Local Resilience to climate change and COVID-19 – No one left behind in urban resilience building

Side event at the II Forum of Mayors 2022

4th April 2022, Monday
Afternoon session from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. CET
Geneva Cities Hub, Villa Rigot, Avenue de la Paix 9 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
The meeting will be hybrid, held in person and online via Zoom.

A light lunch will be provided.

Please register for the side event to receive the connection details here: https://undrr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jaVVXQEJQaCPMyBXkiQmYQ

Background

In 2022, the world enters an unprecedented global crisis with severe impacts threatening attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With eight years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda, in this Decade of Action, the COVID-19 pandemic compels a dual focus on ensuring a resilient recovery and accelerating progress on the SDGs.

Cities around the world are battling the COVID-19 pandemic against a backdrop of various shocks, pressures, and rising vulnerabilities, all while attempting to prioritize justice, economy, and climate action in their recovery strategies. Progress on sustainable development must be re-energized in the face of the worst global economic crisis in nearly a century. Now is the time for national and municipal governments to re-establish themselves as stronger, fairer, and more environmentally friendly than before.

This side event will examine how cities are building resilience to reducing impacts of COVID-19, especially socio-economic impacts, and climate change. It will also showcase how local responses can achieve synergies to accelerate the Decade of Action on SDGs.

The side event is co-organized by UN-Habitat, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), UNECE and the Geneva Cities Hub.
DRAFT AGENDA

1:15 - 1:25     Opening and Welcome

- Graham Alabaster, Chief Geneva Office, Office of the Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- Octavian Bivol, Chief Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Brussels, Belgium
- Gulnara Roll, Regional Adviser on Forest, Urban Development, Housing and Land Management at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, Switzerland

1:25 - 2:00     Session One: Experience of cities on urban resilience responses for climate emergency and COVID-19 socio-economic impacts

Moderator: Alexandre Hedjazi, Director, Global Environmental Policy Programme, University of Geneva

Panellists:

- Sharon Dijksma, Mayor of Utrecht, Netherlands
- Rocco Guarino, Mayor of Albano di Lucania and President of the Province of Potenza, Italy
- Luisa Salgueiro, Mayor of Matosinhos, Portugal
- Ares Gabas, Head of Resilience Unit, City of Barcelona, Spain
- Esteban Leon, Head, City Resilience Global Programme, UN-Habitat

2:00 - 2:30     Session Two: How could the United Nations support cities better to respond to the climate emergency and COVID-19 socio-economic impacts?

Moderator: Cassia Moraes, Partnerships and Outreach Manager - Strategic Programmes, Climate-KIC, and Founder, Youth Climate Leaders

Panelists:

- Panos Mantziaras, Director, Foundation Braillard Architects, Geneva, Switzerland
- Melissa Permezel, Climate Smart Cities Challenge, UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya
- Zana Vokopola, Director, Urban Research Institute, Tirana, Albania
- Helena Monteiro, MCR2030 Secretariat for Europe and Central Asia, London, UK

2:30 - 2:40     Questions and Answers

2:40 - 2:45     Conclusions and closing remarks

- Graham Alabaster, Chief Geneva Office, Office of the Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Language

The workshop will be conducted in English. The link for the online participation will be sent to registered participants.

For more information, please contact:

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Walk from E-building to Villa Rigot