

World Habitat Day Session – Bogota, Colombia

Event date: 6 October 2025

Title:

Building inclusive cities through durable solutions

Meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85939552764>

Time: 8:30 a.m. (Colombia time)

Objective: To highlight how local governments, in Latin America, develop durable urban solutions that integrate displaced populations and promote inclusion in cities.

Brief Description: By the end of 2024, the forcibly displaced population in Latin America had reached 21.8 million—17.6% of the global total—according to UNHCR. Colombia is among the five countries with the highest number of internally displaced persons worldwide, with around 7 million, as reported in UNHCR’s annual Global Trends Report on Forced Displacement.

In this context, local governments have a crucial role in promoting durable solutions that address the needs of people in situations of human mobility while also considering host communities. These solutions require a comprehensive approach that not only responds to immediate humanitarian needs but also fosters long-term integration and community resilience.

Urban solutions—such as improving public spaces, upgrading neighborhoods, and strengthening community networks—offer a strategic platform for integration. By enhancing the physical and social environments in which displaced, and host populations live, cities can create conditions that reduce tensions, promote coexistence, and expand access to housing, services, and economic opportunities.

This event will provide a space to share experiences from Latin American cities that have advanced innovative, inclusive, and participatory approaches to addressing internal displacement. Through exchanging lessons learned, challenges, and successful practices, participants will explore how urban policies, and planning can contribute to durable solutions, improve quality of life, and build stronger, more inclusive cities for all.

Agenda:

Introduction video: showcasing how local governments in Latin America developed urban solutions that integrate displaced populations.

Panel discussion:

- **Paula Gaviria, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons** – Broad perspective on the implementation of urban solutions for internal displacement at the global level, highlighting how local governments, for example in Latin America, develop urban solutions that integrate displaced populations and promote Human Rights inclusion.
- **Mireia Villar Forner, UN Resident Coordinator in Colombia** – The UN's vision and international cooperation to promote durable solutions agendas at the national level, with Colombia as a case study.
- **Mi Comunidad, Mi Casa Project**, emphasizing the importance of Nation-Territory coordination and how national instruments are implemented locally for integration processes in situations of displacement caused by violence.
- **Isabelita Mercado, Counselor for Peace, Victims and Reconciliation, Municipality of Bogota** -How Bogotá fosters social cohesion and inclusion for displaced populations from a territorial perspective, with the IDSF project as a case study (to be confirmed).
- **Tatiane de Jesus Soares, Community Leader of Caxambu, Petrópolis, Brazil** – The Casa da Vida initiative and her contribution would share the community's experience on how to support women in vulnerable situations due to displacement caused by natural disasters.

Questions and answers.

Moderated by: Elkin Velasquez, UN-Habitat