

WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

Accelerating Post Covid-19 Recovery, Social Inclusion and Urban Inequality Reduction in Communities

Social inclusion, urban inequality reduction and prevention of future crises, through multifunctional, ecological and sustainable neighbourhoods

1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- Helvetas
- HIC
- Sorbonne University

2. Key Words:

Sustainable neighbourhoods, social inclusion, urban equity, post-covid city, social impact, SDGs impact, crises prevention

3. Objectives of the Session:

Reviewing the key elements emerging from adaptations that cities and communities put in place to face and recover from the socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

Identifying visions for urban futures at the level of the quotidian of life in the neighborhood and in local communities.

Exploring concrete proposals and global frameworks to scaling up the adaptations that communities and neighborhoods have implemented, to consolidate them into long-term actions and plans that allow a greater impact on healthier, more just and greener cities.

4. Summary:

The crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that urban action at the neighborhood scale has the potential to generate direct impacts and benefits on the quality of life and the exercise of human rights of all people. Neighborhood action allows for the promotion of close, compact and connected city models, which in turn works as a strategy for social inclusion, as well as for the adaptation and mitigation of climate change and, therefore, can favour the response to future crises and threats.

Best practices in urban planning and governance arrangements in cities around the world demonstrate that sustainable green neighborhoods are an optimal option for responding to future threats while balancing sustainable urbanization and biodiversity protection. Acting at the neighborhood scale will enable a more effective response to new vulnerabilities and risks in cities and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Considering the above, this special session is based on the exchange and highlighting of best practices of intervention at the neighborhood scale that have been implemented to address the effects of the pandemic in different countries of the global south.

The aim is to advance in the development of criteria and proposals for sustainable urban interventions that contribute to enhance the social and environmental urban functions of neighborhoods and thus, improve inclusion and resilience at the city level. This, from a comprehensive approach that includes the development of sustainable interventions in terms of housing, public spaces, mobility, services and facilities -including health and education-, the strengthening of local governance and the participation of community organizations, the promotion of the circular economy and the generation of urban resilience.

5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:

- How cities from the Global South have confronted the pandemic? What are the key learnings for cities moving forward?
- How communities have developed resilience to confront shocks, despite their vulnerabilities?
- What are the emerging lessons in terms of the rights for communities in cities to develop in a sustainable, healthy and greener way?
- Can we think about an ideal urban adaptation to pandemics and other shocks affecting the proximity and human contact that are key elements of social cohesion and economic dynamics? What are the tools that could help us to do so?
- How to go to promote integrated interventions in communities and neighbourhoods?
- How to think in a new generation of sustainable neighbourhoods and communities based on social/SDGs impact interventions?

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:

- Inspirational examples and experiences to motivate other stakeholders and partners in the world to work from the local and neighbourhood perspective to build a sustainable, healthier and greener future.
- Elements to connect with implementation of NUA and Local2030 from the perspective of proximity.
- Key elements and narrative for new programmes to support neighbourhood and communities to be presented to global donors.

7. Session Format:

1. A presentation by the moderator
2. First part of the conversation based on the 2 first questions for 2 (3) panelists
3. Presentation of a video or direct intervention from the field
4. Questions from the public (2/3) questions
5. Second part of the conversation based on questions 3 and 4, for 2(3) panelists
6. Presentation of a video or direct interventions from the field
7. Questions from the public (2 or 3 questions)
8. Third part of the conversation based on questions 5 and 6 for 2(3)panelists
9. Final round of conclusions by the members of the session

