



United Nations

HABITAT III POLICY DIALOGUES

Socio-Cultural Urban Frameworks¹

Tuesday, 18 October 2016

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Room 1- Cine Alfredo Pareja, Casa de la Cultura

Key Words

[People-centred, social inclusion and cohesion, poverty reduction, inclusive governance, quality built environment, cultural diversity, heritage protection, creativity, innovation, New Urban Agenda]

Socio-Cultural Urban Frameworks - role of culture for sustainable urban development²

Currently, our world is experiencing an unprecedented rate of urbanization, with more than half of the world's population now living in cities. As a result, urban areas are facing pressing challenges including quality housing, livable environments, creating inclusive public spaces and ensuring access to infrastructure and services for billions of urban dwellers, while controlling land consumption, environmental pollution, social disruption, hazards and risks.

To address these challenges, a new approach to urban planning is necessary, one that fully integrates the potential of culture to preserve the quality of urban life, from heritage to creative expressions and industries, as part of our global mission to attain sustainable development.

The social and cultural aspects of urban life embody the needs, wants and hopes of the people. Founded on the values and creative expressions of communities, the socio-cultural dimension needs to be acknowledged as an essential path to ensuring that cities of tomorrow are people-centred, inclusive, livable and resilient.

Drawing from the unique experiences of speakers ranging from the fields of culture, tourism, urban development and governance the discussion will further expand on the key messages and recommendations proposed by the Habitat III Policy Unit 2 on "making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable", which will be reinforced by the New Urban Agenda.

¹ In collaboration with the Habitat III Policy Paper on Socio-Cultural Urban Frameworks co-leaders: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine (IAGU).

² See Habitat III Policy Paper on Socio-Cultural Urban Frameworks at the Habitat III website www.habitat3.org [here](#).

Guiding Questions

- How can the integration of culture into urban development policies contribute to enhance social inclusion and combat urban violence in the context of the New Urban Agenda?
- How can local governments increase participation of all stakeholders in policy making processes?
- Given the implementation of the New Urban agenda, what strategies can be implemented to enhance access of all urban residents in cultural life and infrastructure, and what indicators should be developed to monitor progress in this respect?
- How can culture help to combat the standardization of cities?
- What initiatives can be led to reduce poverty through the promotion of the cultural and creative industries?
- How can socio- and cultural aspects contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, e.g. creating quality public spaces?

