

28th June 2022, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Auditorium

Session Language: English

I. Opening – 13:30 – 13:50

The destruction of the urban landscape of Ukraine and the wholesale movement of millions of people from their homes is only the latest vivid demonstration of the capacity of modern weapons for destruction in Europe and beyond.

In this session this afternoon, we will be looking at the human dimension in all this, and asking how important it is to consider the social aspect in assisting displaced people and rebuilding communities when conflicts end.

The catastrophes of the loss of housing infrastructure, rapid impoverishment of the population and mass migration can have long-term impacts that can impede recovery.

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. And as well as experts in the field, we will be talking to the real experts – those who have experienced conflicts and natural disasters.

We have two panels – the first I think we can look at as ‘top down’, hearing from organisations involved in reconstruction. The second is more ‘bottom up,’ hearing voices from people in affected cities about what lessons they have learnt.

And first three brief opening statements:

- **Ms Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Vice-Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy**
- **Ms Maimunah Mohd Shariff, Executive Director of UN Habitat**
- **Mr Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice**

II. Expert Panel 1 – 13:50-14:30

Building back better - how to put social and economic recovery at the heart of reconstruction processes?

Building back better is often focused on rebuilding damaged buildings and infrastructure. But we want to look at the urgent need to work inclusively for a shared vision on what ‘better’ means in each specific context to arrive at greener, more just and healthy cities. If reconstruction does not take into account the impact of destruction on people’s lives in an inclusive way, in order to act, in a sense, therapeutically, there is a danger of returning to conflict. Ensuring better quality of life for people and communities should be at the heart of every recovery and reconstruction process.

Based on their experiences the panellists 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 regional and international organizations in the reconstruction of cities after the war, including their contribution in the process of planning and reconstructing urban space?)

Briefing notes for areas covered by panellists:

- **Mr Marcus Heinz**, Resident Representative for Poland & Baltic States, World Bank
- **Mr Raouf Mazou**, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR
- **Ms Livia Styp-Rekowska**, Chief of Mission to Poland, International Organisation for Migration
- **Ms Joanna Skoczek**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the UN
- **Mr Maciej Popowski**, European Commission, Acting Director-General, DG NEAR (online)

III. Special contributions – representatives of cities – 14:30-14:50

- Mr Ihor Terehov, Mayor of Kharkiv, Ukraine (online)
- Mr Serhii Zamidra, Deputy Head, All-Ukrainian Association of Communities

IV. Expert Panel 2 - 14:50-15:30 Rebuilding Communities and neighbourhoods for a sustainable future

And now we move onto the view from the ground, as it were. What lessons have been learnt from other conflicts that mean we can build back better and more justly.

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
- **Mr Wojciech Wilk**, President of the Polish Centre for International Aid
- **Ms Maria Trybus**, Founder, “You Have a Friend in Me” youth initiative
- **Ms Alina Konovalchenko**, COO, United Nations Global Compact Ukraine