

Dialogue 1 - Urbanization, Culture and Innovation

Date: 10 February 2020

Venue: WUF10 ICC1

Time: 9 - 12 a.m.

Moderator: Mr. Jason Pomeroy

Coordinator: Mr. Pacome Kossy

Panelists:

- Panelist 1. Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO
- Panelist 2. H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, UAE
- Panelist 3. Ms. Saskia Sassen, Professor Columbia University
- Panelist 4. Mr. Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture
- Panelist 5. Ms. Beth Chitekwe Biti, Managing Director, Slum Dwellers International
- Panelist 6. Mr. Tim Stonor, British Architect and Urban Planner, founder of Space Syntax Limited

- **Introductory remarks:** H.E. Falah Al Ahbabi is Chairman of the Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) and member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi Government
- **Closing remarks:** Madam Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

9 a.m. Introduction of Dialogue 1 and the Moderator (UN-Habitat).

9.05 a.m. Moderator introduces the panel and gives the floor to H.E. Falah Al Ahbabi for his introductory remarks.

9.10 a.m. Moderator introduces part 1 of the Dialogue.

PART 1: Discussion, with guided questions¹, on the interlinkages between urbanization, culture and innovation (moderator + panelists).

9.15 a.m. Input statement panelist 1 - **Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramirez** (*How does urbanization affect culture; does urbanization strengthen, modify, erode or even produce 'new' forms of culture and cultural identities?*).

9.20 a.m. Questions to other panelists.

¹ UN-Habitat will prepare the questions.

- 9.30 a.m.** Input statement panelist 2 - **H.E. Noura Al Kaabi** (*How can cultural diversity mediate between conflicting lifestyles and expressions of culture in urban areas?*).
- 9.35 a.m.** [Questions to other panelists.](#)
- 9.45 a.m.** Input statement panelist 3 - **Ms. Saskia Sassen** (*What are the manifestations of culture and cultural diversity in urban areas in different contexts?*).
- 9.50 a.m.** [Questions to other panelists.](#)
- 10.00 a.m.** Input statement panelist 4 - **Mr. Luis Monreal** (*How do cultural elements enhance the image and attractiveness of the city?*).
- 10.05 a.m.** [Questions to other panelists.](#)
- 10.15 a.m.** Input statement panelist 5 - **Ms. Beth Chitekwe Biti** (*How can culture be leveraged to inform innovation, and the development and planning multicultural cities that are inclusive and diverse?*).
- 10.20 a.m.** [Questions to other panelists.](#)
- 10.30 a.m.** Input statement panelist 6 - **Mr. Rohit Aggarwala** (*How does cultural diversity contribute to the vibrancy, prosperity, innovation, inclusiveness, competitiveness, attractiveness, positive perception and overall development of cities?*).
- 10.35 a.m.** [Questions to other panelists.](#)
- 10.45 a.m.** **Short Break**
- 10.55 a.m.** Moderator introduces part 2 of the Dialogue.
- PART 2:**
- 11:00 a.m.** Proposition 1, discussed by panelists 1 and 2.
3 questions from the audience.

Proposition 1:

The world continues to witness an increased gathering of its population in urban areas. The fact that majority of the world's population resides in urban areas is significant because cultural diversity, innovative thinking, incubation of ideas and inclusive growth emanate from vibrant and dynamic cities.



The cultural diversity of cities contributes to their vibrancy, prosperity, inclusiveness, competitiveness, attractiveness, positive perception and overall development. Cultural diversity has important implications for how cities are planned and managed. **However, It is important to seek the right balance between cultural groups seeking to preserve their identity in cities and the need to avoid extreme forms of segregation and urban fragmentation so as to leave no one behind.**

11:25 a.m. Proposition 2, discussed by panelists 3 and 6. Reaction by panelists 1, 2, 4 and 5.
3 questions from the audience.

To harness the potential presented by cultural heritage and innovative solutions, national and local governments must prioritize the creation of enabling environments conducive for the growth of the entrepreneurial sector and creative markets and responsive to the needs of practitioners in an increasingly digital era, while leaving no one behind.

11:50 a.m. Closing statements of panelists

11:55 a.m. Moderator gives the floor to Madam Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat for closing remarks.

12:00 p.m. Group photo