclusive and equitable city*

**Mr. Samed Agirbas**, Youth Representative, Türkiye

- *Youth as key drivers of change for inclusive urban policies*

**Ms. Norliza binti Hashim**, CEO Urbanice Malaysia

- *Creating liveable cities and communities for Malaysia*