



In Focus: SDG11

Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities require sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture

3 October 2022, 9.30- 12.30

San Marino and Geneva (Hybrid)



Opening Speech

Mr Dmitri Maryasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE

Dear city leaders, practitioners and experts,

Friends and colleagues,

It is such a great pleasure to be here amongst you today to discuss inclusive urban design and architecture for ensuring inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. This is an important topic. Global urbanization is increasing, but so are the challenges that cities face. With 55 percent of today's global population currently living in cities and nearly 70 percent projected to be urban dwellers by 2050, the importance of cities is only growing. Already, they are responsible for 80 percent of global GDP. Yet issues tied to climate change, affordability, and inequality threaten the social and economic dynamism of urban environments.

Practitioners, including architects, urban designers, planners, have an important role in addressing these issues. Each in their own way and from their own perspectives, define the extent to which cities can realize their potential in a manner that addresses the three pillars of sustainability.

The San Marino Declaration sets the foundation for a common perspective among the different practitioners, a perspective that is inspired by a strive to ensure human-centered solutions to the challenges currently facing cities and the urban, including: the transformation of the city and our built environment, adequate and affordable housing, urban mobility, climate resilience.

These principles espouse a forward-looking interaction between city leaders, practitioners and inhabitants, one that enables an upscaling of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which stands at the heart of the UNECE's mandate on urban development, housing and land management.

Thank the Bureau of the Committee for all the efforts they have invested in developing the declaration, which was the result of several rounds of discussion that also included reaching out to practitioners

UNECE invites all practitioners to adopt the San Marino Declaration, developed by the Bureau of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management to support the realization of the United Nations Secretary-General's vision of "a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations".

Like any initiative, the concrete results of this declaration depends on ensuring that the pre-requisites for successful implementation are in place. This is a complex task, and this event marks the first step. UNECE will be taking note of your views.

Many thanks to each and every speaker today for partnering with the UNECE and I wish you fruitful discussions