

## Networking session

### Participatory practices and the right to the city at the core of urban innovation

Abu Dhabi, Monday February 10, 4.30-6.30pm  
Venue: Abu Dhabi Exhibition Center Hall 3, Room 17

#### 1. Summary of the event

Innovations are essential to overcome the challenges of cities in this century: housing, climate change, mobility, security, social and cultural diversity, waste management, migrations, among others. Faced to this complex context, cities may find in citizen participation in urban planning and the co-creation of public policies a powerful catalyzer for innovative local action.

The design of efficient participatory and co-creation mechanisms, alongside city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchange should therefore be seen as crucial...

In this context of profound urban transformations, the right to the city has progressively emerged as a call for action fostering local communities to transform urban reality under principles of socio-spatial justice and democracy. The right to the city offers a meaningful frame for promoting policy innovation through citizen participation and involvement.

This event is promoted by several global actors that are working in the implementation of innovative initiatives in participatory planning within the framework of human rights and right to the city. The importance of citizen participation and right to the city is included in the New Urban Agenda and in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Specifically, in SDG 11.3 and SDG 16.7.

Therefore, in this session we want to bring together experts in the field, global network coordinators, representatives of local governments and activists. The dynamics of the session will start with different presentations of experiences in the field of urban innovation on city-making and the right to the city, and then we will start a dialogue to think new strategies for joint action.

Participation, partnership and a strong alliance with local authorities and communities are more important than ever to fulfil the commitments enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda and to help local and regional governments truly achieve its goals locally.

#### 2. Objectives of the session

1) Build of new collaborative partnerships with international, national and subnational actors and stakeholders for the improvement of citizen participation mechanisms at the local level, with a special focus on participatory urban planning and city-making.

2) Foster the exchange of information, awareness-raising initiatives, innovation methods, and practices and strategies linked to the 2030 Agenda and the NUA among local governments and partners, as well as across different levels of governance.

3) Define an action strategy course to implement participatory innovations and measures that achieve the right to the city.

4) Support the creation of a culture of participatory innovations and human rights

### **3. Dialogue Themes to which your event is relevant**

Dialogue 1: Urbanization, Culture and Innovation

Dialogue 2: Driving Sustainable Change in Cities through Culture and Innovation

This event is mostly linked to the issue of “Urbanization, Culture and Innovation” as it addresses innovations as well as the right to participate in public affairs. In doing so, it hopes to provide a relevant contribution to the WUF track on this topic by proposing new ways to look at the intersection between local governments and participatory democracy regarding the social inclusion of foreign residents. This event also hopes to provide relevant inputs to the “Driving Sustainable through Innovation and Culture” track, due to its connection to human rights and participatory democracy-related topics to the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

### **4. Partner organizations and co-host(s)**

- **International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)**
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Office de Consultation Publique de Montréal (Canada)
- Enda Ecopop (Senegal)
- Kota Kita Foundation (Indonesia)

### **5. Speakers**

1. **Adrià Duarte**, IOPD, Moderator
2. **Luc Doray** OCPM Montreal
3. **Rizqa Hidayani / Ahmad Rifai**, Kota Kita, Indonesia / Asia
4. **Bachir Kanoute**, Enda Ecopop ODP África/ Senegal
5. **Giovanni Allegretti** Centro Estudos Sociais de Coimbra
6. **Yves Cabannes**, DPU-UCL & FMDV
7. **Nelly Ouassenan**, Mairie de Cocody, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire