

The Crossroads of Sustainability, Climate Change and Health : practical approaches and lessons for the post-covid cities and territories

Green Room, 1 March 2022, 930 am.

See the event here : <https://youtu.be/hhggAyF2Pjk>

This side event under UNEA 5.2 was organized by the International Federation of Housing and Planning (IFHP) in partnership with the Committee on Environmental and Health Crisis and the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, the ELISAN network - European Local Inclusion and Social Action Network, the IOPD- International Observatory on Participatory Democracy and UCLG - United Cities and Local Governments. The event brought together local and regional governments as well as NGO's and multilateral organizations.

Elcio BATISTA, vice-mayor of the city of Fortaleza, opened the conversation demonstrating the benefits of municipal autonomy, political commitment and citizen participation in the realization of a sustainable and inclusive city that innovatively connects local policies with the global agendas, nurturing nature-based solutions and robust investment in infrastructure in poorer areas of the city. **Roberto CIAMBETTI**, President of the Veneto Regional Council, Italy. President of the Italian delegation to the European Committee of the Regions, Italian Ambassador for Climate and Energy to the Covenant of Mayors, highlighted the urban form and density of cities where social and human capital are concentrated and advocated for a game change towards circular economies and territorial medicine that transform housing as place of caring.

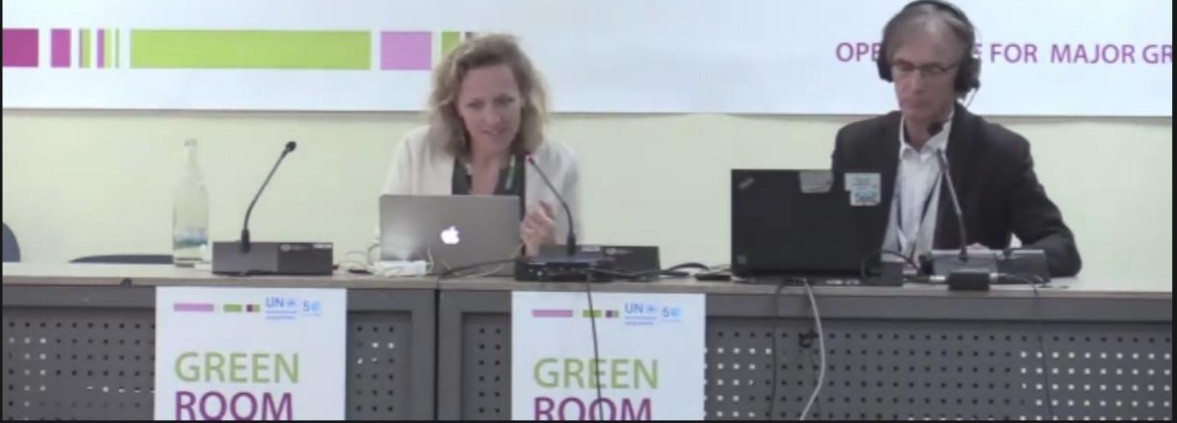
Naomi HOOGERVORST, Officer-in-Charge Planning, Finance and Economy Section at UN-Habitat, unequivocally argued with evidences that a just, green, healthy future and resilient recovery in the post-pandemic starts in cities where the economy of agglomeration and the economy of scale can be maximized if proper urban planning, design and management are put in place with tools and technical assistance for city governments. **Eric PIOLLE**, Mayor of Grenoble, France, 2022 European Green city, stressed the importance of learning and acquiring inspiration from other cities through collaboration, city-to-city exchange that leads to innovation and creativity in citizen participation, participatory democracy and best practices in curbing GHG emissions. **Jorge ABRAHÃO**, General Director at the Sustainable Cities Institute, Brazil, brought the knowledge capital to the conversation by presenting a remarkable work on the sustainable cities index that are helping 770 cities in Brazil to monitor public policies and the implementation of the SDGs at the local government level. Knowledge and practical tools can help city governments to embark into a sustainable, inclusive and participative urban development. **Arun JAIN**, Chief Urban Designer and Principal Planner for the City of Bellevue, Washington, USA, Council member of IFHP, from the perspective of urban practitioner, highlighted the need for better decisions that have spatial implications to reverse unsustainable patterns of urbanization with pre-emptive and resilient urban design.

Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Chair Committee on Environmental and Health crisis in the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, Council member of IFHP, and organizer of the event, highlighted the need to place human rights, dignity and peace at the forefront of global and local actions, and it drives the work of the Council of Europe. She mentioned the conflict Russia-Ukraine and made a call for collaborative work and solidarity bringing Fortaleza, Grenoble, the Sustainable Cities Institute, UCLG, UN-Habitat, IFHP to work for building trust and peace. Concluding the event, Claudio ACIOLY Jr, Programme Manager & Team Leader, ACCIONA Engenharia, Council Member of IFHP, moderator of the session, concluded with a comment that urbanization and the role of cities and local governments in the solution of global environmental problems which seems not to find a place in the agenda and deliberations of the UNEA. The experiences of cities revealed by the event show unequivocally the importance of local actions in curbing emissions and climate change.

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