

DIALOGUE 2

BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURES

TUESDAY, 28 JUNE
10am – 12pm CEST

Katowice, Poland

KEY WORDS

Urban Resilience - Covid-19 Recovery - Climate Adaptation - Risk Reduction - Risk Management - Humanitarian Action- Urban Transformation - Economic Resilience - Sustainability - Partnerships
SDGs Agenda 2030 Sendai Framework Paris Agreement New Urban Agenda

OBJECTIVES

This Dialogue will explore building urban resilience across various dimensions—economic, social and environmental, including appropriate governance and institutional structures. It will do this questioning the prevalent notions of resilience with the aim of using lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to progress and transform our cities for a better urban future.

The Dialogue will focus on city examples of resilience strategies and innovative tools for succeeding in urban resilience. It will open a window to potential global partnerships and innovative platforms.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that urban areas must continually adapt to various challenges in an integrated and holistic manner. At the same time, use such shocks and threats as inflexion points for transformation of the society to a better future Urban resilience should not just imply being able to withstand adversity, but without really changing the underlying conditions that created such adverse situation in the first place—i.e., embracing the notion of resilience that seems to favour endurance (more as a palliative) or maintaining the status quo. Rather, it should be transformative.

The idea of questioning and challenging the perspectives on and capacities for resilience is to go beyond 'building back better' to building forward differently, in a manner that does not preserve the existing state of affairs, but a real change that confronts structural inequalities in an uneven society and represents a development gain.

A further commonality is that municipalities are constrained by limited resources. Evidence-based decision making is a powerful tool for cities navigating a multitude of challenges, including to enhance resilience and adapt to the effects of climate change with the limited funds available.

On the other hand, the criticality of urban and climate resilience has gained awareness and momentum. What is imperative now is to think and work in new ways to upscale successful practices to support cities, especially in SIDS, LDCs and LMICs which face high exposure and vulnerability, governance deficits and limited existing internal capacities and resources.

Resilience building should drive towards, safeguard, and sustain development goals. This transformative resilience holds the potential to turn the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic into opportunities for growth and innovation that addresses existing challenges in cities, particularly for urban “weak spots” such as slums and informal settlements that disproportionately suffer from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Identification of challenges and opportunities of local governments to implement actions for resilience.
- Commitments on accelerating innovative solutions for local resilience building in the path towards achieving SDGs and implementing the New Urban Agenda.
- Fostering joint-platforms for strengthening global partnerships on urban resilience.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

MC and moderator – Ms Joan Erakit, international journalist.

Opening remarks:

(12min)

- Mr Daniel Wasik, Head of Urban unit in the ministry of development funds and regional policy, Government of Poland (4min)
- UN-Habitat’s representative (4min)
- Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR, Ms Mami Mizutori (4min - online)

Panel 1 – Localizing Resilience strategies.

(50 min: 5min presentation each + discussion)

- Mr Fahad Al-Jubeir, Mayor of Dammam, Saudi Arabia.
- Mr Sergio López, Director of Urban Planning of Medellín, Colombia.
- Ms Maria Galindo, Director of Urban Agenda and Digital Nation, Regional Government of Catalonia, Spain.
- Undersecretary for Welfare and Economic Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia (online).
- Mr Anis Khanech, Councillor of Tunis City (online)

Panel 2 – Policy directions for innovative urban resilience solutions.

(50 min: 5min presentation each + discussion)

- Mr Stefano Palmieri, President of the Economic Section in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).
- Ms Anita Araeli Zetina, Secretariat of Central American Social Integration.
- Mr Ronald Jackson, Head of the Disaster Risk Reduction, Recovery for Building Resilience, UNDP.
- Mr Walter Cotte, Special Representative of IFRC Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- Mr Iain McKinnon, Director, Inclusive Design.

Voices from the floor

(8 min – 2min each)

Wrap-up by the moderator

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

This Dialogue will address the following questions:

Panel 1 - Scaling-up resilience at the local level.

- i. How can cities build resilience that is more transformative? What are the supportive structures and capacities required to achieve this in various contexts?
- ii. Drawing from the COVID-19 pandemic, what lessons are emerging on resilience building in various cities and regions? How can this inform building sustainable urban futures?
- iii. Name concrete commitments of your government or organization to address principle urban challenges and preparing towards building resilience and sustainable urban futures.

Panel 2 - Policy directions for innovative urban resilience solutions.

- i. What policy directions can governments and relevant stakeholders at various levels and in different contexts take to build resilience across various dimensions— economic, social and environmental, including appropriate governance and institutional structures?
- ii. What are the roles of the different levels of government and relevant stakeholders in ensuring that this resilience is transformative?
- iii. How can various level of government implement innovative programmes and policies that have the potential to address inequalities in cities and enhancing societal resilience? What are the obstacles to achieving that?
- iv. Name concrete commitments of your government or organization to address principle urban challenges and preparing towards building resilience and sustainable urban futures.