

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

IBC LMPDR Side event: Cities as front-line actors for the inclusion of people on the move - building sustainable structures to leave no-one behind

Side event: Cities as front-line actors for the inclusion of people on the move

Background and Rationale

In the last year the world was impacted by numerous crises, including wars, natural disasters and climate hazards. This has led to unprecedented, forced movements of people across the region, placing a tremendous burden on host governments, and specifically on sending and receiving communities. Migrants, forcibly displaced or otherwise often choose to live in urban centers due to better economic prospects, more opportunities for self-reliance, and, better safety. The importance of recognizing local authorities as policymakers, including for access to services, economic integration, and social cohesion, is also increasingly acknowledged. These commitments reconfirm that cities continue to be at the forefront of the decision-making in integrating the needs of people on the move and reap the socio-economic benefits which these persons bring. If properly equipped and capacitated, municipalities can become key actors and visionary leaders in addressing forced displacement issues. Results from this movement are in the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on cities and urban development in the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 11, "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Municipalities have a wealth of valuable experience in the "localization" of the 2030 Agenda, where they provide leadership in the mobilization of a wide range of stakeholders, the facilitation of "bottom-up" and inclusive processes, and the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Hence, this side event will showcase the challenges, efforts, and successes of municipalities, as front-line actors for the inclusion of forcibly displaced people, while building on sustainable structures and mechanisms to leave no-one behind.

[UNHCR - Effective Inclusion of Refugees: participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level](#)

Session objectives and expected outcomes

This side event is expected to provide a platform for dialogue on the successes and challenges in the implementation and localization of SDG 11 as well as other urban-related SDGs, with a strong focus on the role of cities in ensuring a sustainable socio-economic integration of forcibly displaced population, in light of recent events impacting Ukraine, Moldova and other countries.

Expected outcomes of the side event:

- Present good practices of cities responding to new emerging displacement trends and flows.
- Raise awareness on the role of cities as front-line actors for the inclusion of forcibly displaced
- Support cities in learning about and implementing inclusive policies that benefit their communities.
- Explore and identify new partnerships to ensure a sustainable socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced population.

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- Contribute to a growing and robust network of cities, city-led organizations, and UN Agencies
- Exchange knowledge and good practices that increase economic, social, and cultural inclusion at the local level.
- Identify funding and knowledge gaps relating to refugee and IDP inclusion, focusing on non-EU countries.
- Contribute to the discussion on transition from short-term standalone humanitarian solutions towards the longer-term inclusion and integration of displaced populations in urban development planning.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience, co-chaired by IOM, UNDP and UNHCR

Contributors: IOM, UNHCR, UNDP

Agenda and Structure

The proposed Agenda will address the following topics:

Strengthening local services, national social protection systems and support for socio-economic inclusion of refugees (Lessons learned and ongoing challenges)

Collaborative approaches for strengthening prospects for socio-economic Inclusion and economic growth (whole-of-society approach, working with development actors)

Municipal-led, community-driven solutions activities for the forcibly displaced – Efforts, challenges, gaps

Supporting Socio-Economic Inclusion in Protracted Refugee Situations – Lessons Learned and Recommendations from the Municipal Level

Agenda structure:

Welcome and opening remarks from IBC co-chairs

Speaker from Ukraine municipality (TBC)

Speaker from Moldova municipality (TBC)

Speaker from United Cities and Local Governments (TBC)

Speaker from UNHCR (TBC)

List of Panellists

Moderator from United Cities and Local Governments

Speaker from Ukraine municipality (TBC)

Speaker from Moldova municipality (TBC)

Speaker from United Cities and Local Governments (TBC)

Speaker from UNHCR (TBC)

Sign-up / Registration Link

[SDG 11: Side event – registration link](#)