

**WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE****REBUILDING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS AFTER WAR AND  
NATURAL DISASTERS****1. Summary:**

The war in Ukraine, the refugee crisis in Poland and in other countries hosting refugees from Ukraine, as well as natural disasters affecting various parts of the world nowadays, show how important the social aspect is in the social and economic recovery process of the post conflict areas. Huge losses in the housing infrastructure, rapid impoverishment of the population and mass migrations cause loss of stability and shortening of prospects, what in the long perspective, may lead to a slowdown or even stopping of the recovery process.

During the session, we want to reflect how to rebuild the sphere of the society and how to involve organizations and institutions in this process. In addition to expert discussions, the voice of cities that have experienced conflicts and natural disasters is also important.

The session will draw on experiences from different contexts in Europe and beyond. A special attention will be given to the testimonies of the cities in war crisis.

**2. Format Session:****I. Opening – 10'**

- Mr Grzegorz Puda, Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy
- Ms Maimunah Mohd Shariff, Executive Director of UN Habitat

**II. Expert Panel 1 – 40'****Building back better - how to put social and economic recovery at the heart of reconstruction processes?**

Building back better is all too often focused on rebuilding the damaged buildings and infrastructure in a more resilient way. Severe war experiences, loss or destruction of property, attempts to survive or even the return of refugees to devastated areas often result in long-term trauma and disturbance of individual and social development factors. Therefore, the process of reconstruction must take into account these aspects and have the most inclusive dimension in order to, in a sense, act therapeutically. Ensuring a better quality of life for people and communities

should be at the heart of every recovery and reconstruction process. This requires a full mobilisation and participation of all layers of society to help drive recovery and reconstruction processes. This requires also to ensure a shared vision on what 'better' means in each specific context to arrive at greener, more just and inclusive and healthy cities.

Based on their experiences the panelists will try to answer following questions:

Guiding questions:

1. What kind of analytical tools can help to understand the social and economic dimension of the impact of war and other conflicts, ensuring a more comprehensive approach to damage assessments of housing, neighbourhoods and cities?
2. What kind of programmes are needed to put the social and economic aspects of recovery and reconstruction front and centre, including through spatial planning and architecture, local financial planning and mechanism to the involvement of local stakeholders and communities?
3. How to engage social organizations in the social reconstruction of cities after the war, including their contribution in the process of planning and reconstructing urban space?

**Panelists:**

- Mr Marcus Heinz, Resident Representative for Poland & Baltic States, World Bank
- Mr Wojciech Wilk, President of the Polish Centre for International Aid
- Mr Raouf Mazou, Assistant Secretary-General, Office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- European Commission

**III. Expert Panel 2 - 30'**

**Rebuilding Communities and neighbourhoods for a sustainable future**

We will learn from the perspective of the stakeholders what the main challenges are while rebuilding communities and how to address the needs of the society.

Guiding questions:

1. How to engage social organizations in the social reconstruction of cities after the war, including their contribution in the process of planning and reconstructing urban space?
2. How to meet the housing needs of residents in the face of infrastructure losses, impoverishment of the population and increased demand for social services such as integration with the labour market, social inclusion?
3. What kind of social infrastructure is required for children, the elderly and people with disabilities, including those injured by warfare?
4. How to build a system of psychological support in cities for people struggling with war trauma – youth perspective?

**Panelists:**

- Ms Katarzyna Przybylska, Board Member, Habitat for Humanity Poland
- Ms Maria Trybus, Founder, “You have a friend in me”
- Mr Kemal Pervanić, Chair of the Board of Trustee, Most Mira (Bridge Peace)
- Ms Tatiana Sakharuk, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact Ukraine

**IV. Special contributions – representatives of cities – 10'**

- Ms Virna Johnson Salcedo, Mayor of Santa Marta, Colombia
- City Mayor, Ukraine