



Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management****Eighty-third session**

San Marino, 3-6 October 2022

Report of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management on its eighty-third session

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I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management held its eighty-third session in San Marino from 3 to 6 October 2022. In line with the advice of Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) Bureau, the meeting was held in person only. The meeting was open to the general public and streamed live on YouTube with over views from countries.

II. Attendance

2. Representatives of the following countries of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) participated: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan.

3. Representatives of the following observers to the United Nations attended: Holy See.

4. Representatives of the following United Nations programmes and specialized agencies attended: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (UN-Habitat).

5. Representatives of local and regional authorities from the ECE region, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, academics from universities and research institutions, and independent experts also attended the meeting.

III. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda¹

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the eighty-third session (ECE/HBP/212/Rev. 1)

6. In his welcome speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of San Marino, Mr. Luca Beccari, welcomed ECE member States, noting his country's long-standing partnership with the United Nations. He highlighted that the inter-related global challenges of today's world, particularly COVID-19 and climate change, require countries to work together and pool efforts. Multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) are fundamental for promoting and supporting inclusive development. He stressed that the Republic of San Marino believes that dialogue holds the key for overcoming global challenges. This calls for not only common solutions, but also for concrete actions to improve people's lives and leave no one behind.

7. On his part, the Minister for the Territory, Environment, Agriculture and Civil Protection of the country, Mr. Stefano Canti, commended the rich programme and side events of the CUDHLM eighty-third session. He emphasized that his country is committed to ensuring a simultaneous treatment of the three pillars of sustainability, with a special emphasis on strengthening the relationship between architectural designs and nature. This emphasis is enshrined in the culture of his country, which has been accorded a special status as one of the oldest republics in the world by the

¹ In accordance with paragraph 35 (b) of document ECE/208, the 83rd session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) consists of two parts. Part I took place on 4-5 April 2022 (Forum of Mayors) in Geneva, Switzerland back-to-back with the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development as mandated by Executive Committee (EXCOM) as per document ECE/EX/20202/L.16. Part II took place on 3-6 October 2022 in San Marino.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

8. Mr. Canti noted that the San Marino Declaration would further the role of practitioners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and would be a great achievement of this session. Practitioners will sign for the inclusivity, attention to climate change, and principles of sustainable urban architecture. He noted that the San Marino is implementing forward-looking solutions to ensure inclusivity and safety in communities as well as attention to biodiversity. He added that he is very proud of the Declaration that has been adopted by the greatest professionals and scholars in the world, including Norman Foster.

9. On his part, the Captain of the Castle of San Marino, Mr. Tomaso Rossini, noted that San Marino has a long tradition of engaging practitioners in urban design. He cited as examples of innovative architectural designs the three watchtowers that date back to the 13th and 14th centuries and the towers of the third wall, among others, which render San Marino the natural birthplace for the San Marino Declaration. He expressed that San Marino would be able to seize this opportunity to become a beacon and an example for other countries. Given its small size, San Marino can also be an excellent example for cities. He highlighted that the Declaration put the right tools in the hands of professionals and espouses trusting their skills to build a sustainable future, while forging collaboration with neighbouring cities for the benefit of developing and protecting the territory of the San Marino.

10. In her opening speech, the Executive Secretary of ECE, Ms. Olga Algayerova, thanked the Government of the Republic of San Marino for so generously hosting and closely cooperating with the Committee. She noted that 2022 marks the 75th year since UNECE was established, making it one of the longest-standing regional commissions. She emphasized that the Declaration of San Marino provides a practical tool for enabling the realization of the vision of the United Nations Secretary-General of “a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations”. She added that this session will also deliberate on the objectives, format and frequency of the Forum of Mayors, which has provided throughout its first and second edition a flexible mechanism for ensuring a coherent approach to urbanism, one that involves the local, regional and global levels in a new multilateralism that leaves no one behind.

11. She highlighted that the eighty-third session of the Committee comes at a critical time in the history of this important and dynamic region. During the past year, the region has been witnessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and rising energy prices. She emphasized that cities have been at the centre of emergency response efforts. Even as these complex crises have created difficult challenges, local, regional, and central governments across ECE have found creative solutions. This session is about highlighting these solutions as well as supporting joint efforts and collaboration.

12. Following the welcome speeches, the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania), presented the provisional agenda, which was then adopted with the following amendments:

- (a) Agenda Item 20: “Election of the Bureau” will be shifted from Thursday the 6th to Tuesday morning, October 4 from 9.30 till 10.00.
- (b) Agenda Item 6: “Report on the outcomes of the Second Forum of Mayors and related recommendations” will be discussed on Tuesday, 4 October from 10.00 till 11.00.
- (c) Agenda Item 5: “Report on the outcomes of the ‘In Focus: SDG 11’ roundtable and related recommendations” will be discussed on Tuesday, 4 October from 11.00 till 11.30.

IV. Panel on urban planning for climate-neutral and circular homes and cities

Documentation: Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes (ECE/HBP/2021/2)

Draft San Marino Declaration (ECE/HBP/2022/2)

13. In his keynote speech, architect Norman Foster noted that by 2050, an estimated 2.5 billion people will be living in cities. The San Marino Declaration, with its principles for sustainable, inclusive planning, urban design, and architecture, is an ethical equivalent for ensuring social equality and a higher quality of urban lifestyle. He explained that in essence, the Declaration is a manifesto for a global future, and invited all politicians, managers, architects, engineers, and developers to join him in endorsing the Declaration, committing to its principles, and turning them into action.

14. Following the keynote speech, a panel discussion was held, which brought together the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt; Architect Stefano Boeri, Architect Boeri (Italy); Leader of the Council, Glasgow, United Kingdom, Ms. Susan Aitken; and Ms. Andoni and was moderated by the Director of ECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, Ms. Paola Deda.

15. Commenting on using the power of architects to reduce traffic accidents and make cities safer, Mr. Todt noted that inadequate transport systems contribute significantly to poor health, increasing car emissions and road accidents. Not having safe and efficient transport also increase social inequality in cities by restricting access to education, jobs and health care. Nowhere is this as critical as in the low- and middle-income countries and cities, which, due to rapid growth are experiencing an ever-increasing demand for transport and access to essential services and opportunities. The unfortunate reality is that infrastructure and service provision often cannot keep pace, and often fail to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable groups, particularly children. These cities are responsible for more than 90 per cent of the world's annual 1.3 million road-crash fatalities. Many projects around the world have proven the effectiveness of more people-friendly streets. For instance, in the Basque region of Spain, 45 streets were modified to make them for cyclists, and emergency and logistics vehicles only. Trams were added and priority was given to pedestrians.

16. Ms. Deda emphasized that advocacy is essential for increasing the role of architects in making cities safer, particularly with regard to implementing policies. Solutions need to be well articulated to be transformative. Architect Norman Foster responded that architects should go beyond established quality standards to create cities that are needed in the future, cities which respond to the people's needs, leave no-one behind and are resource efficient. Architects should use advocacy to raise awareness about global challenges. They should also educate the young generation on the role of architects in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

17. On his part, Architect Boeri noted that buildings are one of the major contributors to emissions and cities should act as protagonists. There is a need to redefine how cities grow, by promoting reforestation. There is also a need to develop a new concept for architecture along three key pillars: halting soil consumption; encouraging reforestation and aiming for the democratization of energy. In addition, architects should use smart solutions as a tool for slowing down global warming.

18. Commenting on how cities can use the power of architects to transform cities, Ms. Susan Aitken noted that as a post-industrial city, Glasgow has collaborated with architects and designers to rid the city of old buildings. The architects and designers

were given the support to work independently and find creative solutions. She highlighted that the San Marino Declaration is a powerful tool for mobilizing architects' commitment to transform cities and ensure inclusive growth with social justice. She added that deepening the cities' involvement in multilateral discussions gain much importance for leveraging cities' influence, including in relation to further engaging architects in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

19. As regard the role of civil servants in improving the role of architects in implementing the Declaration, Ms. Andoni emphasized the need for uplifting the policies that have people at the centre, not just for being politically correct, not for metaphors only, but in every practice and action. She added that she strongly believed in the role of the Committee as an exemplary intergovernmental organization to address housing affordability and urban development, through a multi-partnership model that engage mayors as important players.

20. Following the welcome speeches, the Chair opened the floor for comments and amendments to the draft declaration. The Committee then adopted the Declaration of San Marino as amended. The text as adopted is provided in Annex II.

21. Following its adoption, a symbolic signing of the "Principles for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Design and Architecture" contained in the San Marino Declaration by Architect Norman Foster, Jean Todt, Architect Stefano Boeri, Ms. Susan Aitken, Ms. Andoni, representatives from the Order of Engineers and Architects of the Republic of San Marino as well as representatives of Italian cities and others took place.

V. Report on the outcomes of the "In Focus: SDG 11" roundtable and related recommendations

22. A representative of the Geneva Cities Hub presented the report of the "In Focus: SDG 11" roundtable, which was held in a hybrid format on 3 October 2022, prior to the annual session. The "In Focus: SDG 11" roundtable brought together architects, representatives of city networks, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other United Nations partner organizations, NGOs and academia to discuss the requisites for ensuring the successful implementation of the Declaration of San Marino. The speakers shared their views on existing challenges to sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture and how they could contribute to achieve sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate neutral and circular homes, urban infrastructure and cities. The meeting report is contained in Annex III.

23. The Committee took note of the outcome of the "In Focus: SDG11" roundtable.

VI. Report on the outcomes of the Second Forum of Mayors and related recommendations

Documentation: Decisions relating to the Forum of Mayors (ECE/EX/2020/L.16)

Second Forum of Mayors: Background and Recommendations (ECE/HBP/2022/1)

Summary of the Second Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2022/3)

Results of the evaluation of the ECE Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2022/4)

Evaluation of the ECE Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.1)

24. The Chair of the Committee reminded delegates that at its 112th session, the

Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) mandated the Steering Committee (SC) of the Forum of Mayors to evaluate the 2020 session of the Forum and submit the results for the consideration of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) at its eighty-third session. The results of the evaluation are to provide the basis for the session's deliberations on the objectives, format and frequency of the Forum, if extended beyond 2022, with a view to submitting a proposal on the future of the Forum for endorsement by EXCOM in 2022 and/or by the seventieth session of the ECE Commission in 2023 (ECE/EX/2020/L.16).

25. She noted that to feed into the evaluation, and pursuant to a decision by the Steering Committee, the secretariat commissioned an independent expert to assist in drawing up a forward-looking scenario for the future of the Forum. The future scenario of the Forum, as informally approved at the Second Forum of Mayors, is contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/1. The document reflects the views and suggestions of the participating mayors from the ECE region and is transmitted to the Committee for its consideration. The main conclusions and recommendations emerging from the evaluation is contained in document ECE/HBP/2020/4 and the entire evaluation report is contained in information document ECE/HBP/2022/Inf. 1.

26. She informed that to facilitate member States' discussions about the future of the Forum of Mayors during the CUDHLM eighty-third session, the Bureau requested the secretariat to commission an independent expert to prepare a third document that would contain proposals for reconciling and implementing the recommendations contained in documents ECE/HBP/2022/1 and ECE/HBP/2020/4.

27. The third document was submitted for the consideration of the ECE missions in Geneva on 5 September 2022 during an informal briefing that was held in a hybrid format. The document was revised to take into account the outcome of the discussions. The scenario was submitted for a second round of discussions during a subsequent informal briefing, which was held in a hybrid format on 14 September 2022. The outcome of the second round of discussions was duly incorporated by the secretariat and submitted for a third round of discussions, which was held on 22 September 2022 in a hybrid format. The outcome of the third round of discussions was duly incorporated by the secretariat in a "Draft recommendations from the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management 83rd session to EXCOM".

28. The "Draft recommendations from the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management 83rd session to EXCOM", facilitated deliberations of the Committee on the future of the Forum of Mayors.

29. Mr. Eugenio Di Sciascio, Vice-Mayor, Bari, Italy, provided a summary of the Second Forum of Mayors, which is contained in Annex II.

30. Following discussions of recommendations contained in the document above on the future of the Forum of Mayors, the Committee, in line with EXCOM decision ECE/EX/2020/L.16, and based on the results of the evaluation of the Forum of Mayors, recommended to:

1. Continue the Forum beyond 2022.
2. Have the following as objectives of the Forum:
 - a) To allow for the participation of local authorities and to integrate their strategic plans, actions and joint initiatives for addressing regional and global challenges, including implementing the SDGs, in the UNECE intergovernmental processes;
 - b) To support the implementation of the UNECE Housing and

Land Management component of the subprogramme²;

- c) To promote human-centred solutions for supporting the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d) To facilitate the sharing of experiences from cities, including success stories and challenges, in line with the topic of the Forum and within the mandate of the Committee;
- e) To contribute to achieving coherence and complementarity between the local, regional and global levels in furtherance of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system.

3. Format:

For the Forum of Mayors to be a subsidiary body of CUDHLM in the form of a Team of Specialists.³

4. Frequency:

Convene the Forum annually back-to-back with and prior to⁴ the CUDHLM's session [in the same venue as the annual session of the CUDHLM].

5. Additional elements:

For the Secretariat, provide elements from Annex II⁵ for the consideration of the EXCOM, depending on the option chosen, as appropriate.

31. The recommendations above, together with the additional elements, will be transmitted to EXCOM for its consideration.

VII. Update on the implementation of the Place and Life in the ECE: A Regional Action Plan 2030 and activities of the #Housing2030 initiative

Documentation: Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes (ECE/HBP/2021/2)

32. Member States and stakeholders were informed on the progress in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and the #Housing2030 recommendations. Mr. Peter Kahn, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States, underlined that sharing best practices, collaboration, and innovative solutions will drive improvement for cities everywhere. The United States is implementing public and private integration in the construction in a program called the Low-Income Housing Credit of affordable housing construction and providing rental assistance through a programme called the Housing Choice Voucher. There was a need to ensure that sufficient funding was in place to make sure that the ongoing programme operations

² Subprogramme 8 aims to strengthen member State-owned and city-level programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management.

³ Details on the status and selection of mayors will be provided by the secretariat to EXCOM for its consideration. Informal consultations will be organized accordingly.

⁴ "The Forum of Mayors could be organized on the first day of" the CUDHLM session only if the Forum is part of the CUDHLM session (option 1 considered by the meeting).

⁵ As contained in the "Draft recommendations from the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management 83rd session to EXCOM".

remained successful; at the same time, there is a need to find the resources needed to enhance existing programmes to benefit from the Regional Action Plan's recommendations.

33. Ms. Marie Mohylova, Head, National Recovery Plan Department, Ministry of Regional Development, Czechia, highlighted that the most urgent current issues are housing affordability and housing expenditures on energy. Czechia uses the Regional Action Plan together with long-term strategies, such as the Housing Strategy 2021+ and the Strategy of Regional Development, and others, in order to face these challenges. In addition, a good planning system, including spatial planning, is a necessary condition for delivering healthy liveable cities and other municipalities in functional areas. The challenge is to promote a compact city model with efficiently distributed economic activities, social infrastructure and services, delivering affordable housing and preventing urban sprawl.

34. Ms. Zuzanna Lulińska, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Poland, explained that use of legal and financial tools by local governments has shown that involvement of this tier of government is an effective way to develop affordable housing.

35. Challenges emerged because of the Ukrainian crisis that put pressure to the already stressed housing situation. This is coupled with the energy crisis that Poland is facing this winter. Poland will continue to apply the Regional Action Plan ideas and its main principles in the housing sector in order to overcome these challenges.

36. The Committee took note of activities realized under the #Housing2030 initiative and implementation of the Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and housing emergencies in the region, city, neighbourhood and homes.

VIII. Emerging needs of the ECE region in the areas of housing, real estate and urban development

Documentation: Emerging needs of the ECE region in the areas of housing, real estate and urban development (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf. 2)

37. The Chair informed the Committee that pursuant to a request by the Bureau, the secretariat prepared a background document on the emerging needs of the ECE region in the areas of housing, real estate and urban development in light of the Ukrainian refugee crisis and the resulting implications for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The background document is based on the results of a survey, which focuses on cities belonging to the neighbouring countries of Ukraine, namely: Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia, which are hosting the largest segment of refugees, measured in terms of the number of refugees per head of total population.

38. The secretariat presented the methodology and main findings of the survey. Mr. Ion Ceban, General Mayor of Chişinău, Republic of Moldova; Mr. Dionisie Ternovschi, Deputy Mayor, Ungheni, Republic of Moldova; Mr. Andrej Porawski, Executive Director, Polish Association of Cities; Mr. Tomasz Fijolek, Executive Director, Union of Polish Metropolises; and Mr. Horia Tomescu, Deputy Mayor, Bucharest, Romania; spoke of the challenges posed by the Ukrainian refugee crisis in addition to challenges of COVID-19 recovery and changing urban demography.

39. The experience of these cities in addressing this multifaceted crisis offered valuable lessons on overcoming these challenges. These cities were rapid to launch extensive emergency and support measures to contain the spread of the pandemic and mitigate its socio-economic impact.

40. Cities and towns reported hosting significant numbers of refugees. Exact data as to the number of refugees who remained in their communities is lacking. The Moldovan and Polish cities tried to record the number of refugees with varying degrees of success. Cities also allocated part of their municipal budgets to cover the costs to provide medical services, food, clothes, shelter and transportation services.

41. Mr. Tassos Kriekoukis, Ambassador, Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor, Athens, Greece, emphasized the need to maximize the synergies between all levels of governments. Cities are working towards fair and inclusive cities and at the same time support the most vulnerable part of the society. Financing instruments, partnerships and self-reliance are needed to achieve resilient and sustainable cities.

42. Mr. Graham Alabaster, Head, Geneva Office, UN-HABITAT explained how affordability, sustainability and inclusiveness of the housing sector have to be at the core of a sustainable urbanization that leaves no one behind. Policy tools and best practices are needed to support policy makers in shaping more resilient housing system.

43. The Committee took note of the background document main findings.

IX. Promoting access to affordable housing for women and youth

Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

44. Mr. Stephen Gaetz, Director, Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention, Professor and President of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University, Canada; and Ms. Melanie Redman, President, A Way Home: Working Together to End Youth Homelessness, Canada, briefed the Committee about their work in support of women and youth. They underlined their willingness to develop guidelines for preventing, responding, monitoring progress of strategies and supporting best practices and cross-systems responses to prevent and end homelessness in UNECE member States.

45. The Committee took note of the outcomes of the panel discussion on promoting affordable housing for women and youth.

X. Matters arising since the last Committee session

46. The secretariat presented recent developments in the United Nations, including the High-level Political Forum and ECE, which affected the work of the Committee. The Committee:

- (a) Took note of the information provided and make recommendations for the future work of the Committee;
- (b) Took note of the outcomes of ECE sessions, side events and training events at:
 - (i) the ECE 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 6-8 April 2022);
 - (ii) the High-level Political Forum to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, organized by the President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 28 April 2022);
 - (iii) H22 City Expo (Helsingborg, 31 May–1 June 2022);
 - (iv) International Social Housing Festival (Helsinki, 14–17 June 2022).

2022);

- (v) Eleventh World Urban Forum “Transforming our Cities for a Better Urban Future” (Katowice, 26-30 June 2022).

XI. Response to the COVID-19 pandemic at city level and building urban economic resilience

Documentation: COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the ECE Region (ECE/HBP/2021/3)

Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

Economic Resilience Building Plan – Tirana, Albania (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.3)

Economic Resilience Building Plan – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.4)

Economic Resilience Building Plan – Kharkiv, Ukraine (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.5)

Lessons learned from building urban economic resilience at city level during and after the COVID-19 pandemic (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.6)

47 The Committee was briefed about the Economic Resilience Plans for the Cities of Kharkiv, Ukraine, and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, which were developed within the context of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA)-funded project “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19” to help the local governments strengthen urban economic resilience and build back better post-COVID-19. Mr. Toktosun Sultanov, Deputy Chairman of the Bishkek City Council, noted that the resilience plan highlighted the need for targeted reform and development efforts to further diversify the city economy; scale up the city’s financial resources as well as overall investment attractiveness; improve the quality of city planning; expand the coverage and functionality of basic public services; and improve connectivity and mobility within the city. The city of Bishkek will be implementing the recommendations contained in the resilience plan. It has established an innovation agency, which is in the process of developing sector-focused investment projects and is maintaining a database of donor agencies in the city. Further, with the support of ECE, the city government conducted a survey to map the informal settlements and then partnered with the Cities Development Initiative for Asia to design a pre-feasibility study for upgrading five informal settlements and supporting job creation in those settlements

48. Ms. Olga Demianenko, Director, Department for Cooperation with International Agencies and Financial Institutions, Kharkiv City Council, noted that the resilience plan was developed before the outbreak of the war. The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 pales in comparison with the destruction of the city’s basic infrastructure, social services and industrial basis. For example, almost 90 per cent of the schools were damaged (190 out of 220 schools) and the city is in the process of assessing the damage to its industrial sector, which comprised 1000 enterprises. She emphasized that the support of the international community has been critical for the internally displaced Ukrainians. She drew attention to the fact that the city is also facing the challenge of ensuring basic utility services to the Ukrainian refugees that have been returning to the city before winter, a challenge that is complicated by rising energy prices.

49. The Committee:

- Took note of the outcomes of the Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19 project and its deliverables.
- Took note of the outcomes of the ECE-led U4SSC Thematic Group on Urban Economic Resilience in Cities.
- Welcomed the activities of the secretariat on the development of the online training portal, the organization of capacity-building activities and testing of the guidelines in pilot cities at their requests.

XII. Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary Local Reviews: measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level

Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

Updated Guidelines for the Development of Local Reviews in the ECE Region (ECE/HBP/2022/6)

50. At its eighty-second session, the Committee endorsed the Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in the ECE region, called for cities to apply the Guidelines, and invited the secretariat to update them based on experiences with VLR development (ECE/HBP/208, paragraph 28).

51. Ms. Hana Daoudi, Secretary to the Committee, presented the revised Guidelines, which were developed by the UNECE and drew on the experience gained from the UNECE Smart Sustainable City Profiles and the Forum of Mayors, as well as the feedback received from other United Nation bodies. The revised Guidelines support local and regional governments in their efforts to localize the SDGs, starting from the identification of indicators in the local context and priorities for developing local actions for accelerating the achievement of the SDG. Specifically, the Guidelines ground the key performance indicators for smart sustainable cities in a coherent approach, helping governments arrive at agreed-upon integrated, people-centred solutions, which are aligned with national priorities and complement national development efforts.

52. Ms. Raija Hynynen, Senior Ministerial Adviser at the Ministry of the Environment, Finland, said that the ECE guidelines are needed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She shared the experience of her country in developing VLRs. She noted that Finland has a dedicated body, the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, which is focused on mainstreaming sustainability concerns across policy areas. The Commission, which was established in 1993 and is chaired by the Prime Minister, is now supporting the development of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). She noted that Helsinki submitted its VLR in 2019, becoming the first city in Europe to do so. The cities of Espoo and Turku published their VLRs in 2020, and three additional cities are slated to present their VLRs in the near future. She noted that Finnish cities, in addition to being supported by the National Commission, follow common guidelines on SDG analysis.

53. Ms. Stephanie Fuerer, Scientific Associate at the Federal Office for Housing, Switzerland, emphasized that cities are essential for ensuring the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In Switzerland, municipalities have broad competencies, including housing and spatial planning, with the central Government offering overarching support when needed (e.g., addressing systemic constraints, helping cities overcome financial constraints and issues of interdependency). This

clear approach of decentralization, which accords cities broad decision-making powers, is important for achieving sustainable development, something which the revised VLRs highlight.

54. Ms. Maris Toomel, Mayor of Jõhvi, Estonia, briefed the Committee on the concrete actions that her city implemented to achieve each of the 17 SDGs.

55. Mr. Spiro Pollalis, Head, Zofnass Programme, Harvard University, United States, noted that the ECE revised Guidelines provide a coherent approach for ensuring policy coherence that can be adapted to local contexts. He noted that many cities in the United States have produced VLRs using their own approaches, rendering it difficult to compare experiences. He added that using key performance indicators enables cities to pursue evidence-based policies. However, cities often lack data for using indicators; in those cases, cities could use case studies and qualitative indicators to track progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

56. Mr. Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi, Director, City Diplomacy Lab, France, drew attention to the importance of VLRs as an important tool for supporting city diplomacy; the UNECE revised Guidelines enabled this by emphasizing the necessity of addressing local challenges simultaneously with regional and global ones. In fact, VLRs and city diplomacy should go hand in hand. However, he noted, only a few cities have prepared their own VLRs.

57. The Committee:

- Endorsed the updated Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE Region and called for cities to apply the Guidelines to develop their VLRs.
- Welcomed activities of the secretariat on the development of the online training portal, the organization of capacity-building activities and testing of the Guidelines in pilot cities at their requests.

XIII. Implementation of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative (U4SSC)

Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Podgorica, Montenegro (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.7)

Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: San Marino (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.8)

Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Tbilisi, Georgia (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.9)

58. As part of the UNDA-funded project on smart sustainable cities with innovative financing, the secretariat supported the city governments of Podgorica, Montenegro, and Tbilisi, Georgia, in the development of their Smart Sustainable City (SSC) profiles. In addition, with the support of the Government of San Marino, a smart sustainable city profile was elaborated for San Marino. The city profiles were developed using the U4SSC Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities.

59. Ms. Hana Daoudi, Secretary of the Committee, presented the updated methodology that was used for developing the profiles, noting that the methodology complements the KPIs with an analysis of the legislative basis underpinning urban development. The methodology also features action-oriented questionnaires for

ascertaining the inter-dependence between local, regional and global challenges. She added that the secretariat was developing additional key indicators to complement the existing ones, drawing on the experiences gained. The additional indicators will include qualitative indicators drawn from the legislative basis underpinning urban development as well as the administrative records of local, regional and central governments.

60. Mr. Tomaso Rossini, Captain of the Castle of San Marino, noted that the achievement of urban development in the Republic of San Marino was challenged by the centralized system of government. He explained that the Captains of the Castle are tasked with ensuring the successful implementation of national policies, including maintaining relations with the autonomous state companies providing basic utility services. He noted that since cities lack decision-making powers, they do not have a portfolio and have to turn to the central government when in need of major reforms and development initiatives. The decision is, therefore, in the hands of the central Government.

61. Mr. Andria Basilaia, Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi, Georgia, noted that the Smart Sustainable City Profile highlighted several areas that his city needed to address. The most pressing challenges relate to the necessity of moving away from car dependency, renovating the city's old houses, improving waste management, encouraging friendly urban design and lack of green open spaces.

62. Mr. Ioane Menabde, Head of Spatial and Urban Development Agency, Georgia, noted that the agency was established recently, in July 2022. It was in need of support to deliver on its ambitious goal of fostering synergies between spatial planning and urban development, as well as scaling up collaboration with regional and local level governments.

63. Following the presentations, Ms. Paloma Taltavull de La Paz, Chair of the Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group; and REM members Mr. Donovan Rypkema and Mr. Arsen Karapetyan shared their views on the findings and recommendations emerging from the profiles. They also emphasized that they stood ready to help the city of San Marino and the city of Tbilisi and its Spatial and Urban Development Agency, in their efforts to implement the recommendations.

64. The Committee:

- Welcomed the development of Smart Sustainable Cities profiles by San Marino, and Tbilisi, Georgia, and approved the publication of these city profiles as official publications in English and Russian, digital and print.
- Took note of preparations under way for developing the Smart Sustainable City profile for Podgorica, Montenegro.
- Welcomed the development of the proposal for the “ECE Smart Sustainable City Project Connector” to support investment projects based on the recommendations of the city profiles and invited member States to provide financial and in-kind support to the proposed project.

XIV. Activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities

Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

65 The following members of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence briefed the Committee on their activities: Mr. Stephen Gaetz, Director, Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention, Professor and President of the

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University, Canada; Mr. Alberto Cendoya, Architect, Architecture, Design and Technology Unit, Norman Foster Foundation; Mr. Matteo Tarantino, Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urban Development, University of Geneva, Switzerland; Mr. Michele Lertora, ExSUF Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Finance for Infrastructure and Smart Cities, Italy.

66. The Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention suggested several areas of cooperation with the ECE, including: hosting and supporting international events to promote the Charter and connect with potential partners and collaborators; develop training and technical assistance for evidence-based solutions; and building towards a ECE declaration regarding youth homelessness.

67. Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Finance for Infrastructure and Smart Cities proposed collaborating with the secretariat on the thematic issue of green finance for urban development and on implementing workshops on financing sustainable infrastructure and smart cities.

68. Mr. Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi, Director, City Diplomacy Lab, France, informed the Committee that his organization is in discussion with the UNECE about the creation of a Centre of Excellence.

69. The Committee:

- Welcomed the activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence which support the Committee in the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.
- Reiterated the role of the Centres of Excellence in the implementation of the programmes of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme.
- Invited the Centres of Excellence to continue their activities in coordination with the secretariat in line with the guidance contained in document ECE/HBP/2016/2 and other relevant guidance on the matter.

XV. Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

Documentation: Draft Programme of Work of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for 2021-2022 (ECE/HBP/2020/9)

Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for 2023-2024 (ECE/HBP/2022/7)

Programme of Work of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for 2023-2024 (ECE/HBP/2022/8)

70. The Chair of the Committee reminded delegates that the mandate and the terms of reference of the REM Advisory Group were extended until the end of 2022 pursuant to ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) decision ECE/EX2020/L.15 of December 2020. The Bureau of CUDHLM discussed the activities of the Advisory Group and recommended the extension of its mandate until the end of 2024. The REM Advisory Group also developed a draft programme of work for the period 2023-2024.

71. Members of the Group, Ms. Paloma Taltavull de La Paz, Chair, REM Advisory Group; Ms. Carolyn Grimsley, Vice-Chair of REM, Director of MS in Real Estate Development Program, George Mason School of Business, United States; and

Mr. Donovan Rypkema, Member of REM, President, Heritage Strategies International, United States, briefed the Committee about activities undertaken since the eighty-second Committee meeting. They also presented the REM revised terms of reference and draft programme of work for the period 2023-2024.

72. Mr. Gary Strong, Member REM, Head, International Fire Safety Standards Secretariat, United Kingdom, reported on the implementation of the International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) and participation in the work of the ECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

73. The Committee:

- Took note of the report on the activities of the Advisory Group since the eighty-second Committee session;
- Updated the title of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group to “Advisory Group on climate-neutral, energy-efficient and sustainable buildings and cities”;
- Recommended the extension of the REM Advisory Group for 2023-2024 and approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group for 2023-2024 and Programme of Work for 2023-2024;
- Welcomed the implementation of the ECE International Fire Safety Standards: Common Principles “Safe Buildings, Save Lives” which were endorsed by the Committee at its eighty-first session, in October 2021, including activities of the International Fire Safety Standards Coalition on the implementation of the Global Plan for a Decade of Action for Fire Safety 2022-2032.

XVI. Land administration and management

Documentation: Draft programme of work of the Working Party on Land Administration for 2020-2021 (ECE/HBP/2019/7)

Draft programme of work of the Working Party on Land Administration 2022-2023 (ECE/HBP/2021/8)

Draft programme of work of the housing and land management component of Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2022 (ECE/HBP/2021/9)

Draft Programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2021 (ECE/HBP/2021/13)

Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

Accelerated digitization and the future role of Land Administration Authorities in UNECE region and beyond (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.10)

74. Ms. Hana Daoudi, CUDHLM Secretary, updated the Committee on the implementation of the work programme of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) on behalf of Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, Chair of WPLA.

75. Mr. Hartmut Mueller, Senior Professor, FH Mainz University of Applied Sciences, presented a study on accelerated digitalization and the future role of land administration authorities in the UNECE region and beyond that was prepared jointly by WPLA, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and

the International Federation of Surveyors.

76. Ms. Nuria Raga Sastre, Member, REM Advisory Group and Land Registrar, Colegio de Registradores de la Propiedad, Mercantiles y de Bienes Muebles de Espana, Spain, shared her views on the publication.

77. The Committee:

- Welcomed the joint publication of the WPLA, FAO and International Federation of Surveyors on accelerated digitization and the future role of land administration authorities in the UNECE region and beyond;
- Took note of the activities of the Working Party in 2022 and upcoming activities for 2023.

XVII. Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management

Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

78. Ms. Doris Andoni, Chair, CUDHLM, Head of Housing, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania, briefed the Committee on preparations under way to develop a country profile on urban development, housing and land management of Albania.

79. Ms. Elena Szolgayova, Chair, #2030Housing Initiative, briefed the Committee on the key findings emerging from the analysis of Montenegro's housing policy, noting that the findings will be integrated into the Country Profile on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

80. The Committee:

- Took note of the information on the progress with the preparation of the Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management of Albania and Montenegro.
- Considered the requests from Uzbekistan and Latvia to develop a country profile on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

XVIII. Programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2023 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2024

Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)

Draft programme of work of the housing and land management component of Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/HBP/2022/9)

Planning of official publications and promotional materials for 2024 of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme (ECE/HBP/2022/10)

Outline of key components of the programme of work of the housing and land management component of Housing, Land

*Management and Population subprogramme for 2024
(ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.11)*

81. Ms. Hana Daoudi, CUDHLM Secretary, briefed the Committee about the implementation of the programmes of work for 2021 and 2022. She also presented the programme of work for 2023 as well as the key aspects of the work programme of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2024.

82. The Committee:

- Took note of the information on the activities implemented by the Committee under its programmes of work 2021 and 2022;
- Adopted the programme of work 2023 and recommended it to the ECE Executive Committee for approval;
- Approved the detailed list of activities proposed to implement the 2023 programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme;
- Took note of key components of the work programme of the housing and land management component of Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2024 and provided the agreed recommendations on these components, including modifications proposed by the secretariat;
- Approved the proposal for official publications and promotional materials of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme.

XIX. Update on technical cooperation activities

*Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development,
Housing and Land Management since its eighty-second
session (ECE/HBP/2022/5)*

83. Ms. Gulnara Roll, Regional Advisor, UNECE Land and Housing Division, briefed the Committee on works under way in support of the cities of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv, Ukraine, within the context of the #UN4Kharkiv Initiative and of #UN4Mykolaiv Initiative. The initiatives were launched to support the immediate reconstruction efforts in cities and other human settlements. In addition, the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine has elaborated a draft framework for *Plans for the Integrated Rehabilitation of Settlements (Territories)*, which is expected to be applied by local governments in cooperation with the Ministry and with the support of international partners providing expert assistance, tools and best practices.

84. Ms. Olga Demianenko, Director, Department for Cooperation with International Agencies and Financial Institutions, Kharkiv City Council, Ukraine, explained that the new master plan for her city will be based on a detailed damage assessment as well as lessons learned from the pre-war city plan. She noted that the Norman Foster Foundation is also developing a three-dimensional model of the city to allow for a better understanding of the scale of the damages and inform the city's new master plan. The emphasis will be on developing a forward-looking plan, one which reflects the city's vision to become the centre for its youth. She noted that the city hosts the largest number of universities and intends to become the home for modern information communications technology (ITC) enterprises.

85. Mr. Alberto Cendoya, Architect, Architecture, Design and Technology Unit, Norman Foster Foundation, briefed the Committee on progress made in developing

the new master plan for the city of Kharkiv in collaboration with Ukrainian architects and engineers. He noted that the new master plan also integrates the city inhabitants' vision of the city solicited through social media channels in collaboration with the Kharkiv City Council.

86. Mr. Dmytro Falko, Chairman, Mykolaiv City Council, Ukraine, presented the situation in the city of Mykolaiv before and after the war. He highlighted key needs of the city, including sheltering, the provision of clean drinking water, the rehabilitation of the city's transport system and the resumption of economic life, while ensuring public safety. He noted that in collaboration with One Works, work is under way to develop a new master plan for his city. The new plan will reflect the city's vision of becoming a major innovative urban hub for a diversified economy.

87. Ms. Ana Paez, Programme Manager, One Works, briefed the Committee on progress made in developing the new master plan for the city of Mykolaiv in collaboration with Ukrainian architects and engineers. She added that the new plan builds on successful experiences in rebuilding war-torn and disaster-stricken countries across the globe as well as the inhabitants' vision of the city, which were solicited through social media channels in collaboration with the Mykolaiv City Council.

88. The Committee welcomed the activities and advised accordingly.

XX. Election of the Bureau

89. The Committee elected Bureau members, including its Chair and two Vice-Chairs to hold office for 2 years, as follows:

- Ms. Doris Andoni, Albania (Chair)
- Mr. Giampiero Bambagioni, Italy (Vice-Chair)
- Ms. Aša Rogelj, Slovenia (Vice-Chair)
- Ms. Marie Mohylova, Czechia
- Mr. Regis Farret, France
- Mr. Tassos Kriekoukis, Greece
- Ms. Veronika Rehakova, Slovakia
- Ms. Paloma Taltavull de la Paz, REM Chair, Spain
- Ms. Stephanie Fürer, Switzerland

90. Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist will be part of the Bureau ex officio as Chair of the WPLA.

XXI. Other business

91. The Chair reminded of the need for financial support for the activities of the Committee.

XXII. Adoption of the report and closing of the session

92. Mr. Marcello Beccari, Permanent Representative of the Republic of San Marino to the United Nations Office at Geneva, delivered a closing statement. He reiterated his country's commitment to further collaboration with the UNECE.

93. Ms. Paola Deda, Director of ECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, thanked all the support staff of the Kursaal Congress Centre of San Marino, and the

UNECE team for their efforts towards a successful conference.

94. The Committee adopted its report, containing all decisions taken by the Committee and based on the draft prepared by the secretariat. The Chair reminded delegates that decisions will follow a 72-hour silent procedure for adoption.

95. The Chair announced to delegates that the next Committee session will be held during the first week of October 2023 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The Secretariat will inform as to the exact dates in due course.

The meeting closed on 6 October 2022 at 15:30.

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Annex I

San Marino Declaration on Principles for sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture in support of sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate neutral and circular homes, urban infrastructure and cities

1. We, the participants at the eighty-third session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, assembled on 3-6 October 2022 in San Marino, with a dedicated focus on addressing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of housing, land management and urban development, commit to bolstering the roles of architects, engineers, surveyors, urban planners and designers in ensuring sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and encouraging circularity in homes, urban infrastructure and cities.

2. In this regard, we *recall*:

(a) The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of September 2015 *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* which stresses the need for a comprehensive, people-centred approach so as to leave no one behind and ensure policy coherence across all the integrated and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 11 aimed at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

(b) The United Nations *New Urban Agenda*, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), on 20 October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth plenary meeting of the seventy-first session, on 23 December 2016, with a view to providing a universal action-oriented framework for mobilizing Member States and other stakeholders to drive sustainable urban development at the local level, the implementation of which contributes to the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner and to the achievement of all the SDGs, including Goal 11 and its associated targets;

(c) The *Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing*, endorsed by ECE on 16 April 2015, to support governments in their efforts to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all through effective policies and actions at the national, regional and international levels, supported by international cooperation;

(d) The *Place and Life in the ECE - A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes*, adopted by ECE on 6 October 2021 to contribute to making housing in the ECE region more affordable, decent, safe, accessible and climate-neutral and to integrating housing policies into urban development policies and initiatives;

(e) The report of the United Nations Secretary-General, entitled *Our Common Agenda* of 10 September 2021 which provides a forward-looking vision of the future of global cooperation with 90 action-oriented proposals for reinvigorating inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism; and the subsequent General Assembly resolution *Follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda"* (A/RES/76/6) of November 2021, which requested the United Nations Secretary-General to engage Member States, the United Nations and development partners in further consultations on the report's proposals.

3. We also *recognize* that, by 2050, an estimated 68 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas, and that North America (about 83 per cent) and Europe (75 per cent) are among the most urbanized regions.⁶

4. With this in mind, we *concur* that:

(a) Sustainable and inclusive urbanization require creative solutions for ensuring that homes, buildings, urban infrastructures and cities become increasingly more sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, culturally sensitive, climate-neutral and circular.

(b) Urban design and architecture, by virtue of shaping homes, buildings, urban infrastructures and cities, should become an integral part of the much-needed creative solutions for sustainable and inclusive urbanization and for addressing development challenges caused by population growth and demographic shifts.

(c) Mayors and civic leaders, architects, engineers, urban planners, designers, surveyors, and building managers, the creative driving force of urban transformation, hold the key to a more sustainable and inclusive urban future.

5. We, therefore, invite city mayors, architects, engineers, urban planners, designers, surveyors, building and city managers, developers and infrastructure operators around the world to:

(a) *Commit* to translating the San Marino Declaration into action through signing the below integrated and indivisible Principles;

(b) *Engage* to promote the Declaration and its Principles through their work and networks, including in support of related national legislation, as appropriate;

6. We also *agree* that every city, urban infrastructure and building should be designed in line with the following integrated and indivisible "Principles for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Design and Architecture":

(a) *People-centrality, social responsibility and inclusivity*: Urban planning, design and architecture need to foster and support social responsibility and integrate diversity and equality through due consideration of the needs of individuals and households across all races, age groups, gender, cultures, abilities and income levels, including intergenerational planning.

(b) *Cultural identity, values and heritage*: Urban planning, design and architecture should respect the identity and cultural heritage of places and buildings as well as the cultural values and traditions of communities.

(c) *Resource efficiency and circularity*: Every city, urban infrastructure and building should be designed in a way that limits the use of energy, uses only sustainable energy sources, reuses rainwater and limits the use of other natural resources and reduces resource losses. In addition, every city, urban infrastructure and building should, to the extent possible, by design: use recycled materials; reuse and requalify spaces; reduce the production of waste reuse water; and encourage food production through urban agriculture, orchards and food forests.

(d) *Safety and health*: Every city, urban infrastructure and building should be based on internationally recognised quality standards as well as safety standards for workers and citizens, including fire safety.⁷ Homes should provide a comfortable, safe and healthy living space, while cities and urban spaces should be designed with

⁶ United Nations, "Population Dynamics", World Population Prospects 2019. Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp> (accessed on 30 March 2022).

⁷ https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Standards/UNECE_International_Fire_Safety_Standards_October_2020.pdf.

the imperatives of ensuring the safety and health of citizens; providing safe and sustainable mobility systems, including rail, road, inland waterways as well as walking and meeting spaces, green areas and urban forests that are accessible to all. Port cities need to ensure that port facilities are up to international transport and safety standards.

(e) *Respect for nature and natural systems and processes*: Every city, urban infrastructure and building should be designed in a way that limits its impact on the ecosystem of surrounding spaces, including by respecting plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and natural habitats. This implies conducting *ex-ante* environmental impact assessments, allowing spaces for biodiversity and using natural materials as well as low impact production assembling and dismantling processes.

(f) *Climate neutrality*: Cities, urban infrastructure and buildings should be designed and requalified to minimize the associated climate footprint, by adopting creative solutions that reduce pollution and energy use; phase out unsustainable mobility systems; use modern, energy-efficient, climate-neutral systems; and integrate green energy generation systems in city designs and buildings.

(g) *People-smartness*: Technology and smart information and communications technology solutions should be used to improve liveability, including the most socially disadvantaged, bolster transparency and curb corruption.

(h) *Resilience, durability, functionality and foresight*: City and architectural design should support solutions that make homes, buildings and urban spaces resilient to natural disasters, especially those caused by climate change, including hurricanes, droughts and wildfires, flooding and high winds; and making buildings and infrastructures durable and flexible, incorporating spatial adaptability to accommodate new conditions and usages over time.

(i) *Affordability and accessibility*: Cities and homes need to be affordable and accessible to all citizens. Designers need to keep this factor in mind and design high-quality environments for meeting the needs of all citizens.

(j) *Inter-disciplinary cooperation and networking*: Cities and urban spaces should be designed to foster cohabitation, community engagement, solidarity and social cohesion taking into account the needs of citizens across all races, age groups, gender, cultures, abilities and income levels;

(k) *Engagement*: Consultation with and participation of the local communities is essential for any urban project, including small, medium and large-scale projects. Continuous engagement with various stakeholders, including longitudinal research, will foster trust, ensure responsiveness to the needs of all citizens, and consolidate shared ownership of the city's future.

Annex II

Summary of the Forum of Mayors, CUDHLM eighty-third session, Part I, Geneva, Switzerland, 4-5 April 2022

1. The Second Forum of Mayors took place from 4-5 April 2022 at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) in the ECE region as mandated by EXCOM (ECE/EX/2020/L.16). It constituted Part I of CUDHLM eighty-third session and the full report of the committee session will be adopted in San Marino on 3-6 October 2022 in accordance with CUDHLM agenda.

2. The Second Forum of Mayors was held in hybrid format under the theme “Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the implementation of the SDGs” and was chaired by the Chair of CUDHLM, Doris Andoni. It brought together over 500 online and in-person participants representing cities and member States from across the Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond, the United Nations regional commissions and specialized organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia. Mayors and vice mayors from 44 cities shared their experiences in finding people-centered solutions that simultaneously meet the needs and aspirations of their citizens, hedge against disasters and rise to the climate change challenge in a manner that ensures the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These experiences were shared under four thematic sessions, focusing on the following global challenges identified in the Geneva Declaration of Mayors⁸ as follows:

a) Session 1: Sustainable urban transport, shared mobility and safer roads

The city leaders shared creative solutions on:

- Ensuring the efficient use of roads
- Revamping the city’s public transport
- Establishing modern traffic control centers
- Establishing mass transit systems
- Repurposing abandoned tunnels and parking lots
- Sharing mobility by using smart applications
- Improving mobility through widening pedestrian pavements
- Promoting electronic mobility (e-mobility)
- Mobility for all by subsidizing public transport

b) Session 2: Vibrant public spaces, greener cities, and nature-based solutions

The city leaders shared creative solutions on:

- Business facilitation to encourage citizens to switch to e-cars
- Public spaces for education
- Transforming car parking lots into vibrant green public spaces
- Repurposing land for agriculture

⁸ The Geneva Declaration of Mayors is available at: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Mayors%20declaration%20booklet%20-%20ver.4.pdf>

- Deploying the notion of green public spaces to streets
 - Creating bicycle and pedestrian lanes
 - Beautifying iconic spaces
 - Free public transport
 - Planting trees
 - Establishing youth education centres
 - Finding creative solutions for financing vibrant spaces
 - Revitalizing for and with citizens
 - Redesigning old streets so that they become people-centered
- c) **Session 3: Resilient, healthy and climate neutral buildings & affordable and adequate housing**

The city leaders shared creative solutions on:

- Transforming old buildings into community centers
- Refurbishing of housing stock, factories and old mines
- Using sustainable construction materials
- Reconceptualizing the supply of affordable and adequate homes
- Utilizing upgrades of basic and social infrastructure upgrades
- Engagement of youth

d) **Session 4: Sustainable urban planning, the 15-minute city and smart urban development solutions**

The city leaders shared creative solutions on:

- Implementing the 15-minute city concept around the city's main rivers
- Ensuring efficient use of land
- 15-minute city as part of smart urban development solutions
- Closing off the city centre for cars
- Climate neutral smart transport systems
- Sustainable urban solutions
- City-wide integrated platforms offering innovative ways for social interaction

3. The mayors exchanged their experiences, which were compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, they all saw the pandemic as an opportunity to launch creative solutions with a view to build back better. The Forum leaders emphasized that central to addressing the above challenges is the simultaneous integration of SDGs into local and national levels, as this would provide a common objective and, thereof, allow for creating dynamic synergies between local and national development efforts. Several cities have launched own SDG plans and the majority were committed to become climate neutral by 2030.

4. City leaders emphasized that without a participatory approach, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to ensure responsiveness to the needs of all citizens. Even with broad based participation, the translation of the aspired forward-looking plans and solutions into reality was not without challenges. Each solution was faced with tremendous resistance, as citizens saw change as a disruption to their day-to-day life or a departure from what is familiar. The importance of “standing the course” and

thinking about the future generation instead of the next election was a constant refrain among the city leaders.

5. The Forum city leaders expressed their solidarity with Ukraine, emphasized their readiness to host Ukrainian refugees, help Ukrainian cities “build back better” so that they surpass modern cities, and stressed that peace is an essential precondition for the creation of green and vibrant cities.

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Annex III

Summary of the ‘In focus: SDG 11’ roundtable, 3 October 2022

The 5th edition of the event “In Focus SDG 11” was co-organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Geneva Cities Hub and took place on 3rd October 2022, as part of the 83rd session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

This year, the event focused on sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture. It was held in a hybrid format in Geneva, San Marino and online and gathered a wide range of stakeholders, including architects, urban practitioners, academics, housing policy experts, as well as representatives of States, United Nations organizations and city networks.

Given the ambition of SDG 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, the diversity of the background and expertise of participants was very much appreciated. The indispensable multistakeholder approach required to ensure sustainable and inclusive cities was underlined many times during the event, embodied by the various communities that took part. I am very pleased to report back on the various interventions made, which all provided a different perspective to the implementation of SDG 11. Here are some of the most important points raised.

The world today is more urbanized than ever. By 2050, it is estimated that more than 70% of the world’s population will be living in cities. This has an impact on our cities, on the way we live, move, thrive and play. It was also recalled at the session that urban development had become a global issue that affects everyone, not only people living in cities. Rapid urbanization requires better involvement of planners and architects from the initial stages of planning and discussion. Their views and guidance on climate-resilience and affordability should be considered.

The time left to reach SDG 11 by 2030 is short. To do so, radical shifts are required in our mindsets, in the way we conceive, plan and design our cities and in the way we think of the relationship between the built and the natural environment. Public spaces need to be organized in a way that reflects more the demands of the citizens. There is a window of opportunity to be seized now, to make the right decisions to ensure that our cities will be sustainable, inclusive, safe and healthy in the future, taking into account regional or demographic differences.

Cities are not static. They are living laboratories, complex interconnected ecosystems which have to address pressing challenges, such as climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, migration, rapid urbanization, technological development, rising inequalities and poverty and homelessness. Each urban development project should be multipurpose and offer a solution to more than one problem. Participants shared numerous examples of good urban practices in Azerbaijan, Colombia, Denmark, Qatar, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland which will hopefully inspire projects in other cities. These examples illustrated how social inclusion, green infrastructure and human-centred approaches had been crucial to transform the urban space. The engagement of all concerned actors was key.

Speakers underlined the uniqueness of each city, the local experience and knowledge that can be leveraged, the landscape and heritage that need to be woven into urban design and architecture, the alternative building materials that exist, as well as the balance between the built and natural environment that not only fulfil aesthetic functions, but which actually improve urban sustainability, resilience to climate change and the quality of life of people.

The views expressed were unanimous in emphasizing that sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture need to adopt a people-centred approach. People, including the most marginalized communities, need to be heard, consulted and involved to ensure that urban policies respond not only to their needs, but also to their human rights. It is thus not a coincidence that people-centred approach is the first principle mentioned in the San Marino Declaration adopted by this Committee.

All participants expressed their support for the San Marino Declaration, as it is in line with other frameworks and initiatives, such as the 2015 UN Habitat International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning or the New European Bauhaus, which relates to the European Green Deal. Participants also offered to help spread the word and engage with their respective networks of architects, urban planners, designers and other practitioners to start implementing the Declaration. Speakers agreed that involvement of all stakeholders is key for the successful implementation of the Declaration to achieve the goals of sustainability, affordability and inclusion.

Architects, engineers, urban planners and other practitioners are not only service providers. They really are city makers who are the driving force behind urban transformation. They are in a position to offer practical tools for policy makers to be able to face complex future challenges. However, they do not work in isolation. In addition to local communities which have to be consulted and engaged, the picture would be incomplete without city leaders and their administrations. Many speakers reaffirmed the role of municipalities in fostering social inclusion and sustainable infrastructure in urban settlements. They bear significant responsibility in developing cities which engage their local communities, in balancing the divergent public interest, businesses' interest and people's interest. However, they unfortunately often lack the financial independence and the full capacity to collect, analyse and make use of all data that would enable them to direct the investments towards ethical projects that can foster inclusive and sustainable cities.

Once again, this event enabled us to learn about experiences in various cities concerning how to support the implementation of SDG 11, and all SDGs more generally, given their interlinkages and indivisibility. Particularly interesting were the local examples provided by urban practitioners within the ECE region but also beyond, which seek to address the global challenges of climate change, social cohesion and rising inequalities. While the tools and perspectives may differ, it was very clear that the principles provided by the San Marino Declaration – among other people-centrality, social responsibility, inclusivity, affordability and accessibility, resource efficiency and circularity, respect for nature, and interdisciplinary cooperation – are universal and relevant in all contexts. We therefore hope that all stakeholders will join forces to implement and promote this Declaration and engage all levels of governments, urban practitioners and individuals worldwide, to ensure that our cities become more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable in the future.
