**"Sharing good practices in promoting
urban inclusion and non-discrimination"**

**A UNESCO-ICCAR event on sustainable urban development
at Habitat III
17 October 2016 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm**
Centro de Convenciones Eugenio Espejo, **Quito, Ecuador**

Concept note and programme

The 21st century is considered as the century of cities, with over half of humanity now living in urban areas, a figure that is expected to increase to more than 60% by 2050. Contributing 70% of the global GDP, cities are the major drivers for economic, social and cultural development. The transformative power of urbanization has positively affected the lives of many city dwellers through progress in urban planning and infrastructure, energy use, education services, environmental protection and access to health services, water and sanitation.

Despite this progress, many urban areas have remained fertile terrain for unemployment, poverty and inequalities. Overpopulation within cities and peripheral urban spaces, coupled with increasing diversity resulting from migration, has resulted in the socioeconomic exclusion of populations, gaps in service delivery and serious challenges to social harmony. Diverse forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance have permeated cities around the world, manifesting in the public sphere, the workplace, the classroom and within communities, threatening cities' moral, social, economic and political stability. This discrimination can also result in exclusion and isolation, providing the conditions for extremism and radicalization.

Over recent years, the international community has made important strides in identifying and addressing some of the key challenges facing cities. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline a cross-cutting vision of cities as enablers for peace and sustainable development, including: "Goal 11: *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*" and "Goal 16: *Promote peaceful and inclusive*

societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

However, the issue of discrimination, including racial discrimination and intolerance, which is often entrenched within urban spaces, has not obtained the global attention that it merits.

The series of UN Conferences on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat) has, since 1976, strengthened the global commitment to sustainable urbanization. Habitat III, as one of the first UN global summits after the adoption of the SDGs, offers an occasion to discuss the challenges that cities face in the pursuit of sustainable development, and proposes a new set of goals for transformative change in urban sustainability. The *New Urban Agenda* that will be adopted represents a timely and much-needed opportunity to develop a holistic and viable agenda that takes into consideration all the aspects of building peaceful and sustainable cities, including the often-neglected theme of cities embracing their diverse populations.

In this context, UNESCO is advocating the core issues of inclusion, diversity and freedom from all forms of discrimination as central vectors for achieving sustainable and equitable urban development. With its transversal mandate and global networks of city-level actors, UNESCO is committed to mobilizing diverse partners to launch innovative action, collaboration and dialogue to enhance the importance of anti-discrimination and promote the value of inclusion.

One of the main platforms that UNESCO is capitalizing on is the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities - ICCAR (formerly the International Coalition of Cities against Racism). ICCAR was launched by UNESCO in 2004 following the call made for a common front in the global fight against racial discrimination during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that took place in Durban, South Africa in 2001. Through ICCAR, UNESCO promotes international cooperation between cities to strengthen advocacy for global solidarity and collaboration, and promote inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination, by sharing good practices, knowledge and expertise, and by advancing joint action through the development of participatory city-level policies and initiatives. With seven regional and national coalitions, ICCAR now counts more than 500 cities around the world as members.

The Global Steering Committee for ICCAR, composed of the lead cities of all seven regional and national Coalitions, outlined in the *Bologna Declaration* (April 2016) its commitment to the full mobilization of the ICCAR platform in response to the priorities of the SDGs and the emerging *New Urban Agenda*, strengthening collaborative action, advocacy and joint initiatives through the Coalition in order to identify and disseminate good practices to advance inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination.

Canada is an active member of ICCAR through its Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) established in 2005, with 69 signatory municipalities today. Member cities have instituted anti-discriminatory policy making processes, producing relevant toolkits and organizing campaigns for advocacy and awareness-raising.

UNESCO and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, with the support of the municipalities of Quito, Ecuador, and Montevideo, Uruguay, are organizing an ICCAR panel in the context of Habitat III to feature perspectives from ICCAR mayors, together with city actors from diverse urban contexts around the world, addressing key themes including the promotion of cultural diversity, the inclusion of migrants and indigenous peoples in cities, the role of youth in advancing inclusive urban development and the potential of data innovation for the promotion of urban inclusion.

The interactive panel discussion has the following objectives:

- To highlight the crucial importance of inclusion, diversity and non-discrimination for sustainable urban development, showcasing the Coalition as a key platform for collaborative action in the implementation of the *New Urban Agenda;*
- To bring together mayors and city-level decision-makers within the platform of the International Coalition of Sustainable and Inclusive Cities – ICCAR and other networks;
- To share good practices, case studies and testimonies on city-level initiatives from various networks that highlight the centrality of inclusion and freedom from all forms of discrimination.

Programme

Opening by Mr Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

Part 1: Promoting urban inclusion through dialogue and innovation

Moderator: Professor Josep Maria Llop Torné, UNESCO Chairholder on Intermediate Cities, University of Lleida, Spain

Panelists:

- Mayor Daniel Martinez, City of Montevideo, Uruguay – lead city of the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia
- Mayor Denis Coderre, City of Montréal, Canada
- Mayor Christian Doligosa Sorongon, New Lucena City, Iloilo, Philippines
- Ms Elza Seferian, Youth delegate from Lebanon at UNESCO's 39th session of the World Heritage Committee

Part 2: Inclusive urban development: what works?

Moderator: Mr Klever Alban, Metropolitan Director of Social Inclusion, Municipality of Quito

Panelists:

- Mayor Fatimetou Abdel Malick of the Commune of Tevragh-Zeina, Nouakchott, Mauritania
- Mayor William Bell, City of Birmingham, Alabama – lead city of the US Coalition of Cities against Racism
- Ms Becky A. Sasakamoose Kuffner, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations, Treaty Six Territory, City of Saskatoon (Saskatchewan), Canada
- Dr Sandra Jovchelovitch, Director of the Social and Cultural Psychology Programme, London School of Economics

Interpretation will be made available in English, French and Spanish.