



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023



Segment 1: Interregional Segment

2 Roundtables

Background

Building on the precedent and experiences of the Forum of Mayors in 2022, where mayors from each of the other four UN regions were invited to share their experiences, and with the support of the 4 other Regional Economic Commissions (UNECA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNESCWA), the UNECE has organized an Interregional Segment of the Forum of Mayors¹.

The Interregional Segment is an important part of a continuous drive to encourage different regions to share knowledge and experience. Whilst different regions face different problems, the growth of urban environments is consistent across the globe. Specifically, regarding Urban Regeneration, different lessons can be learned from the diversity of experiences of all cities, be that in building resilience to conflict and climate-change induced natural disasters, or managing rapid urban growth so that all have access to clean and affordable housing.

Expectations

In this roundtable, mayors/deputy mayors are encouraged to consider the specific features of their region, be that governance related, climatic, historical or socio-cultural, that affect their urban environments and paths of urban development.

The aim of this roundtable is to provide cities with an opportunity to consider the ways in which their **urban development is shaped by their regional environment**. Cities will also be given the opportunity to share their own experiences of urban regeneration and learn from each other through sharing best practises.

The roundtable **should be a dialogue**, in which mayors and deputies engage with one another as peers and colleagues.

¹ *Based on the experience of the 2022 Forum of Mayors, other United Nations Regional Commissions are invited to organize an "interregional segment" back-to-back with the Forum to include mayors from all the regions, to exchange good practices among peers and with other interested stakeholders. Details of the interregional segment should be discussed with all interested stakeholders and should be shared well ahead of the Forum with all ECE member States.*, ExCom ECE/EX/2023/L.4 decision, adopted 13 January 2023, last paragraph.



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023



Guiding questions

Question 1: What is the most pressing challenge for your city in relation to urban resilience and what have you done (are doing) to address this?

Please consider the following:

- What makes the city and its location in the world unique, and what specific challenges does the city face?
- Have you undertaken projects to increase resilience, can you describe them?

Question 2: How did the project forward environmental and social sustainability?

Please provide details on how the project included environmental as well as social and cultural concerns. Consider the following questions.

- Was there an environmental, gender and, social impact assessment?
- Were any decisions made explicitly related to social and environmental improvement?
- Are there any mechanisms through which to measure the impact after the project has been completed?

Question 3: In what ways can the international community assist urban regeneration most effectively in your city?

- Do you have any experience with projects in partnership with the international community?
 - What was the project? What lessons have you learned from that experience?

Cities will be asked to share their experiences with the international community and how international partnerships can best be utilised.



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023



Segment 2: Projects for Urban Regeneration

1 Roundtable

Background

Urban regeneration is a holistic vision and an effective tool to achieve more inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable cities. It aims to bring about long-term improvements in deteriorating urban areas' economic, physical, social, and environmental conditions, transforming them into vibrant, diversified, and active communities that cherish and preserve their built and natural heritage.

Sustainable urban regeneration is a strategy to reorganize, improve and restore underused resources and assets and to redistribute possibilities by boosting urban prosperity, improving quality of life as well as the city's environmental condition.

Urban regeneration projects can be undertaken for several reasons in a variety of different environments. From repurposing former industrial areas to revitalising a cultural and historical quarter, this roundtable will provide cities with the opportunity to talk about their unique urban regeneration projects.

Expectations

In this roundtable, mayors/deputy mayors will discuss **examples urban regeneration projects** in their cities.

We encourage cities to focus on a **specific challenge they faced** in the project and how they overcame it. This could be **mobilising funding, ensuring public participation, achieving the desired social or environmental impacts** etc.

The aim of this roundtable is to provide cities with an opportunity to **share their own experiences overcoming problems** in achieving urban regeneration as well as **learn from others** in similar environments and situations.

The roundtable should be a dialogue, in which mayors and deputies engage with one another as peers and colleagues. **Constructively discussing solutions** to problems and **working together** to help achieve the overarching goal of sustainable urban development. Speakers should spend no more than 3 minutes addressing each question.



Guiding questions

Question 1: What was the challenge that your Urban Regeneration project was initiated to address?

For this question, we would like you to reflect on the 'why' of the Urban Regeneration project. This will be a particularly useful endeavour for the purpose of peer-learning as well as exploring the diverse drivers of Urban Regeneration.

Question 2: What was/is the Urban Regeneration project you would like to present?

Please provide the details of the project. Including but not limited to:

- The scale
- The cost
- The type of area being regenerated etc

This will be useful for people present to understand the project and how it related to their projects and cities

Question 3: How did the project forward environmental and social sustainability?

Please provide details on how the project included environmental as well as social and cultural concerns. Please consider the following questions.

- Was there an environmental, gender and, social impact assessment?
- Were any decisions made explicitly related to social and environmental improvement?
- Are there any mechanisms through which to measure the impact after the project has been completed?



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023



Segment 3: Regeneration towards sustainable and resilient urban environments

2 Roundtables

Background

Urban regeneration projects play a pivotal role in bolstering the resilience of communities against the multifaceted challenges posed by conflict, natural disasters, and human-made crises. Resilience can be defined as the measurable ability of any urban system to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while, importantly, positively adapting and transforming towards sustainability.

By revitalizing urban areas, regeneration can not only enhance physical infrastructure but also cultivate a greater sense of community, social cohesion, and promote economic growth. The integration of disaster-resistant construction methods, efficient resource management systems, and accessible green spaces within these initiatives contributes to the urban landscape's capacity to withstand unexpected shocks.

Expectations

In this roundtable, mayors/deputy mayors will discuss what resilience looks like in their cities as well as examples **of urban regeneration projects that increased or will increase resilience to conflict and natural or human-made disasters** in their cities.

The aim of this roundtable is to provide cities with an opportunity to **share their own experiences in building resilience** as well as **learn from others** in similar environments and situations, as well as consider how to integrate environmental, social and cultural considerations into resilience planning.

The roundtable should be a dialogue, in which mayors and deputies engage with one another as peers and colleagues. **Constructively discussing solutions** to problems and **working together** to help achieve the overarching goal of sustainable urban development. Speakers should spend no more than 3 minutes addressing each question.



Guiding questions

Question 1: What is the most pressing challenge for your city in relation to Urban Resilience?

For this question, we would like you to reflect on the **specific challenges** that your city faces and the **biggest needs regarding resilience**. For this question it would also be useful to share any disaster-risk management plans that your city has, or whether resilience is included specifically in any city development plans.

Question 2: Could you elaborate on a specific urban regeneration project that your city has undertaken to increase resilience?

Please provide the details of the project including but not limited to:

- The aim
- The cost
- The type of area being regenerated
- How the project increases(ed) resilience?

This will be useful for people present to understand the project and how it relates to their projects and cities.

Question 3: How have you ensured that increasing resilience also increases environmental and social sustainability?

Please provide details on how you are including environmental as well as social and cultural concerns into resilience planning. Please consider the following questions.

- Was there an environmental, gender and, social impact assessment?
- Have any decisions made explicitly related to social and environmental improvement?
- Are there any mechanisms through which to ensure that environmental, social and cultural outcomes are improving?



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023



Segment 4: Localising the SDGs and Urban Regeneration

1 Roundtable

Background

Cities play a crucial role in driving forward sustainable development, with Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) serving as a vital tool to evaluate their efforts. VLRs are assessments conducted by local governments to gauge their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These reviews promote transparency, accountability, and collaboration at the local level, offering insights into strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. By participating in VLRs, cities can refine policies to better align with sustainable objectives, empower local communities in decision-making, and foster unique, sustainable practices.

Similarly, UNECE's Smart Sustainable Cities Profiles (SSCPs) provide a comprehensive understanding of urban development's smartness, emphasizing sustainability for harmonious societies and improved quality of life. As cities confront challenges like resource scarcity and climate change, the SSCP framework covers areas such as energy, transportation, waste, and technology, facilitating integrated urban planning.

Expectations

In this roundtable, mayors/deputy mayors should discuss how their cities are using Voluntary Local Reviews or city profiles to evaluate progress towards the SDGs and enhance urban regeneration.

We encourage cities to focus on a **specific plan or project** contained within their VLR, SSCP or in their City's Strategy and how it impacts the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. This must be an urban regeneration project.

The aim of this roundtable is to highlight how cities are **important actors in driving forward SDG progress** through focussing on **implementation at the local level**.

The roundtable should be a dialogue, in which mayors and deputies engage with one another as peers and colleagues. **Constructively discussing solutions** to problems and **working together** to help achieve the overarching goal of sustainable urban development. Speakers should spend no more than 5 minutes addressing each question.



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023



Guiding questions

Question 1: Could you describe a specific urban regeneration project that your city has undertaken, as highlighted in your VLR or SSCP or City's Strategy?

Please provide the details of a project included in your VLR/City Profile/City's Strategy. Including but not limited to:

- The aim
- The cost
- The type of area being regenerated etc.

This will be useful for people present to understand the project and how it relates to their projects and cities.

Question 2: How has this project contributed to advancing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals?

For this question, we would like you to reflect on your Urban Regeneration project and identify **which Sustainable Development Goals are impacted by the project**. This will be a particularly useful endeavour for the purpose of exploring the impact and importance of Urban Regeneration.