

# LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS:

## CRITICAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

18 MAY 2016 | ECOSOC Chamber | UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS | NEW YORK CITY

2PM - 6PM



### #ThinkUrban

Co-organizers: @CSU\_org @UNHABITAT\_NY @Refugees @ilo @IOMatUN @uclg\_org @CenterForArch @ItalyUN\_NY, #GlobalMigrationGroup and #NetworkEleven

More than half of the world's refugees and displaced live in urban areas, often in fragile cities with high levels of inequality. If unplanned, migration and forced displacement can accelerate growth of informal settlements and exacerbate existing inequalities, social tensions, risks, and lack of access to basic services and infrastructure. At the same time, examples of cities from across the global demonstrate the opportunities cities offer for a dignified life, how migrants and refugees are key to economic growth and how they can be integrated socially and spatially.

The new *Global Alliance for Urban Crises* has put forward the principle to manage migration flows and displacement as both a humanitarian and development challenge. To that end, the UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 on 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' and the New Urban Agenda under discussion provide the opportunity to highlight the power of urban planning and design. This event will help to shape key messages for the United Nations *High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants* planned for 19 September 2016.

Key objectives of the event:

- To identify how large movements of refugees and migrants can be harnessed in support of sustainable urbanization, taking into account that the average displacement easily stretches over several generations;
- To review innovative design and planning practices that can address the critical challenges for refugees and migrants, while insuring social cohesion and equitable access to services, housing and livelihoods
- To discuss the role of local governments in managing refugee and migration flows.

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Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, IOM, ILO, UCLG, Global Migration Group, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU), American Institute of Architects -NY Chapter, Digital Technologies for Sustainable Urbanization Network (Network 11)

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