



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2022



UNECE

#Housing2030, effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region

A side event at the II Forum of Mayors 2022

6th April 2022, Wednesday

Afternoon session from 15:00 to 17:00 CET

Conference Room H-207-209, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

The meeting will be hybrid, held in person and online via Teams.

Please register for the side event on the website of the Second Forum of Mayors:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1000573/>

Follow [this link](#) to join the meeting

Background

Housing is central to people's lives and their wellbeing. Making housing affordable and adequate is one of the most important policy challenges at both national and local level, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic when people need to spend more time at home than ever before.

The challenges of housing affordability and sustainability are affecting cities, especially those which are densely populated. Closure of commercial services in urban areas in light of the crisis has led to a decrease in economic activities in cities, thus putting pressure on businesses and their profitability which directly translates into inability of businesses to sustain the workforce.

Housing sustainability challenges and approaches to addressing them differ from country to country. Given the diverse national and local contexts of the housing sector, and the diverse legal frameworks and living traditions within the UNECE region, there is no one solution that fits all. Sharing and exchanging experiences and good practices allows the formulation of viable solutions and policies appropriate for specific national and local contexts.

The side event will present the report of the study "[Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region](#)" which have been developed by the UNECE in cooperation with Housing Europe, UN-Habitat and other partners. The [#Housing2030 study and an online platform](#) were launched on 6 October 2021 at the [UNECE Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management](#).

The [Second Forum of Mayor's](#) side event will support the regional exchange of experiences and good practices in countries of the UNECE region and beyond on promoting access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing as part of the countries' responses to, and recovery plans for the COVID-19 pandemic (this will include the topics of "greening" cities and housing, using architectural and urban planning solutions and innovations to promote better quality of life, etc).

The UNECE organizes the side event in cooperation with the [UIA International Forum: Affordable Housing Activation \(AHA\)](#).



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DRAFT AGENDA

15:00 – 15:05 Opening and Welcome

- **Doris Andoni**, Chair, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and Director of Housing Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania
- **Gulnara Roll**, Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and Housing Division, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, Switzerland

15:05 – 15: 40 Session One. Presentation of the study “#Housing2030: Effective Policies for Affordable Housing in the UNECE region”

Moderator: Doris Andoni, Chair, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and Director of Housing Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

Panellists:

- **Elena Szolgayova**, #Housing2030 Initiative Co-Chair, Bratislava, Slovakia (confirmed in-person)
- **Julie Lawson**, Lead Writer of the study report #Housing2030 Initiative. Associate Professor, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia (confirmed in-person)

15:40 – 15:55 Information on the up-coming forum of housing: **UIA International Forum of Affordable Housing Activation (AHA)**

- **Ángela Baldellou**, Executive director of the UIA International Forum “Affordable Housing Activation. Removing Barriers”, Madrid, Spain (confirmed in-person)

15:55 – 16:05 Break

16:05 – 16:55 Session Two. **Cities’ practices on resilient, healthy and climate-neutral buildings and affordable and adequate housing**

Moderator: Doris Andoni, Chair, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and Director of Housing Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

Questions to presenters:

1. How cities and regions develop and implement practices on resilient, healthy and climate-neutral buildings and affordable and adequate housing?
2. How horizontal (intersectoral) and vertical cooperation (with respective national governments) is organized?



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- **Omar Al-Rawi**, Member of the Council Committee for European and International Affairs and the council committee for Innovation, Urban Planning and Mobility, Vienna, Austria (confirmed online)
- **Prof. Brian Evans**, City Urbanist, Glasgow City Council; and Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities (confirmed online)
- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, Chief, Land, Housing and Shelter Section at UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya (confirmed in-person)
- **Luci Ann Blackburn**, Director of Choice Neighbourhoods, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Housing Investments (OPHI), United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, USA (confirmed online)
- **Uğur İbrahim Altay**, Mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey (confirmed online)

16:55 – 17:00 Conclusions and next steps

Hana Daoudi, Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Language

The workshop will be conducted in English. The link for the online participation will be sent to registered participants.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Gulnara Roll, Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Hana Daoudi, Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

E-mail: gulnara.roll@un.org and hana.daoudi@un.org (cc juan.vallerobles@un.org)