

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE CITIES

WORKSHOP



Side Event at the 66th ECE Session
15 April 2015
Room XXVII, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland



WORKSHOP ON PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Sustainable housing and urban development in the ECE region face multiple challenges resulting mainly from globalization, demographic changes/population ageing, the effect of climate change and the on-going economic downturn.

To support efforts of governments in the ECE region towards inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management developed the **Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing**.

The Charter calls to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, with due attention to reducing the impact of the housing sector on the environment. The Charter stresses the important role sustainable housing plays in ensuring quality and dignity of human life.

The Charter will contribute to the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals on Cities and Human Settlements. It also responds to the need to improve the housing and living conditions of elderly as called for by the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration "Ensuring a Society for All Ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing".

The workshop is organised by the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) as a **side event to the 66th session of the ECE Commission**, which is expected to adopt the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.

The UNOG and UNECE invite the ECE session delegates and all those interested to join a discussion on major challenges and priorities for the ECE region in the housing sector on the way towards the HABITAT III Conference in 2016 where the New Urban Agenda addressing commitments for sustainable urban development is expected to be adopted.

For more information on the event

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PROGRAMME

15 April 2015, Palais des Nations, Room XXVII, Geneva, Switzerland

Languages: English only

13.15 - 14.30

Opening Remarks

Christian FRIIS BACH, UNECE Executive Secretary

Presentation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Elena SZOLGAYOVA, Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

Keynote Address - "Who owns the city?"

Saskia SASSEN, the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Chair, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University, USA

Panel discussion

Questions, comments, discussion

SPEAKERS



Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Chair, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University (www.saskiasassen.com).

Ms. Sassen's work focuses on globalization, immigration, global cities, new technologies, and changes within the liberal state that result from current globalization. Her latest book is entitled "Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy" (Harvard University Press 2014). Among other books is "The Global City" (Princeton University Press 1991/2001). and "Cities in a World Economy" (Pine Forge Press, 2012, updated 4th ed).

Ms. Sassen's books are translated into over 20 languages. She has received diverse awards, carries multiple doctor honoris causa and has been chosen as one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers by among others Foreign-Policy 2011. In 2013, she was awarded the Principe de Asturias Prize for Social Sciences and elected to the Netherlands Royal Academy of the Sciences.



Elena Szolgayova is the Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

Ms. Szolgayova, an architect and urban planner with long-standing research experience, has been advising state and municipal housing policy makers since the early 1990s. She is the Director at the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development. She has been involved in numerous UNECE and EU housing activities and Working groups targeting housing and urban development and has contributed to numerous UNECE research publications related to urban and housing issues.