



UN Conference on The Future of Cities: *An Integrated Approach to Urban Challenges*

Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, New York

10 February 2014 3.00 p.m. – 6.00 PM AIA CES 2.5 LU / 2.5 HSW

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-cities-an-integrated-approach-to-urban-challenges-tickets-15469865785>

The future of cities depends not only on what we do but how we do it. Cities face a plethora of problems in both the developed and developing countries making the issue universal. Every year millions of people move to cities worldwide- that is about 200 000 per day close to 1.4 million per week or over 70 million each year.

We are in an era of cities. Cities are economic and cultural engines. City governments often have a more direct impact on quality of life than national governments. They pave the way to the future; they are the centers of information and wealth creation; they provide opportunity and hope; they are the agents of change. One of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals for the Post 2015 Agenda of the United Nations is to *“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”*.

On the occasion of the UN General Assembly High level Thematic Debate on the *Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post 2015 Development Agenda*, the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization together with UN-Habitat and its partners will address the issues of an integrated approach to urban problems that will affect the future of cities.

Cities face many, and often conflicting, problems: conflicting issues of economic and cultural development, environmental stewardship, of cars versus pedestrians, unequal economic opportunities and income distribution, social justice versus security, unequal access to health facilities and education, unequal rights as citizens because of gender, creed, ethnicity, religion and socio-economic status. Many of these issues are all interrelated. It is, therefore, critical that these problems be addressed as a system of systems. Urban issues are best solved by taking a cross-sectorial approach. Problems solved in isolation, apart from being an inefficient use of resources, may also have unintentional consequences. *Therefore, an integrated holistic approach across all sectors is an essential prerequisite for the cities of tomorrow.*

PROGRAM

- 2.00 p.m. **Registration**
- 3.00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION**
- Welcome**
H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President, UN General Assembly
- Remarks**
H.E. Maria Emma Mejia Velez, Vice President, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Permanent Representative of Columbia to the United Nations
- Keynotes**
H.E. Dr. Joan Clos, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat
H.E. Kadir Topbas, President, United Cities and Local Governments, and Mayor of Istanbul
- 3.45 p.m. **DIALOGUE SESSION**
- Chair:**
H.E. Karen Tan, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations
- Moderator**
Urs Gauchat, Dean, NJIT College of Architecture and Design and CSU Director
- Panelists**
- Ana Marie Argilagos, Ford Foundation
 - Douglas I. Foy, CEO, Serrafix Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts
 - Navid Hanif, Director, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
 - David Klingberg, CEO, David Lock Associates, Melbourne, Australia
 - Nilda Mesa, Director, NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability
 - Ritva Viljanen, Deputy Mayor for Education and Cultural Affairs, Helsinki, Finland
 - Tom Wright, President, Regional Plan Association
- 5.15 p.m. **Discussion**
- 5:30 p.m. **CONCLUSION**
- Closing Remarks:**
James Mc.Cullar, FAIA, James McCullar Architecture, CSU Director and Past President, AIA New York
- Organizers** Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization & UN-Habitat
- Sponsor** AIA New York Chapter

