



## Invitation

UN76 Dialogue in observance of World Cities Day

### **Better City, Better Life: Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience**

**Friday, October 29, 2021**

**1:00PM - 3:30PM, EDT**

[RSVP here](#)

Hosted by

**Permanent Mission of Slovakia and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN,  
NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and UN-Habitat**

Co-sponsored by

**PUBLIC Foundation, Coalition for the UN We Need, The Stimson Center, Baha'i International Community, SDG Relief Fund, Together First, Global Family, Soroptimist International, SDG Impact Awards Community, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Debate for Peace, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, Youth for a Better World/MMUN/YIF, Empower-a-Billion Women (EBW), Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, GNEC, CoNGO & UNA-USA Council of Organizations.**

## Concept Note

For Urban October our UN76 Dialogue is in observance of World Cities Day and will address this year's theme of "Better City, Better Life: Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience." While strengthening our resilience to build back stronger following the global pandemic, cities and communities are suffering the effects of climate-related disasters, such as floods, droughts, sea level rise, heatwaves, landslides and storms. Many inhabitants are expected to be affected by coastal flooding and the one billion people in urban informal settlements are particularly at risk. Creating the need for more innovative and sustainable, climate-resilient solutions addressing a range of issues including poverty reduction, ensuring basic services and livelihoods, the provision of accessible, affordable and adequate housing, investing in infrastructure and smart cities while upgrading informal settlements and managing ecosystems. Successful, well-governed cities greatly reduce climate-related risks for their populations. Recently, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, released his "Our Common Agenda" Report for the UN76th General Assembly where he spoke of the urgency in addressing these rapidly growing issues and importance of being inclusive while investing in innovative solutions. We can see it is vitally important that we continue our focus on the SDGs and the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to build partnerships with Member States, UN-Habitat, national and local authorities, as well as stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to be better prepared to achieve inclusive, safe, resilient and healthier cities for the future we need – to "Leave No One Behind."

## Agenda

### 1:00h Welcome & Moderator

- \* **Ms. Margo LaZaro, President & Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY, Co-Founder & CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community, Director of UN Relations for Global Family, Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need, Soroptimist International, Convenor of the NGO/MG Urban Cluster**

### 1:05h Opening Address

- \* **H.E. Ambassador Ms. Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations**

### 1:12h Keynote Addresses

- \* **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations**
- \* **Mr. Christopher W. Williams, PhD, Director of the UN-Habitat, New York Liaison Office**
- \* **Ms. Maitreyi Bordia Das, Practice Manager of the World Bank in the Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice**

### 1:35h Build Back Stronger

- \* **Hon. Ms. Henriette Reker, Mayor of the City of Cologne, Germany**
- \* **Mr. Tudor George Andriu, Chief Architect of the County Council of Suceava County, Romania, "Smart Cities Project"**
- \* **Ms. Aissata M.B. Camara, Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Strategic Partnerships in the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs**
- \* **Dr. Eugénie L. Birch, FAICP, RTPI (Hon), Co-Director of Penn Institute for Urban Research and President of the General Assembly of Partners**

### 2:05h Investing in Innovative Solutions

- \* **Mr. Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, Chairman of PVBLIC Foundation**
- \* **Mr. Isaac Reshad, Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC, Co-Founder and President of SDG Relief Fund**
- \* **Ms. Lirone Glikman, Founder and CEO at The Human Factor**

### 2:25h Youth Leadership for a Better Urban Future

- \* **Mr. Daniel Del Valle Blanco, Policy Advisor for Youth in the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations**
- \* **Ms. Oneika Pryce, Strategic Relationships Associate for Global Vision, Urban Action in the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs**
- \* **Ms. Amrita Gautam, Civil Engineer; Doctoral Researcher at TH Koeln, Germany, President of Soroptimist International Koeln Kolumba, Germany and Founder of drinkPani, Nepal**

### 2:45h C4UNWN & Going Forward

- **Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Adviser of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First**

### 2:53h Interactive Dialogue Exchange

*"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"*

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>