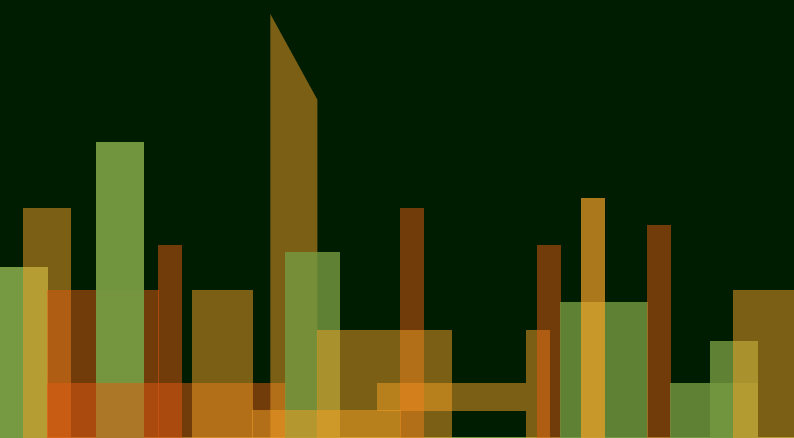INCLUSIVE

SAFE

CITY
NETWORKS

2021

RESILIENT

SUSTAINABLE

IN FOCUS: SDG 11 DAY

INTERNATIONAL CITY NETWORKS DIRECTORY

6 OCTOBER 2021
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Preface

Each year since 2018 a one-day event entitled 'In Focus: SDG 11' is dedicated to sustainable cities and communities. The event in 2021 was coorganized by UNECE, UN-Habitat and the Geneva Cities Hub (GCH). International city networks were encouraged to participate in the event, to foster dialogue and cooperation with Geneva-based UN agencies and other international organizations, as well as with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia.

This directory gathers information on international and regional city networks and their key projects. The information contained in each profile was provided by the organization concerned and was not modified either by the United Nations or GCH. The directory is not by any means exhaustive. It is meant to be an evolving tool that facilitates access to networks that represent cities and local authorities and urban partnerships and initiatives, and enhances their visibility in International Geneva's ecosystem.

Contents

ORGANIZERS

Geneva Cities Hub

The Geneva Cities Hub (GCH) is an association under Swiss law, created in 2020 by the City of Geneva and the Canton of Geneva with the support of the Swiss Confederation. It is one of several thematic platforms for dialogue and cooperation, supported by Switzerland, that aim to strengthen exchanges and synergies between organizations in International Geneva's ecosystem.

KEY PROJECTS

- Close cooperation with UNECE and UN-Habitat on the Forum of Mayors and follow-up to the Mayors' Declaration, including through the launch of the online Mayors' Action Platform to encourage cities to share best practices on urban resilience, health, sustainable energy, etc.
- Mapping the urban work of International Geneva actors and provide more visibility to the services that international organizations can offer to cities.
- Organize events to highlight urban issues and actors in international Geneva and promote partnerships between cities and Geneva-based international actors.
- Foster quiet diplomacy and reflection on the role of cities in the United Nations and on ways to strengthen it.

"

"Cities do not draft laws and are not officially included in multilateral policy making. Yet they are at the forefront of the concrete problems of populations, such as climate change, security, housing, disasters, and pandemics. States play a crucial role but cannot solve these global problems alone. Local governments and their networks are key partners. Every day, they face global problems in their territories and have to develop concrete and innovative solutions for local communities.

Hosting 177 states represented by permanent missions, 39 international organizations and 431 NGOs, Geneva represents a unique venue for dialogue, exchange and global policymaking on human rights, health, security, humanitarian issues, employment, technology, trade and the environment, among others. The work carried out by Geneva-based international actors has a direct impact on everyone's lives. By building bridges and facilitating regular dialogue between International Geneva actors, cities and city networks, we can contribute together to more inclusive and effective multilateralism for everyone's benefit."

MAYOR SAMI KANAAN, GCH PRESIDENT

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President: Mayor Sami Kanaan
Co-directors: Kamelia Kemileva and Anh Thu Duong

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 as one of five regional commissions of the United Nations with the overall aim of promoting pan-European policy integration. UNECE includes 56 member States — all the countries of Europe, as well as countries in North America, Central Asia and Western Asia.

UNECE is a multilateral platform that facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its member States and promotes their sustainable development and economic prosperity through policy dialogue and knowledge sharing, as well as the exchange of experiences, best practices and technical expertise. UNECE also aids in the negotiation of international legal instruments, the development of regulations and norms, and technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition. UNECE enhances the effectiveness of the UN by regionally implementing the outcomes of global UN conferences, summits and agreements. Such multilateral cooperation plays a key role in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) is an intergovernmental body comprising 56 member States. It addresses major challenges in housing, urban development, and land administration and management in the UNECE region. The Committee has developed and approved guidelines and recommendations on a wide variety of topics, ranging from sustainable housing and housing affordability to building energy efficiency, and develops and promotes integrated approaches to urban planning and standards for smart sustainable cities.

In 2015, together with ITU, UNECE developed the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities (the KPIs for SSC), which provide cities with a consistent and standardized method to collect data, measure performance, progress towards achieving the SDGs, and become smarter and more sustainable. For instance, between 2020 and 2023 UNECE will carry out evaluations of the cities of Almaty and Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan; Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan; Grodno in Belarus; Podgorica in Montenegro; Tbilisi in Georgia; and 17 cities in Norway. The outcomes of these evaluations, titled Sustainable Smart Cities Profiles, will highlight the cities' achievements in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provide directions for their further development.

To improve the resilience of cities, UNECE carries out a range of other activities. These include the project Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19, which is run in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The project strengthens the capacities of local governments in 16 cities across the world to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, and recovery and rebuilding plans.

Our world is growing increasingly urban. Three in four people in the UNECE region already live in cities. UNECE recognizes that local authorities provide infrastructure and services that are critical to improving the quality of life, fostering innovation, and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The vital role of cities, in infrastructure, service delivery, and 'building back better' after the COVID-19 pandemic, was at the heart of discussions at the first Forum of Mayors, held in Geneva on 6 October 2020. Under the title 'Improving city actions for a resilient future' the forum gathered mayors from Europe, North America and Central Asia to share practical experience, showcase their activities, and find solutions to problems that cities face.

Accelerating progress towards SDGs requires building effective and lasting partnerships. To this end, UNECE collaborates with international institutions, academia and the research community, NGOs and the private sector. It organized jointly with the Geneva Cities Hub and UN-Habitat the In Focus: SDG 11 roundtable in 2021. The event provides a platform for dialogue on successes and challenges in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and other urban-related SDGs. This event gathered representatives of UN agencies and academia, city networks and local and national governments. It focused on strengthening cooperation with cities and city networks. It also was an opportunity for cities, city networks and other stakeholders to provide their perspectives on the UNECE Regional Action Plan (RAP) "Tackling challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes", and to share their contributions to sustainable urban development through adequate, safe and affordable housing in the context of the pandemic and the climate emergency.

To learn more about UNECE see: https://unece.org. To learn more about the work of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management please see: https://unece.org/housing.

> www.unece.org
> https://unece.org/housing

UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat's vision of 'a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world' is bold and ambitious. It works with partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities, and promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty. We work in over 90 countries to advance transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action.

Our Strategic Plan 2020-2023 adopts a more integrated approach to solving the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first century cities and other human settlements. Built around UN-Habitat's vision of 'a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world', the Plan has four domains of change:

- Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum.
- Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions.
- Strengthened climate action and an improved urban environment.
- Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

The agency now has a robust and clear strategic focus to guide its work in positively transforming lives in cities and communities around the world. We are also well-positioned to take a leading role in this mission because we have a significant presence in all regions. It is predicted that 70% of the world's population will live in urban settlements by 2050.

Well-planned and well-governed cities will therefore play an essential role in the future, because they will help address issues associated with poverty, social exclusion and spatial inequality, shared prosperity, climate and the environment, and various forms of crisis. This was underlined at Habitat III, held in Quito in 2016, where member States adopted the New Urban Agenda, a framework that contributes to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable urban development can have a positive catalytic impact on development and deliver improved living conditions for those furthest behind. Well-planned urbanization resulting in efficient cities and towns can help drive the sustainable development agenda and promote social and cultural change, environmental protection, and economic growth. In addition, processes of sustainable urban transformation create opportunities to work with all types of actor and community, particularly those who are traditionally excluded. But we must act now.

The implementation of the Strategic Plan must continue to reflect our new vision and renewed focus on impact. UN-Habitat is becoming more outcome- and

impact-oriented and no longer focuses only on processes and outputs. Implementing the Plan through global flagship programmes will also bring benefits. We will reduce fragmentation in our work by improving the connections between normative and operational elements; increase the predictability of funding; and implement priorities agreed in the Strategic Plan more flexibly.

UN-Habitat's normative work, including ground-breaking research and capacity-building, sets standards, proposes norms and principles, shares good practice, monitors global progress, and supports policy formulation for sustainable cities and human settlements. Operationally, UN-Habitat delivers various forms of technical assistance, drawing on its unique expertise in sustainable urbanization and crisis response. We implement projects that add value and provide tailored support to countries. Through advocacy, communication and outreach, we also mobilize public, political and financial support and collaborative action designed to inspire qualitative change in national development plans, policy frameworks, development practice, and investment choices. Our aim in all areas is to promote sustainable urban development at local, national and global level.

We cannot undertake this task alone, and our partnerships with a wide range of actors are critical to success. In this respect, the present initiative to collate key urban networks in a Directory is needed and timely. Especially since the appearance of COVID-19, these networks have played an important role in helping to collect vital city-level information and share best practices. Through their 'nimbleness', city governments are making a huge contribution to national government policies and processes.

UN-Habitat looks forward with eager anticipation to the outcome of the next Forum of Mayors, which will take place on 4 - 5 April 2022, and is happy to work closely with UNECE, GCH and other partners to ensure the declaration is implemented. Never have city networks been needed more to address the global challenges of urbanization and build resilient cities and towns, thereby reducing risks and improving the quality of life for future generations.

https://unhabitat.org

THE DIRECTORY

C40 Cities

C40 is a network of nearly 100 cities working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and collaborative approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities.

The C40 member cities earn their membership through action. C40's most distinguishing feature is that it operates on performance-based requirements. Members are approved by C40's Steering Committee of mayors, who set minimum membership criteria and ensure the integrity of C40 as a network of climate leaders. Member cities must meet these requirements or leave C40. In conjunction with working in a peer group of world-leading cities taking ambitious and innovative climate action, this approach creates positive competition, encouraging C40 cities to go even further in their efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

C40's mission is to halve the collective carbon emissions of its member cities within a decade, while improving resilience and equity and creating the conditions for everyone everywhere to thrive.

The climate crisis, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, requires an unprecedented global response. Cities know what needs to be done to limit global heating to 1.5° Celsius, and they know that achieving this climate-safe future is only possible if we act now and in collaboration with other levels of government, businesses, civil society, and citizens.

KEY PROJECTS

C40's aim is to assist its cities as they implement their robust, science-based climate action plans which are aligned with the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement and prioritize increasing climate resilience and equity. That is why C40 will closely follow the COP26 summit. If this is achieved, C40 cities will see emissions reductions consistent with halving their collective emissions by 2030.

In the coming years, C40 will shift its in-depth regional resources to focus on the highest priority and highest impact climate actions in each region. When providing assistance, it will concentrate on its unique ability to support mayors to make the case for and enact ambitious and sometimes difficult policies, by building coalitions of support and facilitating peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.

Above all, C40 will help its mayors use their strong track record domestically to bring hope, energy, best practice, and a uniting vision to others.

www.c40.org

City Diplomacy Manager: Ms Agathe Cavicchioli at acavicchioli@c40.org

Cities Alliance

Cities Alliance is a global partnership fighting urban poverty and promoting the role of cities. To manage its activities, the Cities Alliance operates a multi-donor fund of which the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is host and Trustee.

Membership is highly diverse and includes national governments, associations of local authorities, multilateral organizations, NGOs, universities, and foundations.

VISION

"The Cities Alliance seeks to improve the lives of 60 million urban poor across 200 cities in 20 countries by 2030 and be a leading agent for urban change by supporting and implementing comprehensive programmes in countries and cities where it matters most. We leverage the collective expertise of our partnerships to catalyse urban transformation at a global level. Successful cities engage meaningfully with their citizens, and they recognize and promote the role of women."

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

We enhance the well-being of urban populations by delivering innovative, multi-sectoral solutions to urban poverty, through:

- Technical assistance and infrastructure delivered through grants to members and partners.
- Direct execution, catalysing State and non-State investments supported by a coordinating presence on the ground.

"Together we need to build sustainable cities by strengthening urban ecosystems, promoting investment in local resilience efforts and advocating for people-centred approaches."

KEY PROJECTS

- **Stronger partnerships: local innovations for new climate realities in cities**. Through our competitive call for innovation, we provide small grants to selected grantees in cities of the Greater Horn of Africa and the Bay of Bengal.
- **Femmedina**. This inclusive city programme in the Medina of Tunis focuses on a women-led participatory planning process, strategic interventions in public spaces, and city-to-city dialogues on gender-sensitive city development.
- **Enhancing the resilience of slum communities to overcome the crisis**. The purpose of this project is twofold: to strengthen the resilience of communities in informal settlements and support the sustainability of civil society organizations in informal settlements, in cooperation with Slum Dwellers International (SDI); and reinforce the capacities of informal communities to respond to the current pandemic and prepare for future crises.

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Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy – Europe Office

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy-Europe is an initiative funded by the European Commission. The Covenant of Mayors is the world's largest movement for local climate and energy actions. In Europe, over 10,000 cities and towns have joined forces to secure a better future for their citizens.

VISION

Covenant signatories voluntarily commit to building a better future for their citizens by taking action on energy and climate. They share a vision for 2050: low-carbon, resilient territories that have the capacity to adapt to climate change impacts and allow their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Signatories to the Covenant of Mayors take action to achieve three main objectives:

- Reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 40% by 2030.
- Increase resilience by adapting to climate change.
- Alleviate energy poverty.

To translate their political commitments into practical measures and projects, signatories develop, implement, and monitor a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan. The Covenant of Mayors' Office supports cities in this process via technical assistance, capacity building, networking, updates on financing possibilities, and communications. The Office also offers knowledge-sharing opportunities via peer-learning, notably through its own twinning programme.

"As elected officials we owe it to our citizens, not only to acknowledge the dangers of global warming but ensure they never actually come to pass. That's why Stockholm joined the Covenant of Mayors."

**BOARD MEMBER KATARINA LUHR,
DEPUTY MAYOR OF STOCKHOLM**

"We need to enact a rapid and deep transformation of our society to ensure that it is more sustainable and just for all. Recovery plans after COVID-19 should serve as an opportunity to enforce and speed up climate neutrality, which can help us tackle another crisis unfolding all over our planet – climate breakdown."

**BOARD MEMBER MARTIN HORN,
LORD MAYOR OF FREIBURG**

KEY PROJECTS

2021 stands out as a peculiar year for Europe. It is a key moment because the EU should evaluate whether we are on track to achieve the target of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that it set over a decade ago. To keep moving ahead, the European Commission recently adopted the European Green Deal, an ambitious roadmap that aims to raise our climate goals for 2030 and paves the way to a 'climate-neutral Europe' by 2050.

In April 2021, the initiative entered a new phase, officially launching its renewed ambition for a fairer and climate-neutral Europe. Under this shared vision, signatories now commit to reach climate neutrality by 2050, increase their emission reduction targets, implement adaptation to climate change measures, and alleviate energy poverty through a just transition. They also commit to engage their citizens, businesses and local stakeholders in the transition, thereby contributing to the European Climate Pact.

"Through the Covenant of Mayors movement, cities and towns are taking energy and climate action to secure a better future for their citizens. The initiative is open to all local authorities that are democratically constituted with/by elected representatives, whatever their size and whatever the stage of implementation of their energy and climate policies. Join the movement!"

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Energy Cities

Energy Cities is an association that provides a political platform for major European cities. We network the local governments of 145 of Europe's largest cities and more than 45 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens in 39 countries.

"

"Energy Cities empowers cities and citizens to shape and transition to futureproof cities. We showcase concrete alternatives deployed by cities, we advocate to change politic and economic governance at all levels and we foster a wide cultural change leading to a futureproofed society.

After decades shaping energy and climate policies for a decentralised, democratic and decarbonised energy system, the next step for cities is to transform their entire metabolism with a climate-neutral approach. Building resilient communities means fostering interdependence between sectors, between territories, between economic, social and cultural players and city leaders in order to share wealth and well-being at the local scale.

Our vision is that, by 2050, we will all be living in decarbonised and resilient cities with access to affordable, secure and sustainable energy. We strive to deliver LIVING SPACES that are accessible to everyone, through vibrant local economies and maximising resource regeneration."

CLAIRE ROUMET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Energy Cities' joint action across Europe makes each of our member cities stronger.

We stand up for our common interests, inform and inspire each other. With each new member, our community becomes more powerful. Every new local and regional authority wishing to join is very welcome!"

VISION

Energy Cities is a learning community for cities engaged in future proofing their economies, built around a "local and sustainable first" approach. Our strength lies in our members' strong commitment to reach climate neutrality in their territories by 2050 and to align their local strategic development with the Paris Agreement.

Building a learning community is a tool that helps each of our members feel more confident in their own transition journey, because other cities have done it before, or because cities can test new solutions together. We foster an atmosphere of mutual trust in the dialogue between citizens, local leaders and EU and national institutions in order to accelerate the transformation towards a climate-neutral Europe. Energy Cities energises this vibrant community and ensures its visibility.

KEY PROJECTS

Energy Cities is involved in a wide variety of projects to support its member cities in their energy and climate actions. We have notably been coordinating the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office (www.eumayors.eu) since the start of the initiative in 2008. We are now coordinating the European City Facility, which provides technical and financial support to municipalities in their sustainable energy projects.

In April 2022, we will hold our annual conference in cooperation with our member city Heerlen, in the Netherlands, and RESCOOP, the European federation of citizen energy cooperatives.

Discover all our projects at www.energy-cities.eu/projects.

www.energy-cities.eu

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Executive Director: Ms Claire Roumet

Eurocities

Eurocities is an association that provides a political platform for major European cities. We network the local governments of more than 200 major European cities in 38 countries, representing 130 million people.

VISION

Through joint work, knowledge-sharing and coordinated Europe-wide activity, we work to ensure that cities and their people are heard in Europe. We strive for a Europe in which cities are genuine partners with the EU to create a better future.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

- People participate in an inclusive society.
- People progress in a prosperous local economy.
- People move and live in a healthy environment.
- People create vibrant and open public spaces.
- City governments address global challenges.
- City governments are fit for the future.

KEY PROJECTS

Eurocities is actively involved in a variety of projects across the social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable urban development. A full list of projects can be accessed at: https://eurocities.eu/projects.

"In recent decades, cities' ability and desire to cooperate with their neighbours, and internationally, have sparked an ability to act as changemakers. It's clear that city leadership can deliver results that matter to people."

ANNA LISA BONI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF EUROCITIES

"As European cities, we are working together to ensure a good quality of life for all."

www.eurocities.eu

Global City Network (GCN)

The Global City Network (GCN) is part of WHO's Global Strategic Preparedness Network (GSPN) and helps countries to prepare for national health emergencies such as COVID-19. Through the Strategic Partnership Portal (SPH, set up in 2015), member States, donors and partners share information on efforts to invest in health security. GCN is managed by the Multisectoral Engagement for IHR and Health Security (MHS), a unit of WHO's World Preparedness Emergency programme.

VISION

The Global City Network is a coalition of committed mayors and local governments. It allies with partners and donors to accelerate ambitious, measurable health emergency preparedness initiatives that strengthen the capacity of local and country authorities to prevent, detect and respond to future health emergencies. Working across many sectors, including pandemic-specific activities, GCN convenes city authorities that participate in preparedness networks and provides a range of normative guidance and services to support their efforts to prepare for health emergencies. GCN also addresses the mitigation, adaptation and sustainability concerns of GCN cities. It assists cities to engage with relevant technical experts and supports collective actions. The network promotes and demonstrates the synergies that cities obtain when they act together to prepare for health emergencies.

"The Global City Network (GCN) is part of the WHO Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005)[2] and Health Security (SPH) and a key stakeholder in the Global Strategic Preparedness Network (GSPN). Established in 2015, the SPH includes multisectoral partners, donors and other partners, and works closely with interior ministries which in many countries oversee city authorities. The GCN takes an inclusive and multisectoral approach to health emergency preparedness. Given that the principle of inclusivity is fundamental to GCN, other existing urban networks, such as the Healthy Cities Network and the C40 network, are welcome to join forces to improve cities' capacity to prevent, detect and respond to future pandemics and sustain overall city health emergency preparedness. It is important for GCN to coordinate well with other partnerships that involve city authorities, such as partnerships of mayors, in close collaboration with national authorities."

[2] At: www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations#tab=tab_1.

KEY PROJECTS

As a result of urbanization, cities are particularly vulnerable to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. They hold more than half the world's population and around 600 cities are said to generate two thirds of global GDP. As a result, public health crises in these spaces can have a significant economic impact on countries and the world.

In addition, cities are densely populated and hubs of transnational commerce and mobility. They host many critical services on which societies depend, including local and global supply chains, points of entry and departure, and supports for vital businesses and services. COVID-19 has shown that, across the world, the preparedness and response of cities depends on many factors, including their level of development, forms of governance, and underlying socio-economic determinants. In general, transparent and collaborative cities that quickly adopt evidence-based and comprehensive responses have shown they are better equipped to manage the pandemic than cities that lack these characteristics.

In light of the risks that urban environments confront, WHO has drafted interim guidance to assist local authorities, leaders and policy-makers to identify approaches that enhance their ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and similar events effectively.

"It is widely recognized that if major cities work together, cities around the world will be better equipped to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies. Key member States, partners and donors began discussing in late 2019 the need for a network to enhance the role of mayors and cities' preparedness for health emergencies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, mayors asked national governments to help them strengthen critical public health capacities, develop networks to disseminate trusted information, support health and other essential services, mobilize employees to support the response, and design policies to protect businesses. Cities and local governments across the globe have already started to prepare for future pandemics. WHO has called on global networks to join forces and collaborate with the Global City Network for Health Emergency Preparedness. A responsible city is a well-prepared city."

https://extranet.who.int/sph

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Global Fund for Cities' Development
Fonds Mondial pour le Développement des Villes (FMDV)

The Global Fund for Cities' Development is an association under French law (loi 1901). The Global Fund is a membership organization. Members pay a fee and elect the Board of Directors. The current Board of Directors was elected in November 2019 in Durban. The Board's Co-Presidents are the City of Paris and the District of Abidjan. As a multi-stakeholder global network, the Fund has worked since its creation with more than 1,500 cities and regions in one hundred countries, as well as with five hundred companies and investors and sixty subnational development banks.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The Fund is a global network of cities and regions that focuses on developing and promoting investment and financing solutions for sustainable urbanization as a transformative lever to achieve global goals.

The Fund is both a network and an incubator of operational strategies. It supports public actors through technical assistance and financial engineering across the entire value chain of urban development financing. It develops and facilitates partnerships with all actors involved in local development financing, promoting a multi-stakeholder approach.

The Fund mobilizes the expertise of practitioners to support transfer of knowledge and peer-to-peer cooperation on topics such as financial decentralization, financial intermediation, climate finance and innovative financing methods.

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"The strategic role of local governments in achieving global agendas is unanimously recognized. Yet, the financing of cities and regions is characterized by market failure. There is a gap between the supply and demand sides of financing. Although governments and both technical and financial development partners have deployed numerous credit lines and financial instruments to prepare, invest in or provide guarantee to urban projects, local governments still lack access to resources to adequately deliver urban services and meet the SDGs. They encounter difficulties in their ability to match the requirements of financial actors or are limited by inadequate institutional frameworks.

It is within this context that FMDV plays a major role. Its unique network of local and regional governments, dedicated to issues of local finance, develops solutions to support the entire value chain of urban development financing."

MR ROBERT BEUGRÉ MAMBÉ, MINISTER GOVERNOR, DISTRICT OF ABIDJAN,
CO-PRESIDENT OF THE GLOBAL FUND FOR CITIES' DEVELOPMENT

KEY PROJECTS

The Fund carries out its activities on three operational axes, across all levels of intervention (international, regional, national, and local).

- **Advisory missions to public partners**. It supports programmes at national and local level to improve partners' circumstances and capacity to access finance and investments for an integrated urban transition.

- **Multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships to accelerate action**. The Fund coordinates sectoral alliances; provides training in urban finance; offers project coaching to help project leaders reach bankability; holds match-making sessions to connect investment demand and supply; develops 'living labs' to test urban innovation proposals and prepare for their scale-up phase, etc.

- **International advocacy and knowledge production**. The Fund is particularly involved in structuring the Local Finance Knowledge Hub, a unique platform dedicated to local finance.

Through these activities, the Fund supports development programmes valued at USD 35 million, and has helped to mobilize more than USD 1 billion for local development.

www.fmdv.net

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Human Rights Cities Network (HRCN)

The Human Rights Cities Network is a not-for-profit organisation (association sans but lucratif).

It is governed by a team of experts supported by an Advisory Board of senior human rights specialists, which sets its direction and oversees its work.

We invite European cities that are committed to respecting, protecting and promoting a culture of human rights to become 'guest members'. Today, the network counts seven guest member cities as inspiring models: Graz, Lund, Middelburg, Nuremberg, Utrecht, Vienna, and York. We work closely with three associated members: the Raoul Wallenberg Institute; University College Roosevelt and Utrecht University; and Global CAD and the US Human Rights Cities Alliance.

VISION

To make human rights a reality for everyone, and foster inclusive democracy and social justice.

MISSION

To increase the number of human rights cities in Europe.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Human rights are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. They are part of the international social fabric that links people across borders. More than ever we need the uniting force of human rights and that means human rights cities.

The COVID-19 crisis has underlined the essential contribution that local authorities make to putting human rights at the centre of public policies. Effective local governance is key to achieving this objective.

Human rights cities also bring decision-making processes closer to people. The network is building on lessons we have learned to advance human rights at local level.

Local perspectives also need to be heard and represented internationally. Given their importance, local authorities should be represented at and participate in the work of international human rights mechanisms, UN Human Rights Council meetings and events led by International or European institutions.

Being a member of the International Committee of the World Human Right Cities Forum of Gwangju allows us to contribute to the wider movement of human rights cities.

The network's four strategic objectives are to:

- Create synergies between international institutions, academics, and city actors.
- Spread knowledge about what human rights cities are, and exchange good practices, document local experiences, and describe new trends.
- Facilitate dialogue and collective reflection and help to develop methodologies, tools and guidelines.
- Build capacity by sharing expertise or providing tailor-made services.

Through our website, we share knowledge of human rights cities, link actors, and make good practices accessible. We promote 'model cities' and encourage other cities to join them.

KEY PROJECTS

- Identify a clear monitoring mechanism for cities in Europe based on key elements of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Framework of Commitments and other examples of human rights monitoring. It is essential to monitor the achievements and progress of human rights cities periodically in order to develop a global movement.

- Advance the global development of human rights cities by promoting:
  - An advisory role for academic institutions of the Global Campus of Human Rights network, to support local authorities of prospective human rights cities.
  - Specialized research on human rights cities and local human rights initiatives to develop guidelines and monitoring frameworks.

- Enhance advocacy work on human rights cities, contributing to the development of regional and global movements.

Human rights cities contribute significantly to the definition of global politics, bringing decision-making processes closer to the people. How to enhance local democracy in the future is a priority for those working to reinforce local and international human rights objectives. New concepts that bridge global and local are shaped especially in cities. Human rights gaps need to be bridged through local governance.

https://humanrightscities.net

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Director & Founder: Frédérique Hanotier,
frederique.hanotier@humanrightscities.net

Becoming part of our network offers the opportunity to connect to other regional and global networks, and all together we become stronger."

ICLEI-European Secretariat
Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Initiatives) is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments. ICLEI Europe's members sit at the heart of the organization. Representing local governments and governmental associations of all shapes and sizes, their network stretches across Europe and beyond.

Members support ICLEI's work through their membership fees and by applying their experience and creativity to develop and implement projects tackling the world's and our biggest problems.

Between ourselves, we are a peer group whose members are dedicated to sustainable development and innovation. By exchanging and profiting from each other's know ledge, we can drive the sustainable development agenda in Europe.

VISION

As a global network committed to sustainable urban development, ICLEI works to assist all parts of society to transform to sustainability through local action and multi-level cooperation. Our idea of sustainability is based on the concept of planetary boundaries, meaning that our economic and social development must respect the limited resources of our planet. To achieve this, ICLEI has outlined five development pathways to low-emission, nature-based, circular, resilient, equitable, and health-centred development.

Based on our 30 years of experience, we believe the key to successful transformation lies in a substantial reform of our economic, financial and social systems, and a change in the paradigms that rule those systems. We need to look beyond resource efficiency to sufficiency. Instead of creating more for everyone, causing a massive global resource overshoot, we need to create enough for everyone in a manner that respects planetary boundaries. This means that we need to distribute available resources and opportunities fairly.

"In 2016, ICLEI Europe initiated the Basque Declaration, which offers local and regional governments pathways to socio-cultural, socio-economic and technological transformation and contributes to implementation of the SDGs at local level. However, for successful transformation in line with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement, local and regional governments should be more than implementation partners. They need to be actively involved in the design and development of regulatory and fiscal frameworks at all levels, applying a bottom-up perspective to secure the support required for transformation on the ground."

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Active in more than a hundred countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our members work together with experts through peer exchange, partnership and capacity-building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

ICLEI Europe provides its members in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and West Asia with a voice on the European and international stage, a platform to connect with peers, and tools to drive positive environmental, economic and social change. ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and partners on a broad range of topics.

KEY PROJECTS

European Green Deal. Supporting local transformation at European level, in the context of the Mannheim2020 conference, ICLEI initiated with the Mannheim Message a response by mayors and decision-makers of Europe's cities and regions to the European Green Deal.

To achieve our goal of systemic change for urban sustainability and to drive the transformation of our societies, ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and partners on a broad range of projects in various fields. Current projects include:

CityLoops. Promotes the transition to a circular economy in cities.

SUMP-Plus. Develops integrated sustainable urban mobility plans.

AI4Cities. Applies artificial intelligence to promote cities' transition to carbon neutrality.

UrbanA. Advances a just transition to sustainability.

NetworkNature. Connects nature and clever cities; develops nature-based solutions.

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International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF)

Founded in 1979, the AIMF is an association (under the law of 1901) which has evolved to reflect changes in the political leadership and activities of local authorities. It is a welcoming space of exchange and solidarity for Mayors of francophone cities that has developed alongside city environments and international solidarity between cities. In 2021 the AIMF had 305 members in 54 countries.

1979   The AIMF is created in Quebec.

1990   The Cooperation Fund is created in Tunis. An instrument of international solidarity between cities, resourced by AIMF's members, it enables cities to realize urban projects.

1995   The AIMF becomes an operational unit of La Francophonie (Resolution 19 of the Summit of Heads of State and Governments of La Francophonie).

2015   The AIMF signs a seven year Strategic Partnership with the European Commission.

2017   The AIMF signs a four year partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to improve key urban social services.

VISION

Between 2014 and 2020, the AIMF added a dimension to its range by strengthening its political capacity. It is no longer just an acknowledged and reliable project partner and forum for sharing good practice, but articulates a way of seeing cities, of doing international cooperation led by values. AIMF has firmly stepped away from being only a 'technical' agency and has a political presence, reflecting permanently on cities and their needs. Its great contribution to city networks is its power to put shared values into action via prominent and emblematic projects.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

In a globalizing world, mayors play an increasingly important role in linking different levels of decision-making and creating bridges between local, national, and international action.

AIMF's aims are: to combine energies; promote ambitious and responsible urban policies that are more respectful of human beings, the environment and the living world; and take forward collectively projects that create new visions of living together, gender equality, and diversity.

For cities, the AIMF is a space of voluntary cooperation. Rather than thinking in terms of North and South, ethnicity or religion, rather than focusing on what divides us, it gathers people together around a certain way of seeing the world.

> **"**
>
> "The AIMF is a shared project. It offers each of our territories the opportunity to develop itself, in a world facing major challenges."
>
> **ANNE HIDALGO, PRESIDENT OF THE AIMF,
> MAYOR OF PARIS**

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75001 Paris, France

KEY PROJECTS

AIMF enriches its social and economic activity by promoting openness among its members, encouraging cities to adapt to climate change, and helping them to manage risk by strengthening social cohesion.

By remaining faithful to a grassroots projects approach, AIMF is able to reflect more deeply on what it means to work together – as elected local officials, parliamentarians, government officials, scholars, journalists, experts – and analyse and improve the environment in which local authorities operate.

This reflection integrates mayors in institutional development. AIMF enables municipal authorities to exercise their powers, evolve legal and regulatory frameworks, and articulate their views through the review *Raisonnance*.

To improve our ability to live together in harmony, AIMF fosters and supports innovative city programmes to fight racism and ethnic conflicts, to affirm the role of women, and make inclusive and sustainable cities become real.

International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN)

ICORN is an independent, international membership organization whose members include 75 cities in 18 countries of Europe, the United States of America and Latin America. The majority are in Scandinavia, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands, France and the USA.

VISION

Improved conditions for freedom of expression worldwide.

MISSION

ICORN enables cities around the world to provide safe havens for persecuted writers and artists, working together to

- advance freedom of expression.
- defend democratic values.
- promote international solidarity.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The goal of ICORN is to protect and promote as many persecuted writers and artists as possible. The more cities stand up for freedom of expression and sign up as cities of refuge in the ICORN network, the more persecuted writers, artists, journalists and human rights defenders from all over the world will find a safe haven, enabling them to continue their fight for human rights and freedom of expression in their home countries.

At the same time, ICORN residents are vital sources of new energy and insights in and with the cities that host them. Since ICORN started in 2006, more than 250 writers and artists at risk have found refuge in ICORN cities. Each is a story of hardship, threats and persecution, but simultaneously a story of courage, creativity and intercultural exchange.

> "
>
> "The spaces for freedom of expression are shrinking on a global scale. It is the task of ICORN to mobilize cities all over the world to become committed actors for human rights and freedom of expression, making the values of solidarity, creativity and hospitality core priorities of each city's policy."
>
> **HELGE LUNDE,**
> **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ICORN**

KEY PROJECTS

ICORN is currently developing a new strategic plan for the period 2022-2026. It wants to grow the network, recruit new member cities worldwide, and work with a wide range of sister networks and other cooperating bodies and organizations to make together a global leap forward for human rights and freedom of expression.

The core task remains the same, however. Each individual voice that is suppressed and stifled is important and worthy of support. Among our priorities is a new plan to engage the immense resources of member cities in even closer cooperation to achieve and realize ICORN's vision and mission. As an example, eight ICORN cities that have been European Capitals of Culture will join together in a project titled Arts of Democracy.

Individual projects with ICORN artists will be made in each city in 2022 and 2023. The programme will culminate in the City of Bodø, Norway, when it celebrates its designation as European Capital of Culture.

"ICORN and its member cities can never work and operate in a vacuum. We totally depend on a growing amount of partners and cooperative bodies and organizations, working together to make to the world a freer and better place for all."

www.icorn.org

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Leading Cities

Leading Cities is a global non-profit organization with a mission to drive resiliency and sustainability in cities worldwide.

We work with municipal governments to identify and connect local priorities with globally sourced solutions vetted by experts. We also help smart and resilient city startups prepare to deploy successfully in local communities.

Leading Cities reduces the risk and cost of innovation for local governments. Founded 13 years ago, we were a pioneer of the smart and resilient city movement. We started by connecting cities, but now we not only connect cities with each other but build bridges between municipal governments and entrepreneurs to create innovative solutions for the challenges that cities face in the 21st century. Our signature programme, AcceliCITY, has become one of the largest and most successful smart and resilient city accelerator programmes in the world. Annually we vet over 500 startups in more than 40 countries. We offer cities help to design global competitions for finding and selecting innovative solutions. Through our AcceliGOV program, we provide cities worldwide with the ability to compete for no-cost pilot projects.

> "Leading Cities is a global non-profit that exists to partner with city leaders to support their transition to smarter, more sustainable and resilient communities. If we can be of assistance to you and your community, please connect with us."

**MICHAEL LAKE,
PRESIDENT AND CEO**

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the risk and cost of innovation in local governments.
- Connect municipal governments and innovative solutions.
- Share best practices between cities.
- Provide global expertise to plan, develop and deploy smart and resilient strategies for cities.

KEY PROJECTS

- **AcceliCITY**. One of the world's largest, most successful accelerator programmes, AcceliCITY connects cities with innovative solutions. Each year we partner with a handful of cities to offer customized Smart Challenges through which they can globally source and vet solutions that meet their needs.
- **AcceliGOV**. We provide cities with opportunities to compete for no-cost pilot projects.
- **Consulting**. We offer an array of consulting services and expertise to support the various dimensions of smart cities and the phases of their development.
- **LaunchPad 11**. This programme delivers a virtual co-working space for companies that focus on SDG 11 as well as access to an international business, mentorship, networking, and education community.

www.LeadingCities.org

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Making Cities Resilient 2030

MCR2030 is a multi-partner initiative led by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

VISION

MCR2030 is a place where cities and local governments can find guidance and support to enhance understanding of risk reduction and resilience, improve strategic planning to reduce risk and build resilience, and take steps towards achieving resilience.

"Making Cities Resilient 2030 is a unique cross-stakeholder initiative for improving local resilience through advocacy, sharing knowledge and experiences, establishing mutually reinforcing city-to-city learning networks, injecting technical expertise, connecting multiple layers of government, and building partnerships. By delivering a clear roadmap for urban resilience, and providing tools, access to knowledge, and monitoring and reporting tools, MCR2030 supports cities to reduce risk and build resilience."

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The ultimate goal of MCR2030 is to ensure cities become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030, contributing directly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other global frameworks including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.

Specifically, MCR2030 seeks to ensure that

- An increasing number of cities
  - Commit to reducing local disaster/climate risk and building resilience.
  - Demonstrably improve their sustainability through implementing disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and/or resilience plans and taking actions to enhance resilience.
- An increasing number of partnerships focus on resilience, globally and regionally, bringing synergized collaboration and support to cities along the resilience roadmap.

"

"To achieve resilience, cities will have to address the underlying drivers of risk, which may include poverty, education, health, environmental degradation, among others. More than anything, a holistic and systems approach to resilience must be adopted by cities. MCR2030 aims to provide a framework for this approach."

MAMI MIZUTORI, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND HEAD OF THE UN OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNDRR)

KEY PROJECTS

Making Cities Resilient works to Improve cities' understanding of risk and secure cities' commitment to local disaster risk reduction and resilience. It achieves this by

- Strengthening cities' capacity to develop local strategies and plans to enhance resilience.
- Supporting cities to implement local strategies and plans to enhance resilience.

A crosscutting aim of MCR2030 is to strengthen vertical links between local governments, national governments, and national associations of local governments, as well as horizontal links between local and national partners.

http://mcr2030.undrr.org
MCR2030 brief

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ROECA)
37 - 40 Boulevard du Régent, Brussels 1000, Belgium

Mayors Migration Council (MMC)

The MMC is a mayor-led organization managed as a sponsored project by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides governance and MMC's operational infrastructure. The MMC is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Open Society Foundations. The Leadership Board is composed of the mayors of Amman, Bristol, Freetown, Kampala, Los Angeles, Milan, Montréal, and Zürich, and the former mayor of Athens.

"

"From a position at the periphery just a few years ago, mayors are now widely recognized to deliver practical solutions, drive progress, and show political will where others have stepped back. Since our launch in December 2018, we at the MMC have helped mayors become more involved in international policymaking, more comfortable in navigating the international halls of power, and more ambitious when voicing their views on migration policy at the global level."

VITTORIA ZANUSO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAYORS MIGRATION COUNCIL

VISION

As a non-membership organization, the MMC engages with all cities that can benefit from our services and support. We take a flexible approach that allows all cities to participate in our coalition and offer programme activities that match their needs and capacities. As a principle, we strive to ensure that our work amplifies the voices and experiences of the Global South and secondary cities.

For the MMC, success is ultimately a transformed national, regional, and international governance system that reflects and addresses local realities and improves conditions for migrants and refugees.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The MMC has four long-term objectives:

- Cities are formally represented and consulted in national and multilateral policy deliberations and implementation arrangements concerning migrants and refugees.
- Cities inform and influence national and international responses to migrant and refugee issues through effective diplomacy, advocacy, and communications.
- Cities regularly access financial and technical resources from national governments, development agencies, international humanitarian organizations, and the private sector, as well as their peer cities, to implement local solutions for pressing migration and refugee challenges.
- Cities meet and exceed global commitments on migration and refugees by implementing local solutions efficiently and at scale.

KEY PROJECTS

Climate-induced migration, inclusive climate action and cities. Climate change is increasingly a key driver of human mobility. Since the majority of people who move as a result of climate change settle in urban areas, cities are first responders. In partnership with the C40 group of cities, the MMC coordinates and streamlines cities' diplomatic activities to promote and enable national and international policy frameworks, highlight specific recommendations and best practices for integrating inclusive climate action and inclusion policies in cities, and explore joint and targeted approaches to climate and migration-related funding instruments.

Inclusive emergency response and recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a stark spotlight on the critical role that cities must play to ensure that all residents have access to information, healthcare, and support systems during national or global emergencies, especially when the State's response is inadequate. In partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and others, the MMC advocates inclusive international, national, and local forms of governance that ensure no one is left behind in the course of health crises, natural disasters, or any other type of emergency, because of their immigration or refugee status.

www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org

@MayorsMigration

contact@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org

Mayors Migration Council
at the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors,
6 West 48th Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10036, USA

The MMC created the Global Cities Fund to respond to the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people during pressing global challenges. Developed in partnership with the UN Migration Agency, the UN Refugee Agency, the UN Human Settlement Programme, and United Cities and Local Governments, the Fund builds precedents of fiscal feasibility in city governments within low- and middle-income countries that are often disregarded by donors with low risk tolerance, despite being at the frontlines of these challenges.

[3] Statement at www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/mmc-response-joint-statement.
  Video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hm-CxHC6YiI. Virtual hub at mmc-response.org.

Metropolis
World Association of the Major Metropolises

Currently, Metropolis has 141 members worldwide. Any public authority with territorial jurisdiction or any institution or body that represents a metropolis may become a member of the association, whatever its local government system.

Recognizing the sheer variety of institutional and demographic situations, a 'metropolis' is understood in our statutes to be a geographic entity that consists of contiguous urban areas and plays a predominant role in the State in which it is located. Our rules of procedure specify that eligible urban areas must have a population of at least one million inhabitants.

VISION

Metropolises for and by their citizens, where participatory and effective metropolitan governance fosters economic development, sustainability, social cohesion, gender equality and quality of life.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

To advance metropolitan interests and improve the performance of metropolises in accordance with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

KEY PROJECTS

- Cities for Global Health.
- Emergency Governance Initiative.
- Metropolis City Managers.
- Metropolis Learning and Training.
- Metropolis Observatory.
- Metropolis Pilot Projects.
- Urban Sustainability Exchange (USE) Platform.

"In recent decades we have witnessed the continuous expansion of urban agglomerations. The impact of cities is felt beyond their own boundaries, and the resilience of metropolitan spaces and their inhabitants is often tested by natural or man-made threats and hazards. Today, the COVID-19 pandemic confronts us more than ever with challenges and contradictions that exacerbate existing tensions and inequalities. Yet, the pandemic also offers us an unmissable opportunity to rethink our cities and metropolitan spaces. Let us join forces to build metropolitan communities that are green, inclusive, prosperous, resilient, and safe."

FROM *A CALL TO RETHINK OUR METROPOLITAN SPACES* BY THE METROPOLIS PRESIDENCY AND CO-PRESIDENCIES[4]

www.metropolis.org

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Secretary General: Octavi de la Varga

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[4] At: www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/resources/EN_ Metropolis-call.pdf.

Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC)

Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC) is a non-profit organization whose members are cities and communities around the world. Its ambition is to leverage technology to improve the quality of life of citizens. Currently, 155 cities are members, in 31 countries from Argentina to Finland and Japan.

VISION

"Openness, interoperability and transparency are key to the successful digital transformation of the public sector. OASC and its member and partner organizations are one step away from a global market where urban digital solutions can scale up for the benefit of the economy, cities and their citizens."

MEERSMAN, CEO, OPEN & AGILE SMART CITIES

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

OASC is a global network set up to shape and create a market for smart city data and services. It promotes use of open and minimal mechanisms to achieve digital inter-operability at scale and replicates digital solutions for the benefit of cities and local innovation ecosystems. OASC and its member cities are uniquely driven by experimenta-tion and implementation.

KEY PROJECTS

OASC Academy. Provides online courses to increase the skills of public administrations and help them prepare for digital transformation.

CSCC Catalogue. The Connected Smart Cities and Com-munities Catalogue is being developed as a marketplace of city solutions, by cities, for cities. Showcasing only de-ployed solutions and products and services that underpin them, the Catalogue highlights best practices from cities around the world.

"OASC is creating a market for city data and services based on open standards and interfaces. This market is developed by and for cities, with the support of our partners from international institutions, research and industry. To join OASC as a new member city or find out about our partnership models, get in touch with us at partnerships@oascities.org. We look forward to hearing from you!"

oascities.org

Anspachlaan 65, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

CEO Davor Meerman: +32498111594

OPEN & AGILE SMART CITIES

Partnership for Healthy Cities

The Partnership for Healthy Cities is a collaboration between Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Health Organization, and Vital Strategies. It is a technical network. Cities can only join by invitation but no membership fees are required.

The network numbers 70 cities from all regions of the world, the majority from low- and middle-income countries. Each city has a population of at least a million inhabitants, including metropolitan areas. New members are invited every two years. The decision to join is made by the city's mayor or governor, on receipt of an official invitation.

> "Cities are engines of change, and the people who lead them are more important than ever. By uniting a network of mayors and city staff committed to life-saving action, the Partnership for Healthy Cities will build a healthier world for all."

DR KELLY HENNING, BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES

> "With a majority of the world's population now living in urban settings, the Partnership for Healthy Cities recognizes that cities are uniquely positioned to transform the fight against NCDs and injuries, and is committed to helping cities save lives."

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The network supports cities and their mayors to save lives by preventing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries. Each city selects an intervention from one of 14 possible topic areas of NCD and injury risk. The network then provides:

- Technical assistance if needed.
- Financial assistance for activities.
- Communication support to make the city's work visible.

Since March 2020, the Partnership has also supported cities' responses to COVID-19.

KEY PROJECTS

Priorities for 2021-22 include city-level programmes on tobacco control, food policy, safe active mobility, road safety, opioid overdose prevention, and NCD surveillance. Support for cities' responses to COVID-19 will also continue to be available.

🏠 https://partnershipforhealthycities.bloomberg.org and https://cities4health.org

👤 Kelly Larson, Bloomberg Philanthropies
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Ariella Rojhani, Vital Strategies
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Susannah Robinson, World Health Organization
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Platforma

PLATFORMA is a pan-European coalition of towns and regions active in decentralized cooperation. Its 29 partners represent towns and regions and their national associations as well as European and global networks that are active in city-to-city and region-to-region development cooperation. All members cooperate internationally to promote sustainable development. The secretariat of PLATFORMA is hosted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

In 2015, PLATFORMA-CEMR signed a Framework Partner-ship Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission which affirmed the political priorities of EU development policies. In tackling global poverty and inequalities and promoting local democracy and sustainable development, the signatories committed to act on the basis of their shared values and ob-jectives. More information on our partners can be found at: https://platforma-dev.eu/partners/.

VISION

"Throughout the world, towns and regions share a desire to learn and to exchange. At PLATFORMA, we transform that desire into a cooperative, global force for sustainable development. We believe in a world where no one and no place is left behind, where citizens have ownership, confidence and trust in the policies implemented in their town and region.

We strive to be the hub of expertise on European local and regional governments' international action, and aim to boost local and regional governments' contributions to EU development cooperation policies and international frameworks."

MARLÈNE SIMÉON, DIRECTOR OF PLATFORMA

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Together with our partners, we defend the role of towns and regions and their representative associations in EU development policies and international fora. We promote international cooperation between cities and regions across the world to boost capacity-building between peers. We facilitate knowledge exchange, peer-learning and experimental innovative approaches between towns and regions and their associations.

Every two years, we organize the PLATFORMAwards to reward best practices in cities and regions' international action. Each autumn, we coordinate the European Days of Local Solidarity (EDLS) to raise citizens' awareness of what their municipalities and regions do at global level. We also regularly publish studies and research papers, including an annual study on the localization of the Sustainable De-velopment Goals (SDGs).

"Cooperation between cities and regions at global level focuses on supporting local democracy, improving the lives of local communities, and achieving the 2030 Agenda. In each project, local and regional government partners join forces and work hand in hand with civil society and all other stakeholders to identify common problems and find the best solutions.

Because they are close to citizens and their needs, and know local strengths and weaknesses, the local and regional levels are the best places from which to address today's and tomorrow's global challenges, ensuring they receive appropriate recognition and support."

KEY PROJECTS

PLATFORMA and its partners support policy dialogues with European Union (EU) institutions and member States on EU development policy, as well as between EU delegations and local and regional governments and national associations in partner countries.

The different studies recently published by the coalition, as well as concrete examples of decentralized cooperation partnerships, will be promoted through workshops and webinars throughout the second half of 2021 and beyond. To support local and regional governments' international actions, PLATFORMA and the United Cities Local Governments (UCLG) published a training module on SDGs and decentralised cooperation that we are now disseminating. We will also carry on our exchanges with EU Delegations around the world to ensure local and regional governments are involved in the policy dialogue with the EU!

In 2022, the third biannual edition of PLATFORMAwards, which reward excellence in decentralised cooperation, will showcase best practices in city-to-city and region-to-region international development cooperation.

Finally, the European Days of Local Solidarity (EDLS), our annual pan-European campaign, mobilizes municipalities across Europe to exchange with their citizens on the SDGs and international cooperation. This year it will take place from 15 to 30 November. Join us!

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Rainbow Cities Network

Municipal and regional authorities have an important and specific responsibility to combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexual, and queer (LGBTI) people, because discrimination often occurs in their immediate environment. Most local administrations do not address this issue explicitly, however. Rainbow Cities is the exception.

Members of this network consider they have a responsibility to protect and support their LGBQTI citizens. They exchange information on good practices, interventions, and initiatives in order to increase the impact of local approaches, spend budgets effectively, and achieve greater social inclusion. The Rainbow Cities Network is an NGO.

VISION

Despite the progress of LGBTI rights in Europe, these fundamental rights are still fragile and in peril. In the last couple of years, we have seen setbacks in our region. That is why our organization aims to become the reference organization for other municipalities and cities: we want to help them to develop truly inclusive policies and contribute to the goal of creating sustainable and liveable cities for all.

RCN members are represented by staff members, not by politicians or NGOs, but work closely with both groups. Through this organizational structure, the Network seeks to ensure that both its policies and their implementation are sustainable and committed. RCN members are diverse: some have lots of experience, some are still learning from their more experienced peers, some older and bigger members are learning from the innovative capacities of their smaller peers. The Rainbow Cities Network has a proven track record of innovation in the creation of LGBTQI policies.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

- To exchange experiences of local policies and lessons learned on LGBTI issues. To collaborate on specific issues, through projects and other means.
- To exchange local good practices and initiatives relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity. To keep up to date with international developments in LGBTI policy.
- To link up and collaborate with international networks and organizations as they evolve.

KEY PROJECTS

LGBTI policy guidelines for local governments. Funded by the European Commission, this project fosters active citizenship in understanding the richness of LGBTI citizens and contributes to the visibility of, respect for, and tolerance of the LGBTI minority. It also highlights the positive impact that LGBTI communities have in our European society.

Annual meeting. At the annual meeting, members meet together to discuss, debate, and improve the LGBTI policies of their cities.

IDAHOBIT annual photo exhibition. As a joint project, each year on 17 May the Network organizes an exhibition on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). Every member is asked to contribute a photograph from their city on a chosen theme. Members can print the photographs or display the exhibition online.

🏠 www.rainbowcities.com

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👤 Coordinator: Manuel Rosas Vázquez

Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities)

Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities) is an independent non-profit organization advancing urban resilience solutions to protect vulnerable communities. R-Cities is built on the legacy of the 100 Resilient Cities programme pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation.

R-Cities brings together global knowledge, practice, partnerships, and funding to empower our city members. We are city-led with a membership of nearly 100 cities in over 40 countries around the world. Cities in the network commit to: maintaining an Office of Resilience and Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) position; implementing resilient initiatives; and participating actively in network activities. The network is governed by a Global Steering Committee of member cities and an independent Board of Directors composed of senior leaders from the private, public and non-profit sectors.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

R-Cities partners with cities, helping them to become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. The organization takes a view of resilience that includes not just the shocks—earthquakes, disease outbreaks, floods—but also the stresses that weaken the fabric of a city on a day to day or cyclical basis. We ensure cities are strong in a world where things go wrong. We engage through Chief Resilience Officers, applying place-based knowledge that allows cities to scale solutions and fortify essential resilience capacity. Arm in arm with member cities, we build a safer, more equitable, and sustainable future for all urban residents.

We take a three-pronged approach to achieve our mission around the world: empower cities, implement programmes, and mobilize investment.

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> Cities are on the frontline, playing an essential role in not only ensuring communities are protected from public health and environmental threats, but also improving well-being and enabling city dwellers to thrive in the face of multiple hazards. We have witnessed that cities with well-built resilience teams and strategies have been able to respond effectively to the pandemic recovery efforts. Good governance and urban planning are paramount to conducting reliable risk assessments and developing strategies that enhance city resilience.
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> Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic and onslaught of extreme weather events have amplified the call-to-action for greater resilience-building. In an increasingly uncertain and unstable world, strengthening resilience is key to successfully weathering the ongoing shocks and stresses to our systems and enabling cities to thrive well into the future.
>
> **LAUREN N. SORKIN,**
> **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK**

KEY PROJECTS

Mayor Sylvester Turner's Chairman Agenda. This effort focuses R-Cities' work to strengthen partnerships, raise substantive contributions, and prioritize investment in resilient climate-ready infrastructure that is equitable and creates economic benefit.

Resilient Cities Shaping a Digital World. This joint programme with Visa draws in key stakeholders to support cities in Latin America to identify opportunities for digital inclusion as a means to advance city resilience. A resilience lens is applied when scanning for challenges to ensure solutions have multiple benefits across social, economic, cultural and health topics.

Urban Ocean. Working closely with city leaders, this programme brings ideas, partners and resources together to solve interrelated problems around waste management. The programme demonstrates how actions to improve waste management and recycling can provide resilient solutions, such as improving public health, supporting economic development, and reducing emissions.

R-Cities' programmatic work delivers in three priority areas:

- It advances a resilient recovery that reinforces the priority of equity, private-public partnerships, and stronger local economies in response to and during recovery from the pandemic.
- It prioritizes climate resilience as cities prepare not only to protect citizens from water-related challenges but strengthen the capacity of communities to cope with the effects of climate change.
- It promotes circular economies through indigenous and technological solutions that rapidly and sensibly enhance waste management and food systems.

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UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

The UCCN is UNESCO's flagship city programme, established in 2004. Its members include 246 cities from more than eighty member States. UCCN brings together cities that have identified culture and creativity as strategic agents in building the sustainable cities of tomorrow, contributing to achievement of the SDGs.

The UCCN brings together cities which recognize that culture and creativity promote their sustainable development. The cities pool their resources and knowledge in support of the objectives laid out in the Network's Mission Statement. The Network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk art, design, film, gastronomy, literature, media arts, and music, and promotes intersectoral collaboration across different creative fields. The UCCN supports cultural diversity, for members of all regions and from all demographic, economic, social, cultural and environmental settings.

Urban areas are primary laboratories for the development of new strategies, policies and initiatives that aim to make culture and creativity a driving force for sustainable development.

The multifaceted nature of sustainable development highlights the need to reinforce its local dimension and develop innovative and transversal approaches. The dynamism of cities represents a major resource for sustainable development.

VISION

Reinforcing culture-powered urban development is at the core of the UCCN's mission. Culture has the power to transform societies, strengthen local communities, forge a sense of identity and belonging, and increase the attractiveness of cities. The current health crisis has highlighted the contribution of culture to collective well-being. It has further underlined the importance of the local dimension in all development issues and solutions.

Creative Cities integrate the transformative potential of culture and creativity in their development processes.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

UCCN member cities work together towards a common mission: placing culture and creativity at the heart of their urban development plans to make a safe, resilient, inclusive, sustainable and future-proof urban environment for all, in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Goal 11 on cities.

As laboratories of ideas and innovative practices, the UCCN makes a tangible contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through people-centred policymaking and place-based projects and initiatives. The Network promotes cities' central role in sustainable development, highlighting the importance of the local dimension.

The UCCN aims to stimulate and enhance access to and participation in cultural life and the enjoyment of cultural goods and services, notably for marginalized or vulnerable groups, as well as youth and women.

KEY PROJECTS

New members. The 2021 UCCN Call for Applications was launched in March and closed in June 2021. Applications are currently being evaluated and new member cities will be designated towards the end of the year.

UNESCO's global response to the pandemic. The UCCN Secretariat is currently developing its second publication, which will disseminate Creative Cities' culture and creativity-leveraged responses and recovery measures to the pandemic. A sequel to the 2020 publication, the second edition will focus on the long-term recovery of cities from the pandemic.

The XIV UCCN Annual Conference will be held in Santos, Brazil in March 2022. The Conference will offer a unique occasion to strengthen the ties between member cities, but also serve as a platform of exchange and collaboration through cultural and creative projects and initiatives. A Mayors' Forum will be organized as a highlight of the Conference.

World Cities Day. The UCCN will contribute to UNESCO's celebration of the 2021 World Cities Day on 31 October 2021.

"Culture and creativity are building blocks for the future of cities and, amidst the health crisis, the sector has proved its importance, providing an opportunity to shape a better future for cities. Creative Cities are key partners of UNESCO for the local implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda by encouraging cities to use innovation, new technologies, and creativity for sustainable urban development. The UCCN is also part of the UNESCO Cities Platform, a compendium of eight UNESCO programmes dedicated to cities, whose cross-sectoral approach creates synergies between different urban dimensions."

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UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)

GNLC currently has 229 member cities. Partners and the Secretariat of GNLC also make essential contributions to the network.

Members of the UNESCO GNLC include cities at various stages of development. A learning city promotes lifelong learning for all.

VISION

To support and accelerate the practice of lifelong learning by promoting policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities. To forge links; foster partnerships; provide capacity development; and develop instruments that will encourage and recognize the progress made towards building learning cities.

KEY PROJECTS

International Conference on Learning Cities (ICLC). Every two years, mayors and other representatives of the GNLC come together to share challenges, solutions, and best practice in furthering lifelong learning for their residents.

City priorities. These include education for sustainable development; learning for health; educational planning; entrepreneurship; equity and inclusion.

Expanding the lifelong learning concept to more African cities.

"

"Lifelong learning is key for sustainable development. Only if all of us are able to continuously update knowledge and skills will we be able to adapt to and take an active role in a rapidly developing world. With more than half of humanity living in urban areas, cities are at the forefront of enabling lifelong learning. Members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities showcase effective lifelong learning policies and practices that support the development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and contribute to the 2030 Agenda. I invite all cities committed to lifelong learning to become part of this global network."

DAVID ATCHOARENA, DIRECTOR,
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United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

UCLG is the product of a century-old collaborative movement of local and regional governments. It is the voice of democratic local self-government and, with 250,000 members in over 140 States, it represents 70% of the world's population through local and regional governments in seven world regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Middle East and West Asia, Latin America, and North America.

It also has a regional section and a section for metropolises and metropolitan areas. UCLG has ECOSOC consultative status.

VISION

"We stand on the shoulders of countless women and men who have worked tirelessly to empower each other for over a century, to lift up their communities and collaborate with one another to achieve change.

UCLG, as a global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations, is committed to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments, to leave no-one and no place behind. Together we are the sentinels of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations held by individuals in communities around the world -- searching for a life in which the ideals of the SDGs are a lived reality.

Through collaboration, dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing, we as a world organization walk the walk, working to advance global response and action through ground-breaking commitments and agreements that become common threads that transcend borders and tie communities together, to uplift and empower the local level."

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The major global development agendas can only be achieved if they are integrated in all planning, policy-making, and action. Global solutions need to build on local experiences to ensure a future for our communities. This is localization: the achievement of global agendas from the bottom-up. It is the cornerstone of our strategy.

We strive to strengthen and secure a seat at the global table for local and regional governments, to ensure not just that local perspectives and points of view play a part in how universal development agendas are implemented, but that local perspectives are considered from the start.

We are committed to the realization and renewal of local democracy, empowering local and regional governments to play their role in the future of humanity. Only if we equip local governments with the powers and resources they need will we be able to guarantee that the basic services they provide are delivered.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated some of the shortcomings that the current international system already had. Local and regional governments have managed to carry out basic service provision while maintaining a sense of community among citizens, by carrying out proximity governance, and working to make sure that physical distancing does not alienate us from each other.

With this in mind, our UCLG Decalogue for the post COVID-19 era is our political charter in these times of crisis. It underpins solidarity as a beacon of security, and highlights ten transformative actions that lay the groundwork for the next generation of multilateralism."

KEY PROJECTS

UCLG will continue to amplify the voice of local and regional governments at the global table by facilitating the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), a landmark mechanism that inputs into all policy processes and convenes local and regional leaders from around the world in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

Live Learning Experiences. During the pandemic, UCLG, UN-Habitat and Metropolis held a series of Live Learning Experiences: these have guided our advocacy and inspired our Decalogue for the post-COVID era.

CitiesAreListening Experience. The response to the Live Learning Experiences spurred the creation of the #CitiesAreListening Experience, a space for dialogue and interaction between different international civil society constituencies and the political leadership of our constituency.

Local4Action Hubs. In recent years UCLG has promoted the notion of Local4Action Hubs in UCLG to highlight the contribution that local practices and approaches have made to advancing the 2030 Agenda. The HUBs will provide visibility and a UCLG label to local and regional government initiatives, approaches, and policies on sustainable development.

www.uclg.org

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President: Dr. Mohamed Boudra

WHO European Healthy Cities Network

The WHO European Healthy Cities Network is a network of flagship cities and national networks of cities. Flagship cities interact directly with WHO/Europe, while national networks bring together cities in a given Member State. In both cases WHO provides political, strategic and technical support as well as capacity-building.

Currently, 85 cities and 20 national networks from around the WHO European Region are active members of the network.

VISION

WHO Healthy Cities is a global movement working to put health high on the social, economic and political agenda of city governments. Launched by WHO in 1988 to be a strategic vehicle for implementing the 'Health for All' strategy at local level, over the past 30 years the Network has operated in phases with specific goals and themes that have reflected its priorities and strategies. Each phase's goals and themes have been underpinned by a commitment to address equity, the determinants of health and sustainable development.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The network's principal objective is to improve the health and well-being of all. The network works to achieve this by taking an inclusive and participatory approach to health promotion. It focuses specifically on using an evidence-based approach and disaggregated city-level health data to target vulnerable populations and improve equity.

In Phase VII (2019-2025) the Network has prioritized three goals, which are based on the Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors adopted in 2018:

- To foster health and well-being for all and reduce health inequities.
- To lead by example nationally, regionally, and globally.
- To support implementation of WHO's strategic priorities.

These goals are aligned with WHO's 13th Global Programme of Work, the European Programme of Work (2020-2025) and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Please contact the WHO Europe Healthy Cities Secretariat at eurohealthycities@who.int for further information on how to become a member."

KEY PROJECTS

Database of case studies. The secretariat is currently developing a database of case studies shared within the network between 2010 and 2021. The database will allow cities and national networks to share good practices and will support peer-to-peer learning.

Specific health topics. Through sub-network working groups the Network works on a variety of health topics with WHO experts. For example, the Urban Preparedness working group, an interagency collaboration with UN Habitat, will collect lessons learned from the pandemic response and produce a publication to enhance emergency preparedness and resilience.

🏠 www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/urban-health/who-european-healthy-cities-network

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👤 Regional Focal Point: Dr Nino Berdzuli, Director, Country Health Programmes.

Secretariat: Hanna Dunning, Jesus Castro.

Healthy Cities 21st Century

WHO Global Network For Age-Friendly Cities And Communities

The Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) was established by the World Health Organization in 2010 to connect cities, communities and organizations worldwide with the common vision of making their communities great places to grow older in. Its 1300 members are from 51 countries.

MISSION

To stimulate and enable cities and communities around the world to become increasingly age-friendly.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The Network works to

- Inspire change by showing what can be done and how.
- Connect cities and communities worldwide to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experience.
- Support cities and communities to find appropriate innovative and evidence-based solutions.

KEY PROJECTS

- A new age-friendly environments mentorship programme.
- New guidance on how to set up and sustain national age-friendly programmes.

"As a response to global population ageing and rapid urbanization, this Network focuses on action at the local level that fosters the full participation of older people in community life and promotes healthy and active ageing."

🏠 WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities
https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/.

👤 Alana Officer (Unit Head demographic Change and Healthy Ageing)
www.who.int/about/people/biography/alana-officer

Women Transforming Cities

Women Transforming Cities is an NGO. Our membership is open to everyone ($10.00 fee). We have a monthly newsletter and all members are entitled to attend our yearly AGM.

VISION

The mission of Women Transforming Cities is to transform our cities into spaces that work for all people by empowering self-identified women and girls in all their diversity. We promote community engagement, inclusion and equitable representation by applying a gendered intersectional lens to policies, programmes, budgets, funding, staffing and governance of city governments, and call for the use of disaggregated data.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are to work from the local to the international to make cities work for self-identified women and girls. We do this by building international, national and local networks that apply a gendered intersectional lens to urban issues. We engage, educate, advocate and organize, focusing on a wide range of local government issues, including governance, electoral reform, climate change, housing, transit, child care, violence (domestic and racial), indigenous, LGTBQI2S,[5] immigrant and refugee issues, and income. We encourage all women, especially diverse BIMPOC,[6] to run for office.

KEY PROJECTS

- Webinars on running for office, civic engagement, electoral reform, feminist green economic recovery strategies.
- Hot Pink Paper Municipal Campaign.
- Women Friendly Cities Challenge – an online library of wise practices tied to the SDGs, CEDAW and the New Urban Agenda as well as other international statements.
- We follow local government agendas and speak out at Councils.

"We encourage all cities to work on social and climate sustainability using a gendered intersectional lens supported with disaggregated data."

🏠 www.womentransformingcities.org
www.womenfriendlycitieschallenge.org

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📍 Women Transforming Cities International Society, PO Box 21575, RPO Little Italy
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👤 Co-chairs: Ellen Woodsworth and Dr Joy Masuhara

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[5] Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), intersex, and two-spirit.

[6] Black, indigenous, mixed, and people of colour.