How inclusive is your city?

Guide to public participation, access to information, youth inclusion through sports, and citizenship and human rights education in cities

Date: 09 February 2020, 14:45 – 16:15
Venue: One UN

Panel Discussion

How do local governments transform their cities so that everyone can have equal access to opportunities? How do cities put their inhabitants in the center and ensure that no one is left behind? Do local level governments take up the responsibility to implement the 2030 Agenda and human rights and how do cities bundle these agendas in practice?

Focusing on these questions, the panel discussion will address specific topics of urban inclusion, bringing together a group of international experts, scholars and city officials to debate opportunities and challenges local governments face in building inclusive cities. The panellists will reflect from academic and practical perspectives on possible actions local authorities can take in cooperation with other stakeholders in the society to make their city more inclusive. The discussion will explore how local authorities can push the development agenda forward, present international case studies on achieving inclusiveness and sustainability, and propose ways forward in light of current global challenges and opportunities.

The session will be the opportunity to launch two publications:

1- The “Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities”, prepared with the support of UNESCO and the European Training Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, under the umbrella of the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, member of UNESCO’s International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR. The toolkit presents policy models and hands-on guidance covering the full policy cycle on four topics of high relevance to the Arab cities; namely, public participation, access to information, sport for youth inclusion, and citizenship and human rights education.

2- The study "Implementing Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Local Level", is the first volume of the Human Rights Go Local Publication Series that is jointly edited by the UNESCO Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels (Graz, Austria) and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz.

Speakers:

- Khaled Abdel Al, Cairo Governor, Egypt.
- Youssef El Shawarba, Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan.
- Gerd Oberleitner, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, Austria.
- Jana El Baba, Program Specialist, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States.

Our ultimate objective is to inspire cities and other stakeholders to advocate for common action against discrimination and exclusion in its multiple forms, by putting forward the inclusive cities concept and highlighting four concrete areas of action that can really make a difference in advancing inclusive and sustainable urban development as per the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11.