



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**EUSKO JAURLARITZA**

LURRALDE PLANGINTZA,  
ETXEBIZITZA  
ETA GARRAIO SAILA



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Y TRANSPORTES

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# Euskal Hiria kongresua

**Vitoria - Gasteiz** Expert Group Meeting  
**23-24 November**

# 2020

**Cities for all: Ageing and Inclusion**





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## EUSKAL HIRIA KONGRESUA 2020

The United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat) and the Government of the Basque Country held on 23 and 24 November a meeting of experts from around the world to address the issue of "Cities for all: Ageing and Inclusion".

The main objective of the meeting was to exchange experiences and projects implemented in recent years in various parts of the world, in order to promote the development of policies aimed at facilitating and improving the lives of older people.

The Global Expert Group Meeting was held within the framework of the EUSKAL HIRIA KONGRESUA 2020, a congress that has been held annually in Euskadi since 2002. This event, which is held each year at the end of November, promotes the debate on the city in the context of Euskadi, addressing the challenges and opportunities of cities through a specific topic.

### BACKGROUND

Urbanization is an unstoppable global trend. Projections of urban population growth by 2050 indicate that the concentration of the urban population will increase by 13 per cent. It will increase from 55 per cent of the world population in 2018 to 68 per cent in 2050.

Furthermore, the achievements associated with human development such as improved education, nutrition and health systems have contributed to increased life expectancy and reduced mortality rates, with a significant influence on the increase in population ageing. Although life expectancy is increasing globally, this fact has a particular component in regions where the population pyramid is being inverted and narrowing the youth population base.

Both phenomena, increasing urbanization and population ageing, are recognized as two of the four global demographic megatrends (along with population growth and international migration) with continuous and lasting impacts on sustainable development. This implies a double transition that irretrievably affects the configuration of cities and forces a rethinking of how cities should be understood, designed and managed to integrate and effectively include all social groups, including older persons.

Age friendly cities and communities foster healthy and active ageing. They enable older people to: age safely in a place that is right for them; be free from poverty; continue to develop personally; and to contribute to their communities while retaining autonomy and dignity. Vibrant cities should be sustainable and inclusive to ensure no one is left behind. Cities, policies, services, settings and structures should support older people who in particular require supportive and enabling living environments, to compensate for physical and social changes associated with ageing.

Given better environments, better health care and more opportunities older persons are often active change agents not only of their own lives but also in their communities.

Also, healthy ageing populations are no longer a financial cost only, but bring important financial benefits by working late in life, grandparents' volunteering that permits families to be able to work, and having their own economic assets.

DAY 1: 23 November 2020

## INSTITUTIONAL OPENING SESSION

- MC: **Carmen Sanchez-Miranda**, Head of UN-Habitat Office for Spain

Carmen Sanchez-Miranda began the EGM by welcoming all the participants. She explained that, according to all projections, the world's population is increasingly urban but also increasingly larger. In addition to this, she added that cities are increasingly unequal. Physical accessibility is essential, but this discussion goes beyond that. What makes urban spaces and streets truly inclusive and livable? What is the relationship between health in old age and the urban environment? What makes older people living in cities feel vulnerable, not just to crime or disasters? How does this affect your daily life or the assistance you receive in times of crisis? For older people, cities present physical, social and economic barriers that prevent them from exercising their right to live with dignity, safety or to enjoy their surroundings.

### OPENING REMARKS

- **Arantza Leturiondo Aranzamendi**, Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country Government

Arantza Leturiondo remarked that there are two processes that are currently affecting the majority of the world's population: population growth and urbanization. The Basque population is one of the most aged regions in Europe. This demographic change will affect positively or negatively depending on the actions taken and will have significant effects on the economy, investments, and the labor market. Ageing will also have an impact on health and medical care, in the composition and organization of families, in housing and in migration.

- **Welcome video by Iñaki Arriola, Counsellor of Territorial Planning, Housing and Transport**

Iñaki Arriola explained that the Basque Country is one of the most aged regions in the world. In 15 years, half of the population will be over 65 and one out of 10 will be older than 80. Ageing is bringing changes and our urban agenda is reflecting this need to adapt measures to new realities with elimination of barriers for elderly and personalized care. It will affect growth, savings and pension system and because of that, the EU has included development of Silver Economy as an important measure. We have focused on mobility, public space, economy, public services. To speak of "health" is to reduce inequalities is needed. To speak of Ageing is to promote care bearing in mind gender perspective as women are the ones who take most care. We need a compact city, efficient public transport, quality shops and public spaces and will have to review classic housing model to make it more adaptable to family structures. Need to redesign housing and take care of quick diagnosis of care. We need to make our cities more livable and more exciting. He finished reminding of the importance of having research to learn how older people live in cities.

- **Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of the Urban Practices Branch at UN-Habitat**

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Shipra Narang Suri reminded that in recent years, cities and societies are increasingly unequal. UN Habitat has been working for decades on proposals that improve the quality of life of different social groups, including the elderly. The pandemic has especially affected the elderly, whom it has isolated in terms of care and affection. It is also important to have age-friendly cities and communities so that people can age in safe communities with autonomy and safety. We have to provide better environments and health care. They are active change agents helping their communities. One of the key elements to promote equity is the active participation of vulnerable groups who can be part of decision-making. Also thank all the work of onun Habitat to identify the values of housing and mobility that have already been mentioned. The elderly are active agents despite having limited spaces for participation. Importance of making debates about cities more human. In May, it took place a forum focused on older persons and on persons with disabilities. Their needs are not the same but it was a starting point. Take away points from May forums:

1. Importance of identifying rights and contributions
2. Ensure full participation of older persons
3. Older persons are not a homogenous group
4. Support best practices for older persons to identify barriers
5. She believes that a key element is to ensure that older persons engage as active change agents not just as beneficiaries
6. All stakeholders should act together
7. Older people can work longer
8. Need to harness a more age friendly, inclusive and sustainable future

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Iñaki Gabilondo**, journalist.

Iñaki Gabilondo begins his intervention with a metaphor of pedestrians who start walking across the street and when the light turns yellow the engines begin making noise while children and the elderly people are still trying to cross. It represents how the most vulnerable people are left behind. He also explains that he receives many letters from people who do not see themselves represented in society – rights of women, disabled, gay people, rights of prisoners in jails. Most of society were people felt marginalized so who is doing this? The answer is that marginalized people also marginalize other minorities. He highlight the wrong vision of normality which was understood as society represented by those in society for longer time – working male of a certain age. We need to accept new normality to be at the center of everything. Cities must consider the whole diversity of residents. Cities must create community, not independent bubbles. The only true inclusiveness is to eliminate all excluding elements for all. All of us should enjoy all the services that make a city livable and enjoyable. We want a human, friendly city for all different types of people and for that, all the actors must pursue a common objective.

- **Kathrin Komp**, Associate professor in social gerontology, University of Helsinki / Research Network on Ageing in Europe

Kathrin Komp explained that ageing cities is a complicated topic there are two interlinked problems: ageing population and urbanization, Resulting in changing people in a changing

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society. It is easier to analyze by using life course perspective – everything that happens from cradle to grave. Life is one continuous process, so older people is not a different group. Ageing begins with conception; everybody is ageing and each one of us will experience it. There is continuity and people continue to be themselves. So there are only humans beings in cities that change over time. Cities need to be changed.

Life course perspective to cities:

1. We tend to stay the same post 65+; plan for cities means planning for ourselves and take into consideration their plans, aspirations and needs. Not everyone is affected the same way as everybody has their own history.

2. Must realize that how people are when they are older begins earlier with developing life styles, preferences earlier in middle age so it is necessary to start earlier when people begin to develop habits and hobbies e.g. healthier and fit older people must begin in earlier age with children.

Conclusions:

1. Ageing cities are an important topic but it is more complex than you think.
2. Use life course perspective makes this easier – Not just about planning for a different social group as we are all affected.
3. City planning – need not to make changes only how you deal with older people. Decide what is appropriate for them. Think about where behavior and habits come from and begin at that age.
4. Poor planning can result in social exclusion
5. Take a holistic approach

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### *Closing of institutional opening*

Carmen Closes the session explaining the interventions of this afternoon

Arantxa also thanks everybody for participating and explains that in the elaboration of the urban agenda, the need to make cities with a multidisciplinary character has become evident and urban public policies must be aligned with that approach.

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15:30

- MC: **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat

Angela Mwai Welcomed all and noted the opening session speakers who set the stage over next 2 days. Thanked the Basque Country government which is sponsoring this EGM. Looking at older persons – multiple approaches needed to reduce inequalities. Older persons are not a homogenous group. It's also important to notice that a lot of different groups are also marginalized. Ageing in cities is a wicked problem as it is both qualitative and quantitative; everything is interconnected and complex.





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## WELCOME

- **Arantza Leturiondo Aranzamendi**, Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country Government

Arantza Leturiondo remarked that there are many women in the meeting and reflected on public policies linked to needs and demands of the elderly – mobility, housing requirements. These policies are where gender perspective can act as lever for mobilization. She also advocated for effective economic growth, investment and technological growth linked to the silver age that is a priority of the EU. All disciplinary tools are needed.

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## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

- **Katherine Kline**, Co-chair of GAP Older Persons

Katherine Kline explained that there is an approach that is focusing on urban growth around the world but is paying less attention to the fact that the world's population is aging, probably doubling in 2050. This pandemic has also highlighted the differences between social groups. Older people have faced isolation, greater poverty, and greater mental depression than they already had, in addition to suffering the worst face of the virus. Attention must be focused on elderly people when making decisions about the city, addressing physical and environmental problems: accessible public spaces, accessible and adequate housing, supporting mental health, getting access to information. The intersectionality between health, environment, gender, and economic status in the elderly is very important. Older people can contribute a lot to society and longevity increases the wealth of countries. Cities offer better opportunities and services to older people, but it is necessary to ensure that it is done in an inclusive way for all.

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## 15:45 SESSION 1: SAFE PUBLIC SPACE

In the first session, the speakers addressed the importance of public space as a fundamental human right, especially for the elderly. For the elderly, it represents the possibility of leading an active life overcoming isolation, promoting inclusion and social interaction. In addition, the residential environment can provide support in the maintenance of autonomy and independence among older adults, and this depends for the most part on their socioeconomic, physical and social situation.

The design of cities and public spaces should be more friendly to the elderly, for all ages. It is necessary to design more diverse and flexible public spaces so that they evolve with the population. For this, the participation of the elderly in the design process is very important, covering as much diversity as possible. In addition, several case studies were presented in which innovation and technological solutions helped to achieve more inclusive and accessible public spaces.

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- Joy Mutai, UN-Habitat Public Space Programme (*Introduction and moderation of the session*)

Joy Mutai welcomed all to this session and explained the theme. Public spaces are very important in our lives, but they must be very well designed. It is important to have the participation of the elderly in our public spaces, especially older women who are more underrepresented.

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- **Inés Sanchez de Madariaga**, Professor at the Technical University of Madrid, Spain, Advisory Group on Gender Issues AGGI

Inés Sanchez de Madariaga began mentioning the UN Women campaign that is ongoing and how the pandemic has increased risk for violence against women and girls including loss of employment. This pandemic can be an opportunity for radical change helping to see that world that is not neutral. She explained the experience of Monteverde, Italy – a historic Medieval southern Italy town that is fully accessible and won an Access Cities Award for the elderly. Participation of local communities was a central issue. They focused on community to create an active climate of hospitality, making it part of the accessibility - spend free time without obstacles; urban accessibility was also enhanced by technology. The process involved private sector and communities. This experience is innovative and was developed over 10 years. It produced a renewal of the built environment and has triggered PPP leading to more tourism and new jobs.

- **Caroline Laborde**, Ageing expert in the Regional Health Observatory in the Paris Region Institute

Caroline Laborde explained her research about disabilities working with others. Many countries need assistance and need to know whether and how cities can maintain healthy lives and how to remove barriers and reduce the needs of caregivers and to have older persons avoid social isolation. This is a recent question in disability studies. She suggests that in a city it is possible to find environmental barriers as well as facilitators – proximity to food; high connectivity to streets; high safety; high social cohesion, etc. Residential environments are associated with difficulties with daily living.

She used data from survey interviews of more than 10,000 older adults. They have individual data to characterize physical environments in homes, and information on difficulties for almost 20 activities for daily living. It is self-reported data. Environmental barriers were included: absence of public toilets; health facilities at the city levels; information on gender, age, physical and mental health; education levels, etc. It was an opportunity to observe general population of older persons and to focus on adult activities both indoor and outdoor. They ran models to predict difficulties with or without help. The probability to declare difficulties increases with a number of several urban limitations like the lack of food amenities, the absence of resting places and issues of poor sidewalks.

- **Setha Low**, City University of New York-Director of the Public Space Research Group
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Setha Low focused on what they have learned in NYC. Public space was an important space during the pandemic but it wasn't equal for everyone. Older adults had highest Covid death rates. Physical distancing was a class issue with "dangerous others" who did not wear masks so older people feared going to areas of younger people not wearing masks. Stigma of older persons – e.g. isolation not allowing them to use existing resources. Homelessness increased and public transport Covid cleaning from 1-5 am put older homeless people on the streets. Fragility of mental illness due to loneliness doubled for older adults in the US. She also remarked the importance of third spaces – restaurants, bars, libraries, senior centers closed even if they were a place where they could meet in a safe environment. Virtual spaces did not work as well for digitally challenged older adults to find meetings.

Conditions during the pandemic gave us an idea of what is necessary to think regarding older adults and public space:

1. Create new and protected spaces
2. Design safe access to public spaces – signage
3. Park design and programming must take into account the reduction of isolation as well as settings that allow some privacy
4. Age friendly design is needed: wheel chair pavements; umbrellas or shade for those waiting in lines, settings that allow some privacy as well as promote the reduction of isolation.
5. Virtual access and training is needed for older adults

- **Luisa Bravo**, City Space Architecture-Founder and President

Luisa Bravo stated that public space in cities is a common good meant to be open inclusive and democratic. They are a fundamental human right for everybody. Urban environments are primarily human environments. We are shifting to universal design. Public space is a place for democratic expression, improving equity and promoting inclusion, democracy and social cohesion. Addressing inclusion and universal design requires new thinking based on humans living in urban environments and to be aware of consequences of urbanization. NUA is action oriented with principles and guidelines related to public space. Specifically, the SDG 11 has indicators for safe and accessible green spaces for older persons, PwD, women and children. The number of older persons is increasing globally so design should become more age friendly and disability must be considered to design more inclusive environments. From a design perspective we can implement principles of universal design; cities should become more age friendly. We need to train professionals more able to understand complex issues of universal design.

3. Implementation at the local governments addressing urban design
4. Monitoring and make adaptations as needed.

- **Eva Salaberría**, Coordinator of the Donostia Lagunkoia City Plan, Donostia / San Sebastián City Council

Eva Salaberría highlighted the importance of creating conditions for people to age and develop life projects and exercise their rights as citizens. Vulnerability may be very different within the elderly population and that is why it is necessary to design and build more inclusive cities. To create an intergenerational society it is important to take into account several points:

1. Who will be the elderlies of the future? What will be their expectations and what will they be like?
2. To build a city's strategy on challenges and opportunities that ageing offers – building it for all ages. Ageing impacts all ages not just the elderly.





3. To tackle this from a systemic perspective. We need to work as a network of the city as a whole – give coherence and connect different initiatives always counting with the participation of elderly persons. It is important to provide a strategic framework that supports public/private permanent dialogue and translate/define common terminology to enable that we speak the same language.

She also advocated for a distributed governance supported on 4 legs: public space and mobility; housing for the whole life; community; transition and age management. Public spaces are a key element to generate sustainability and territorial cohesion facilitating management of conflict. Design more flexible public spaces that adapt with the population

## 16:55 SESSION 2: HOUSING

Housing is a fundamental right applicable to everyone. It is the space in which people tend to spend the most time, especially the elderly. In the second session, the speakers highlighted the link between housing, poverty and vulnerability and how Covid-19 has exposed social differences during confinements through housing.

During the session, the need for new homes to be economically accessible and built in accordance with accessibility standards and housing for life was highlighted. In this context, new forms of collaborative housing with community support have recently emerged, promoting active aging. On the other hand, other projects that have focused on fostering intergenerational relationships through volunteering and coexistence were presented. Cities should work on data-driven policies that promote public-private partnership projects and include social participation to address accessibility to housing.

- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, Chief of the Land, Housing and Shelter Section, UN-Habitat  
(*Introduction and moderation of the session*)

Robert Lewis-Lettington highlighted that the question of accessible and adequate housing for older persons is a central one. Different challenges exist in different areas but right to adequate housing is a human right – clear that older persons must be afforded special provisions. States have the responsibility to establish structures and implement them. The NUA promotes the development of age and gender responsive housing. Tenure security tends to have different interpretations depending on where older persons are. Availability of services structures must take specific measures to include everyone and ensure the accessibility of those rights. Affordability plays out differently depending on policies and resources. Habitability is frequently a significant question relating to condition of older persons; Other factors are location, transport, connectivity and cultural issues. All 7 elements of the Right to Adequate Housing relates to older persons and should be supported.

Poverty, inheritance rights, prejudice and discrimination, migration and health must be considered. It is important to identify principles and have commitment to local tailored situations. UNH Handbook of Inclusive and Affordable Housing for PwD and for Older Persons need to update specific issues related to older persons. During COVID those 65+ are particularly vulnerable and must meet mental and social needs not just the physical ones.

- **Alice Pittini**, Research Coordinator, Housing Europe

Housing is key to guarantee healthy living and well-being as a basis for other services and impacts of living independently and enjoy social relationships. Housing conditions of older persons must be improved: in Europe 70-80% housing stock in Europe is not good for ageing in place. People over 65 often live in underoccupied dwellings – children have left home and they stay in large and expensive homes. Older people living alone are more likely to be impacted by energy poverty and cannot afford to keep homes warm. Current pandemic has exposed housing conditions which impact on health. Overcrowding or bad quality housing impacts directly to mortality rates. Loneliness and mental health is a challenge particularly for older persons and it is important to understand mid to long term impacts.

Housing organizations and social cooperatives go beyond brick and mortar to provide different services key to wellbeing of residents, building homes according to accessibility and lifetime standards. New construction represents only 1% of housing stock, so it is important to learn how to accommodate existing housing to the need for increased customized services to age in place. Housing that must be safe and digitally connected.

Policies need to be based on analysis and involve inhabitants. Cities have key role on investing for housing for seniors that must guarantee affordability.

- **Danielle Grossenbacher**, International Organizations Committee of The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), GAP Business & Industry-President / co-chair

Danielle Grossenbacher showed several solutions to housing that keep mind and body active:

1. Large project Essex Crossing in North America with over 400 apartments rented to seniors at 15% of market price due to PPP. There is a medical clinic in the building. It is near an underground park with largest shopping space for food in NYC and has an indoor garden. There is a museum, cinema; photo museum.
2. New idea: shopping centers are suffering due to buying online so they are being converted into housing, particularly for seniors who enjoy amenities left in centers.
3. High rise complex in NJ by a developer who thought that it would only attract students but half who applied to rent are 65+. Older people help younger parents and vice-versa creating an intergenerational building.
4. Living with family, for example in a little house in the backyard. Cities are changing zoning to accommodate this option.
5. Ageing in place is developing especially since COVID to avoid moving to nursing homes.
6. Norway created a complex with a covered tropical garden in the middle.

- **Alfonso Fajardo Barreras**, Director of Solidarios and CONVIVE Programme

Alfonso Fajardo Barreras promotes wellbeing for the elderly and provides economic housing for Madrid students. Solidarios is an NGO with over 30 years in the fight against exclusion. They work with elderly people through social volunteering to lonely people and promotion of intergenerational relationships. Old people living alone in Madrid share a year with a student; It was first designed to fight loneliness of elderly people in our cities, bringing different generations together to enrich all involved. It fosters inclusion of elderly in their homes and in their districts and helps students of low income who cannot afford housing in Madrid. Additionally, it helps reducing the digital gap for elderly.

- **Marijo Moreno**, Architect and CEO, ERROTU TALDEA

Marijo Moreno stressed that almost 75% want to remain at home even with a degree of dependency. Almost 96% of Basque live in urban areas and over 1/3 of those live alone. Additionally, around 30% of housing has no lift. 8 out of 10 with Alzheimer are taken care at home but only 2 out of 10 houses are adapted to it. She explained the project "Sweet Home", a housing project for those with intellectual disabilities. Their goal is to help people with dementia living at home. They are a multi-disciplinary team providing solutions from different perspectives. They carried out workshops with relatives of people with dementia in a friendly atmosphere and listened to their real problems in their different phases. They generated practical and easy to use guidelines for relatives to eliminate barriers and make their homes safer and more accessible.

- **Rosaline Kihumba**, HelpAge International

Rosaline Kihumba highlighted that, in Africa, some land owners don't understand how the market works and have insufficient information on their opportunities to use their own land to build houses, to rent or sell or on negotiating with best buyers. They often don't have a minimum income to get a loan and wealthy people are exposed to abuse and violence without access to justice if it even exists. Law needs changes and enforcement around inheritance especially for women as most land is owned by men.

*Q&A, Reflection discussion*

17:55

- **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat

Angela Mwai closed the session with a comment on abuse and violence against older persons. Safety is a cross cutting theme – UNH Safer Cities have addressed this issue especially in the time of COVID where domestic violence has increased.

*Day 1 closing remarks*

DAY 2: 24 November 2020

15:30

- **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat

Angela highlighted that UN-Habitat recently released a joint publication with WHO integrating health into territorial planning. She noted that older persons could not do social distancing and design of cities and public spaces should be age friendly.

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## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

- **Varda Yoran**, Artist/Sculptor

Varda Yoran expressed how moved she was to see so many programs to help older people and people with disabilities to integrate into society and have a better life. There is one source of people that has not been utilized as much as they could be – volunteers. Everybody has their own types of needs. Professionals cannot do what volunteers do because they don't have the time and it is not their job. Sometimes any kind of attention is enough for people who feel lonely. Phone calls make them feel that somebody cares about them. Now we can use technology and it can be any kind of group of volunteers who set up a center to connect those who want to help and those who need it.

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## 15:45 SESSION 3: MOBILITY

Mobility is a key element in cities to ensure social inclusion, especially in relation to the most vulnerable groups, who often live far from urban centers and lack access to private transport. The third session of the congress addressed the need for accessible public transport for the elderly, for whom mobility is a crucial factor to avoid dependency.

Urban planning must consider accessibility from home to destination via public transportation to facilitate life and aging in one's home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or abilities. It is also a key tool for enhancing healthy aging and enabling older people to be and do what they value most. Innovative solutions, such as vertical connections to assist pedestrians, have proven effective in making urban environments more friendly for the elderly.

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- **Stefanie Holzwarth**, Sustainable Urban Mobility Expert, UN-Habitat

Stefanie Holzwarth remarked that mobility is a key element of urban inclusion, particularly public transport to access vital services important for daily lives. Mobility is important as an enabler to combat isolation and loneliness. Measures encouraging older persons to go out: reduce distance between stops and shops; could improve sidewalks and walkways aligned with universal design; comfortable seats; availability of ramps for those in need. It is important to adjust the mobility systems to growing ageing. Urban planners play a key role. If mobility systems respond to needs of elderly, it will benefit everyone else.

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- **José Dionisio González**, Director Advocacy & Outreach International Union of Public Transport

José Dionisio González highlighted that stronger and friendly cities enable older people to contribute to their communities while maintaining their dignity. The pandemic is pushing over 150 million into poverty according to World Bank report. They are committed to improve accessibility even in private vehicles: Low floor vehicles; ramps; lifts; audible information; contrast colors; door to door personalized services by request. He noted that the green transport sector will bring more jobs. There are 8 million pre mature deaths due to pollution

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and over 90% live in areas that are not safe. We believe that improved transport will help to improve air quality. Governments should include transport sector in recovery funds. Public sector must lead the innovation.

- **Maite Pozo**, Director of the Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network from the Institute for the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO)

Maite Pozo explained that AFCC is an initiative of the WHO as a response to the population ageing problem and to the fact that more people are living in urban areas. The goal is to contribute to the creation of physical and social environment facilitating healthy and active ageing. The framework is based on the participation of elderly people to support their needs. Elderly is a diverse group. Experts often fall into stereotypes and tend to talk as if they were all the same. The initiative helps city councils that are willing to foster healthy and active ageing and wants to improve lives of elderly residents.

She explained the concept of friendliness environment. Becoming age friendly requires universal accessibility linked to mobility through the social environment that is accessible. It is important to work physical and social environments together. This is related to attitudes and nondiscriminatory language.

Mobility influences positively or negatively on the way people age. It is important to be able to maintain our social relationships and practice some sport. Universal accessibility is a key element to have age friendly mobility

Many older people claim and complain about many who ride bikes and scooters on the sidewalks. It is necessary to increase safety in public spaces and street lighting. Problems with mobility may start at home.

- **Raquel Salcedo**, Head of the Safe Mobility section, Mobility and Sustainability Area, Bilbao City Council

Raquel Salcedo highlighted the decrease in family size and the increase of ageing population. Internal mobility is high – 65% is by walking. They established priority of mobility focusing on green solutions. Studies show that older people have more probability to die via traffic accidents so they are optimizing traffic light system to reduce number of running over pedestrians. Mobility in public transport has been increasing accessibility.

Regarding mobility in private vehicles, they established a limit of 30 km/h within the city. People over 65 find it easier to drive more comfortably and car crash risk of death is 8% less at this speed. During lockdown, mobility was reduced, but since then movement has been recovering but not compared to the past.

- **Nhu Tram**, AGE Platform-Specialist on age-friendly environments

Nhu Tram explained that AGE is an umbrella organization representing older persons in Europe. It is an advocacy organization that works on human rights, health, AF environments. Ageing is a challenge but also an opportunity. She reminded of older persons' contribution to society. AGE mission and objectives are: giving voice and representing the interests of older and retired people and showcase best practices

Environment has strong impact on healthy ageing. If you remove barriers, you increase functional ability of people. Mobility supports healthy ageing for all people. Inclusive mobility

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permits older people to continue to be active. Living/ageing in place is facilitated by how well you can reach services. Accessibility and social inclusion aspects of transportation must be considered for use by older persons, like accessible ticket machines and accessible information. Need to involve diverse older persons and identify their barriers to achieve a universal design. Urban planning is key to enhance healthy ageing and embrace the 3 challenges of demographic, ecological and digital transition.

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*Q&A, Reflection discussion*

- **José Dionisio González**, Director Advocacy & Outreach International Union of Public Transport

José Dionisio González highlighted that public services are paid and provided by public authorities and they need to invest more in them. Most of them are completely public but some are mixed. Investment depends largely on public policy orientation and the European green economy approach has been supporting these investments. Support from public authorities is necessary to promote inclusive design and planning.

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## 16:45 SESSION 4: HEALTH AND CARE

Even within cities there are differences in life expectancy between different neighborhoods. Urban environments directly affect health. During the fourth session, the speakers showed that age is an axis of inequality, as well as socioeconomic status or gender. The intersectionality of these axes is a multiplying factor that determines where a person lives and their health trends.

Health goes beyond sanitation and it is necessary to understand health as well-being and consider the role of its social determinants at the social, technical and political level. Older people suffer social vulnerability in addition to biological vulnerability, which adds the risk of ageism, the culture of discarding and the subjugation of rights. Covid-19 has exposed the need to educate and train professionals on aging and raise awareness among the population.

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- Pamela Carbajal, Urban health and regional planner, UN-Habitat

Pamela Carbajal remarked that people's health is the best asset that cities can have. Everybody has a role to play in the planning system and the public health. Working towards Age friendly cities resonates with different sustainable development goals.

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- **Alex Kalache**, President of the International Longevity Centre

Alex Kalache highlighted the need to offer quality of life until the very end. The Active Ageing Framework has 4 pillars: health; lifelong learning; security throughout life and participation. It

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is important to prepare people and the impact will be better and bigger if they begin earlier. They held a meeting of experts and developed a common methodology with the support of the government of Canada, which was called the Vancouver Protocol. In 2006, conducted in 33 cities leading to November 2007 WHO AFC Guide. Now it is adopted by over 3,000 cities globally. Age-friendly design must be friendly to all ages, not only older persons. Health professionals are not sufficiently trained about ageing issues. Civil society must monitor projects to make sure they are sustainable. They recently began a project of the first age friendly favela in Brazil. Few municipalities have done anything or developed any policy. Older people should be empowered to be involved. Old persons are vulnerable but also resilient; they can embrace and build; they can be the cement bringing societies together after the crisis.

- **Vinod Shah**, Chairman of Janaseva Foundation

Vinod Shah explained that India will double the elderly population by 2050. Their approach focuses on creating societies in which the very sectors of society offer help to each other and all sectors are important. There is a space problem in homes with small homes and large families, so it is necessary to increase open spaces by developing public spaces. In this sense, better waste disposal systems are being developed.

Thanks to public initiatives, green spaces and recreational spaces have also been designed and they will create more space for cycling and promote non-polluting transportation. Health services are often provided through charities and religious organizations in India. It is important to promote that both children and adults interact in a healthier way. There are activities that can keep the elderly physically more alive.

It is necessary to institutionalize good practices. It is important to provide the information necessary for the elderly to learn about this digital world without which many will not have access to several services.

- **Maite Morteruel**, Research Group on Social Determinants of Health and Demographic Change, Basque Country University

Maite Morteruel explained that there are big differences in terms of life expectancy even within cities. The physical environment has an impact. Wealthier areas have better physical aspects. People living in deprived areas convey that they have problems in their environment. Housing has a huge impact on health particularly now during COVID. Age is a very important axis of inequality, as well as gender, and it is important to talk about intersectionality, a key concept that explains how as we accumulate axes of inequality they have a multiplying factor of their discriminating effect on health and quality of life. Elderly women often live in more isolated areas and women live longer but their quality of life is lower especially in higher ages. It is necessary take all this into account in city planning. Urban planning should be aligned with global and regional strategies such as WHO's Global AFCC. She also explained the assessment tool they have developed and that has been implemented in Spain in urban regenerations and deprived areas.

- **Silvia Gascón**, Head of the Active Aging and Longevity Center, ISALUD University (TBC)

Silvia Gascón explained how they created La Red Mayor La Plata, a network to defend rights of elderly people in June 2003. In 2007 they integrated into Vancouver WHO and the WHO AFC programme. They created a group to make La Plata a friendlier age friendly city. They generated a platform that would provide a way to participate. The result of their research

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proved that people in nursing homes were not well attended and it was necessary for the government to increase monitoring. COVID-19 showed that older people suffer from social vulnerability especially those living in poor areas. She also explained ageism and the culture of discarding the elderly who often suffer the abuse of their rights. They created a series of recommendations and conduct with HelpAge International an awareness raising campaigns

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*Q&A, Reflection discussion*

Gonzalo:

Gonzalo showed the highlights from the chat box:

Many reacted to the question of the possibility of measuring how friendly a city is to older persons

Sometimes cities promote means of transport that have negative consequences for older people when sidewalks are used by bikes or other vehicles.

It is necessary to be careful with the implementation of technology since it could be a barrier for older people.

The right to the City and how cities become more friendly considering many things that sometimes are not part of the daily life.

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17:45

**FINAL DISCUSSION REGARDING KEY MESSAGES, REFLECTIONS**

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- **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat  
*Conclusions and way forward.*

Angela Mwai closed the sesión with a few shared ideas:

1. It is important to move towards age friendly cities. Older persons and children are a cross cutting social issue
  2. She suggested a community of practice to be launched in early December and that should have several clusters including older persons.
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- **Arantza Leturiondo Aranzamendi**, Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country Government

Arantza Leturiondo finished remarking that this EGM has shown different realities and practical examples.

Highlighted key lessons:

1. The importance of planning associated with the huge demographic change
  2. The necessity to be very innovative; She highlighted that old formulas are not useful anymore. It is important to talk about to social innovation, innovation from the gender
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perspective, innovation from participation, individual and organized, from multilevel governance, and from public-private cooperation .

Thanked UN-Habitat team, moderators, interpreters and the audience too.

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## ANNEXES

**Annex 1- Concept Note**

**Annex 2- Programme**

**Annex 3- Participants Bios**



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

EUSKO JAURLARITZA



GOBIERNO VASCO

LURRALDE PLANGINTZA,  
ETXEBIZITZA  
ETA GARRAIO SAILA

DEPARTAMENTO DE PLANIFICACIÓN  
TERRITORIAL, VIVIENDA  
Y TRANSPORTES

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**Vitoria - Gasteiz** Expert Group Meeting  
**23-24 November**

**Cities for all: Ageing and Inclusion**

**CONCEPT NOTE**





## EUSKAL HIRIA KONGRESUA 2020

The EuskalHiria Congress, has been held in Euskadi since 2002. This event, held every year at the end of November, promotes the discussion about the city in the context of Euskadi, addressing through a particular topic the challenges and opportunities of cities. In its 2020 edition, the Congress takes a look at a growing trend across the globe and quite relevant in Basque cities: ageing population.

## INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is an unstoppable global trend. Projections of urban population growth by 2050 indicate that the concentration of the urban population will increase by 13 per cent. It will increase from 55 per cent of the world population in 2018 to 68 per cent in 2050<sup>1</sup>. To this trend we must add another associated global phenomenon such as the ageing of the population. Almost every country in the world is experiencing growth in the size and proportion of older people in its population.

There are currently 727 million people aged 65 or over in the world and it is estimated that the number will double to over 1.5 billion by 2050. This will mean that 16% of the world's population will be 65 or older compared to 9% today. This change in population structures will have significant consequences in our societies, and will affect all regions, although in different ways.

**Table1. Number of people aged 65 and over by geographical region, 2020 and 2050**

Region	Number of persons aged 65 or over in 2020 (millions)	Number of persons aged 65 or over in 2050 (millions)	Percentage change between 2019 and 2050
<b>World</b>	727	1549	113%
Africa	47	143	204%
Asia	411	955	132%
Europe	143	200	40%
Latin America and the Caribbean	59	145	147%
Northern America	62	96	56%
Oceania	5	10	89%

*Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1*

The achievements associated with human development such as improved education, nutrition and health systems have contributed to increased life expectancy and reduced mortality rates, with a significant influence on the increase in population ageing. Although life expectancy is increasing globally, this fact has a particular component in regions where the population pyramid is being inverted and narrowing the youth population base.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.un.org/development/desa/es/news/population/2018-world-urbanization-prospects.html>

Thus, while the rapid growth of older persons will not significantly affect the composition of population groups in regions with progressive population pyramids such as Africa, where population growth will be overall with high birth rates and young populations, this growth of older persons will alter the composition of population pyramids in regions where overall population growth will not be as pronounced and where older persons have already been growing over the past three decades, such as Asia or Latin America and the Caribbean. These regions will see a general ageing of their populations, with the percentage of older persons in their populations doubling in the next 30 years, from 9 to 18 per cent in Asia and from 9 to 19 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The most symptomatic case is in regions where the percentage of the older population is already high, such as North America and Europe. Although the percentage of growth of older persons will be much lower than in other regions, the regressive state of their population pyramids and the low birth rate will influence the fact that their populations are mostly older. North America will have 23 % of its population aged 65 or over compared to 17 % today and Europe will have 28 % compared to 19 % today.

**Table 2. Percentage of people aged 65 and over by geographical region, 2020 and 2050**

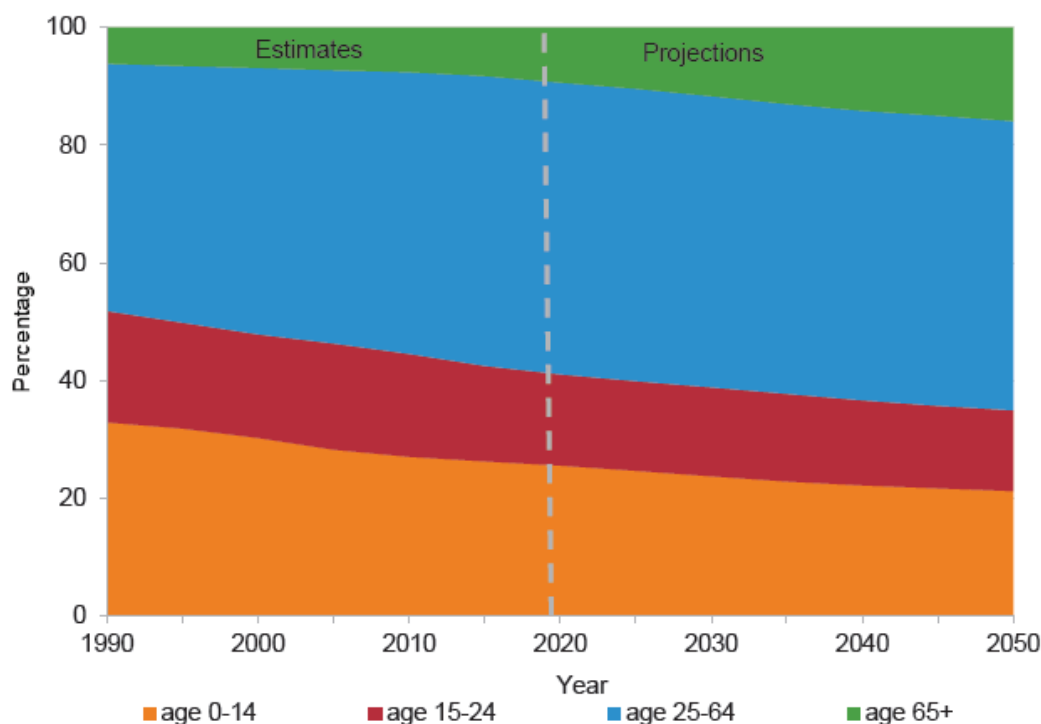
Region	Percentage of persons aged 65 or over in 2020	Percentage of persons aged 65 or over in 2050
<b>World</b>	9%	16%
Africa	4%	6%
Asia	9%	18%
Europe	19%	28%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9%	19%
NorthernAmerica	17%	23%
Oceania	13%	18%

*Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1*

The case of Europe is particularly significant, the only region that will see an increase in the population of 65 years or more while suffering a decrease in its total population. By 2070, life expectancy in Europe will be 88.2 years while the old-age dependency ratio is expected to nearly double<sup>2</sup> to 50%. This will put additional pressure on public welfare systems which will have to face, with a declining workforce, restructuring to cope with increased public spending on pensions, social services and health systems to ensure that no one is left behind.

<sup>2</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/future-cities>

Figure 1. Overall population by age group, 1990-2050 (percentage)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Population Ageing 2019: Highlights*

This trend will be particularly relevant in the Spanish context, which by 2050 will have 37% of its population aged 65 or over compared to 20% today, which will be 9 points above the European average. In addition, the old-age dependency rate will be 72% compared to 50% in Europe. This will make Spain the third oldest country with the highest dependency ratio in the world after the Republic of Korea and Japan (Spain currently ranks 23rd in the oldest countries).

Both phenomena, increasing urbanization and population ageing, are recognized as two of the four global demographic megatrends (along with population growth and international migration) with continuous and lasting impacts on sustainable development. This implies a double transition that irremediably affects the configuration of cities and forces a rethinking of how cities should be understood, designed and managed to integrate and effectively include all social groups, including older persons.

### Including older persons - why is it important for sustainable urban development?

Age friendly cities and communities foster healthy and active ageing. They enable older people to: age safely in a place that is right for them; be free from poverty; continue to develop personally; and to contribute to their communities while retaining autonomy and dignity. Vibrant cities should be sustainable and inclusive to ensure no one is left behind. Cities, policies, services, settings and structures should support older people who in particular require supportive and enabling living environments, to compensate for physical and social changes associated with ageing.

Given better environments, better health care and more opportunities older persons are often active change agents not only of their own lives but also in their communities.

Also, healthy ageing populations are no longer a financial cost only, but bring important financial benefits by working late in life, grandparents' volunteering that permits families to be able to work, and having their own economic assets.

The WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities was established to foster the exchange of experience and mutual learning between cities and communities worldwide.

The Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030 was endorsed in August 2020 by the 73rd World Health Assembly. This plan puts older people at the center and brings together governments, civil society, international agencies etc. to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

## AGEING ON GLOBAL AGENDAS

Without a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, there is no international legally binding instrument to both enumerate the rights of older persons nor to hold any state or city accountable.

However, the adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development sets out a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity to achieve sustainable development in a balanced way for all and to make human rights a reality. With its 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Agenda 2030 takes an integrated and cross-cutting approach in which one of its key principles is to leave no one behind, especially the most vulnerable social groups, including older persons. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the particular needs and vulnerabilities of older persons. Thus, the global challenge of population ageing and older persons becomes a vector that permeates and transcends all the SDGs, being one of the key elements to achieve a truly inclusive 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, the Agenda 2030 recognizes the importance of the spatial dimension of development - and in particular cities - in articulating and facilitating the integration of older persons and their specific needs. There is ample empirical evidence to show that the morphology of cities has direct consequences for the population and especially for older persons in terms of health, access to services, equity, social integration, security, provision of opportunities and resilience. How cities are planned and configured will determine the opportunities for inclusiveness.

SDG 11 *"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"* is strongly inclusive in all its targets and emphasizes the importance of paying special attention to the specific needs of vulnerable people such as older persons in targets 11.2 *"provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport"* and 11.7 *"provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces"*.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women adopted General recommendation 27, which acknowledges and addresses specific issues of the human rights of older women. The Committee recognized the need for statistical data, disaggregated by age and sex, in order to better assess the situation of older women.

Likewise, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) approved at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito in 2016, reaffirms the importance of good urbanization for addressing the global challenges of the 21st century. It reinforces the idea that, if properly planned, designed, financed, administered and managed cities and human settlements can be a transformative force for improving quality of life and prosperity, while addressing environmental protection and the fight against climate change. Thus, the NUA provides a roadmap for their implementation in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, sub-national and local levels.

Under the vision of "cities for all", aware of the importance of urbanisation in improving living conditions and the challenges posed by an ageing population and increasing urbanisation, the New Urban Agenda in Article 62 commit to: *"addressing the social, economic and spatial implications of ageing populations, where applicable, and harnessing the ageing factor as an opportunity for new decent jobs and sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, while improving the quality of life of the urban population"*.

The NUA is committed to promoting governance processes that enable effective participation and inclusion of older persons in decision-making processes on urban and territorial development. Similarly, it is committed to promoting equitable and affordable access to basic physical and social infrastructure with special attention to ensuring that these services consider the rights and needs of older persons, requiring integrated age- and gender-sensitive housing policies and approaches.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as the agency specialized in sustainable urban development issues, includes in its actions these guidelines derived from global agendas. The new UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 includes older people, together with human rights, gender, children, youth and people with disabilities, in the dimension of social inclusion. This dimension, together with the cross-cutting thematic areas, will act as a vector through the four areas of change: reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban–rural continuum; enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions; strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; effective urban crisis prevention and response.

## HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

The Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP) is an initiative to bring together all stakeholders in the field of human rights – experts, practitioners, diplomats and civil society – to share information and debate topical issues and challenges related to the

functioning of the Geneva-based human rights system, to ensure the promotion of human rights. The Platform aims to improve the quality of the debate by organising conferences, discussions, and side-events at important meetings of United Nations agencies, held in Geneva.

Building on a previous Expert Group Meeting on human rights inclusive cities, a second Expert Group Meeting co-organized by the Geneva Human Rights Platform, UN-Habitat, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Geneva Cities Hub in partnership with the World Blind Union, World Enabled and the General Assembly of Partners – focused on persons with disabilities (PWD) and older persons at the city level. The outcome document of the Expert Group Meeting on older persons and Persons With Disabilities held on May 25th will inform some of the discussion of this virtual EGM on ageing and cities. With some of the key points for further discussion being issues such as: how to ensure 'spatial equity' such that built environments support well-being, participation, development and functions well for all, ensuring quality of life and equal access to services and public spaces across the urban - rural continuum, mainstreaming a human right approach with full respect of voice, choice and autonomy, and how to ensure that an intersectional lens is anchored in UN-Habitat programming, specifically the intersection of gender, disability and age.

## AGEING AND CITIES: CHALLENGES

Older persons are a heterogeneous group that experience cities in diverse and particular ways, presenting specific needs that encompass primarily the characteristics of the built space, but also other economic, social and even political and cultural aspects. Some of the notable elements of these needs in cities are:

- **Physical-environmental issues:**include the need for sufficient and nearby public spaces that are healthy, safe, accessible and adapted for people with reduced mobility; sufficient and adapted public transport systems; fully adapted private spaces (primarily housing, but also others) that enable or facilitate both the movement of people with reduced mobility and their daily activities and that improve their independence; among others.
- **Socio-economic issues:**which include in the first place the affordability of adequate housing, but also the protection of older people from expulsion from certain urban areas (due to gentrification processes, for example), or their inclusion in urban areas where they can meet their needs for supply, recreation and local health and social care.
- **Social issues:**which generally include their inclusion in the greater number of activities that take place in urban areas, often promoted from the public sphere, including recreational, cultural and training activities, etc., as well as their inclusion in the city's decision-making processes (planning, management).
- **Assistance issues:**which essentially include the existence of well-prepared, adapted, effective and modern health systems (including their physical location in the urban



environment, as well as the use of new information technologies for remote care), which are capable of responding to the comprehensive needs of older people in cities.

- **Intersectionality:** Older persons may experience disadvantages in unique ways based on the intersection of age with other aspects including but not limited to their identity, gender, disability, sexual orientation and race.

Despite the fact that older persons are widely and transversally recognized as a vulnerable group in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat, as stated in its Strategic Plan 2020-2023, the agency has not developed specific research work on how the increasing ageing of the population is and will be affecting urban societies and cities and human settlements in the near future.

In this regard, and with the support of the Government of the Basque Country, UN-Habitat will organize a virtual Meeting of Global Experts (EGM) to discuss and present good practices, projects and urban policies focused on improving the conditions of older people in cities.

## THEMATIC AREAS OF THE EGM

Of the various areas identified on the particular needs related to older people, the virtual EGM will focus on four areas of particular interest for the development of UN-Habitat's normative work. These four areas are:

### Public space

The use of public space by older people serves a dual function: it promotes an active life for people while fostering their social inclusion and social interaction in the face of isolation. However, older people often find it difficult or impossible to move around on their own means and are a vulnerable and unprotected social group, often victims of episodes of insecurity.

Are public spaces adapted to the needs of older people? how is space distributed, is it accessible, is it nearby, is it healthy? What kind of obstacles does it present? What kind of furniture, rest and recreation areas are there?

Appropriate urban design allows public space to be used by older people, favouring the presence of various social groups, including different age groups. Well-designed public spaces should facilitate the inclusion of green areas, clean of pollution that promote physical activity.

Older people are most affected by adverse weather situations such as heat waves or pollution peaks. Urban design can help to alleviate these adversities by reducing car parking space, re-naturalising the city, reducing pollution, etc..

### Housing

Housing is the space in which people tend to spend the most time and where we carry out a large part of our basic functions (eating, washing, resting, etc), and the quality of life depends to a large extent on its quality. Older people tend to spend much more time

in their homes and hence the importance of there being effectively adapted to their needs.

These needs may have to do with internal spaces adapted in relation to people's limited mobility, and with accessibility from public space, where in many cases the barriers may be so significant that they force people with reduced mobility to be confined for life: for example, multi-storey buildings without lifts or access ramps.

Similarly, the need for energy-efficient housing that improves and promotes healthy, well-ventilated and adequately air-conditioned indoor environments.

On the other hand, the emergence of collaborative housing modalities under community support perspectives is more and more frequent, promoting active ageing where the elderly are the promoters of its development. A model that gives older people more autonomy than the nursing home model.

Other significant elements related to the housing of the older people, from a planning and urban design perspective are:

- Avoiding "urban ghettos" inhabited only by older people, which generate the breeding ground for social exclusion, and promoting the access of older people in new housing projects in the city, to encourage integration and support in care among population of different ages. This requires affordable housing policies specifically for older people.
- Promote active and independent healthy lifestyles through compact, mixed-use and intergenerational urban planning for use by all ages. Reducing the presence of the car for travel. Providing health, educational, commercial and other necessary equipment to strengthen social networks through comfortable distances that can be walked in a few minutes to guarantee degrees of autonomy and independence.
- Ensure that older people remain and age in their communities where they have their social support networks and take root in the face of evictions due to housing pressures. Measures such as: public social housing stock, affordable housing, ensuring income security for life development and combating urban poverty.

## **Mobility**

Mobility is a key element in cities to ensure social inclusion, particularly in relation to vulnerable groups, who often live far from urban centres and lack access to private transport. In the case of older people, public transport is even more relevant, as in many cases these people depend on public transport as the only way to access vital services (care centres), but also social services, banks and supply shops, as well as for their social life.

In this respect, it is essential that mobility systems are properly adapted for older people, in terms of accessibility, but also in terms of affordability. Likewise, to have comfortable transport units and spaces reserved for the older people, with stops and interchange stations of transport modalities properly adapted for people with reduced mobility, among others, as well as specialized transport services.

## **Health and care**



Back in 1986 with the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, the World Health Organisation had already recognised that understanding how the urban environment affects health outcomes at both collective and individual level is an urgent priority. More recently, the New Urban Agenda has seconded this, supported by a growing body of scientific evidence and an increasing number of political commitments expressed by local levels of government.

Urban environment affects health outcomes, resulting in both an 'urban health advantage' and an 'urban health penalty'<sup>3</sup>. Urban areas are often unhealthy places to live, characterized by heavy traffic, pollution, noise, violence and social isolation for elderly people. At the same time, there is a clear economy of scale in the provision of health services: the effectiveness of care, treatment and disease preventive measures may be higher in urban areas. Thus, Urban Planning can become a health generator on many grounds.

Studies show that approximately 75% of our health depends on the environment in which we develop our lives. This means that collective health is largely determined by policies outside the health sector. However, there is a lack of policies promoting health explicitly through Urban Planning, or from other policy domains outside the health sector.

Some Global initiatives have already started emerging to tackle this issue, like URBACT's Healthy Cities Network, WHO's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and the longest-running European Healthy Cities Project: an international initiative led by WHO that focuses on health and sustainable development at the local level, being one of its main objectives to promote measures that contribute to active and healthy aging.

Social isolation and loneliness are also major issues to be tackled and have an enormous impact on health and quality of life. Projects that promote cooperation between generations for urban social renewal are key. There is a need to promote shared spaces with intergenerational relationships, spaces that maintain and improve as far as possible activities and services for the elderly as well as appropriate participatory mechanisms.

Besides a rise in specific incidences of chronic and acute conditions, an ageing population requires specific adaptations of services and infrastructure, while transformations in the community itself become necessary to ensure continuous and coordinated care outside of hospitals, too. 'Ageing in place' may be one cost-effective way to grow old<sup>4</sup> because it enables older adults to remain in a known environment whilst maintaining an adequate level of connection with social support services, but this also requires strategic planning within the urban environment.

Focusing on care is important in two directions in this context, the need to receive it and the value of acknowledging it. The Bultzatu 2050 Urban Agenda for the Basque Country itself, in line with its strategic priority of healthy cities and well-being, speaks of promoting the implementation of city plans compatible with care, friendly to people in situations of personal vulnerability, consolidating high quality of life as a hallmark of

<sup>3</sup>Vlahov et al., 2005; Rydin et al., 2012.

<sup>4</sup>Andrews et al., 2018; Jayantha et al., 2018



Basque cities. And the Basque Strategy on Active Aging urges to value relational economy, highlighting the growing importance of the contribution of the elderly in the transfer of care and other supports, including those of an economic nature, which can contribute to alleviate the effects of the current crisis.

## **OBJECTIVE, OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES**

The main objective of the virtual EGM will be to showcase and exchange experiences and projects implemented in recent years in various parts of the world, which demonstrate what cities are currently doing to facilitate and improve the lives of older people.

Following the meeting, UN-Habitat will draft a small report or communique on EGM, Key findings and case studies. This will be circulated with all participants for comments and identified possible areas of collaboration and intervention in the future for the thematic area leaders to follow up on for possible project collaboration.

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**UN HABITAT**  
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ETXEBIZITZA  
ETA GARRAIO SAILA



**GOBIERNO VASCO**

DEPARTAMENTO DE PLANIFICACIÓN  
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Y TRANSPORTES

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# Euskal Hiria kongresua

**Vitoria - Gasteiz** Expert Group Meeting  
**23-24 November**

# 2020

**Cities for all: Ageing and Inclusion**

**PROGRAMME**





## PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 23 November 2020

### 10:00 – 11:00 INSTITUTIONAL OPENING SESSION

MC: Carmen Sanchez-Miranda, Head of UN-Habitat Office for Spain

#### OPENING REMARKS

- **Arantza Leturiondo Aranzamendi**, Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country Government  
  
Welcome video by **Iñaki Arriola**, Counsellor of Territorial Planning, Housing and Transport
- **Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief of the Urban Practices Branch at UN-Habitat

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Iñaki Gabilondo**, journalist.
- **Kathrin Komp**, Associate professor in social gerontology, University of Helsinki / Research Network on Ageing in Europe

*Closing of institutional opening*

15:30

MC: **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat

#### WELCOME

- **Arantza Leturiondo Aranzamendi**, Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country Government

#### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

- **Katherine Kline**, Co-chair of GAP Older Persons

15:45 SESSION 1: SAFE PUBLIC SPACE



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Joy Mutai, UN-Habitat Public Space Programme

*Introduction and moderation of the session*

- **Caroline Laborde**, Ageing expert in the Regional Health Observatory in the Paris Region Institute
- **Inés Sánchez de Madariaga**, Professor at the Technical University of Madrid, Spain, Advisory Group on Gender Issues AGGI
- **Setha Low**, City University of New York-Director of the Public Space Research Group
- **Luisa Bravo**, City Space Architecture-Founder and President
- **Eva Salaberría**, Coordinator of the Donostia Lagunakoia City Plan, Donostia / San Sebastián City Council

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*Q&A, Reflection discussion*

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## 16:55 SESSION 2: HOUSING

Robert Lewis-Lettington, Chief of the Land, Housing and Shelter Section, UN-Habitat

*Introduction and moderation of the session*

- **Alice Pittini**, Research Coordinator, Housing Europe
- **Danielle Grossenbacher**, International Organizations Committee of The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), GAP Business & Industry-President / co-chair
- **Alfonso Fajardo Barreras**, Director of Solidarios and CONVIVE Programme
- **Marijo Moreno**, Architect and CEO, ERROTU TALDEA

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*Q&A, Reflection discussion*

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17:55

- **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat

*Day 1 closing remarks*

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DAY 2: 24 November 2020



15:30

MC: **Douglas Ragan**, Director of The Youth Unit, UN-Habitat

*Welcome and brief recap of day 1*

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

- **Varda Yoran**, Artist/Sculptor

15:45 SESSION 3: MOBILITY

**Stefanie Holzwarth**, Sustainable Urban Mobility Expert, UN-Habitat

*Introduction and moderation of the session*

- **Steven Barbosa**, Senior Manager- Business, HR & International Social Affairs  
International Association of Public Transport
- **Maite Pozo**, Coordinator of the Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network from the  
Institute for the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO)
- **Raquel Salcedo**, Head of the Safe Mobility section, Mobility and Sustainability Area,  
Bilbao City Council
- **Nhu Tram**, Senior Project Officer at AGE Platform Europe

*Q&A, Reflection discussion*

16:45 SESSION 4: HEALTH AND CARE

**Pamela Carbajal**, Urban health and regional planner, UN-Habitat

*Introduction and moderation of the session*

- **Alex Kalache**, President of the International Longevity Centre
- **Vinod Shah**, Chairman of Janaseva Foundation
- **Maite Morteruel**, Research Group on Social Determinants of Health and Demographic  
Change, Basque Country University
- **Silvia Gascón**, Head of the Active Aging and Longevity Center, ISALUD University (TBC)

*Q&A, Reflection discussion*

17:45



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FINAL DISCUSSION REGARDING KEY MESSAGES, REFLECTIONS

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- **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat  
*Conclusions and way forward.*
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**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**EUSKO JAURLARITZA**



**GOBIERNO VASCO**

INGURUMEN, LURRALDE PLANGINTZA  
ETA ETXEBIZITZA SAILA

DEPARTAMENTO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE,  
PLANIFICACIÓN TERRITORIAL Y VIVIENDA

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# Euskal Hiriak kongresua

**Vitoria - Gasteiz** Expert Group Meeting  
**23-24 November**

2020

**Cities for all: Ageing and Inclusiveness**

**BIOGRAPHIES**





## BIOGRAPHIES

- **Carmen Sanchez-Miranda**, Head of UN-Habitat Country Office Spain.



Carmen Sánchez-Miranda has more than 18 years of experience in the fields of Development and International Cooperation, 10 of which have been dedicated to managing programs and projects in different Latin American countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador and Ecuador. She is an economist from the University of Salamanca in Spain, has a degree in Gender Studies from the Rafael Landívar University of Guatemala and a master's degree in Political Science from FLACSO in Ecuador. Before joining UN-Habitat in 2012, Carmen worked at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), at the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and at various foundations such as the Club of Madrid. She specializes in international development management, democratic governance and sustainable urban development. She has published numerous articles and reports on development analysis and teaches at various Spanish universities.

- **Arantza Leturiondo Aranzamendi**, Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country Government



Arantza Leturiondo studied Law at the University of Deusto. She has worked in the public administration for several local governments in the Basque Country such as Barakaldo, Basauri and Galdakao. At the regional level, she has been the Secretary-General of the Court of Auditors of the Basque Country and the Deputy Counsellor for the environment of the Basque Country. She is currently the Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country.

- **Iñaki Arriola**, Counsellor of Territorial Planning, Housing and Transport



Law degree from the University of the Basque Country. Iñaki has extensive experience in politics for over 35 years. He has been first councilor of the PSE-EE in Eibar and then Mayor of Eibar for 16 years. In his most recent stage he has held the positions of the Director of the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Housing of the Basque Government (2009-2012), Secretary General of Gipuzkoa, member of the Executive Committee of Euskadi and President of the Local Association of Eibar (2013-2016) and Minister of Environment, Territorial Planning and Housing today

- **Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief of the Urban Practices Branch at UN-Habitat





Dr. Shipra Narang Suri is an urban planner with a Ph.D in Post-War Recovery Studies from the University of York, UK. She coordinates UN-Habitat's Urban Planning and Design Branch. Shipra has extensive experience in advising national and local governments, as well as private sector organisations and networks, on issues of urban planning and management, good urban governance and indicators, livability and sustainability of cities, urban safety, women and cities, as well as post-conflict/ post-disaster recovery. She is the former co-Chair of the World Urban Campaign, a platform that brings together a large array of global organisations to advocate for sustainable urbanisation, and the former Vice-President of the General Assembly of Partners, a platform established to bring stakeholder voices to Habitat III and in the drafting of the New Urban Agenda. She is also a former Vice-President of ISOCARP, the International Society of City and Regional Planners.

- **Iñaki Gabilondo**, journalist.



José Ignacio Gabilondo Pujol, better known as Iñaki Gabilondo is a Spanish journalist, and TV news anchor. Gabilondo started his career at 21 (1963) in Radio Popular (COPE) until 1969, when he became the director of Radio San Sebastián (Cadena SER). Two years later, he directed the news department of Cadena SER Sevilla.

In 1978 he directed and hosted Hora 25 (Cadena SER), until he became the TV news director of Televisión Española. After he left Televisión Española, he directed Radio Televisión 16 for a short time, before coming back to Cadena SER, where he hosted Aquí la SER, Matinal SER, Pido la palabra and Onda Media. On 1986, he started hosting Hoy por hoy.

After almost 20 years of success, he left Cadena SER to host the news show Noticias Cuatro 2 at Cuatro, the TV channel from Sogecable. He stayed there for four years, and in February 2010 moved to CNN+ (Sogecable and Turner's Spanish news channel) to present a news and debate program called Hoy

- **Kathrin Komp**, Associate professor in social gerontology, University of Helsinki / Research Network on Ageing in Europe



Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen is associate professor at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She specializes in research on population ageing, life-courses, work and retirement, welfare policies, and research methods. Recent publications include the articles "Breadwinner models revisited: How a couple's combined work histories influence the retirement transition" (Social Politics) and "What life-course research can contribute to futures studies" (Futures). Komp-Leukkunen formerly was on the executive committee of the European Sociological Association, and chair of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe. She is vice-chair of the Research Network on Quantitative Methods. She currently studies self-employment in old age and how older individuals fare in digitalizing workplaces.

- **Angela Mwai**, Leader of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat



Angela leads the Gender Equality Unit of UN-Habitat since November 2012. She is responsible to ensure gender perspectives are encompassed in all of UN-Habitat's work through the organisations thematic branches and regional offices and their projects and programmes. Ms. Mwai is also responsible for the development of tools and guidelines for encouraging gender equality and women's' empowerment issues within the organisation. In addition to raising awareness on the importance of gender equality through advocacy at, she is also responsible for capacity building on gender equality issues both internally to colleagues and externally to partners and to develop gender responsive programmes/projects for implementation with branches. Previous to joining the UN, she was a banker for 21 years in various capacities.

- **Katherine Kline**, Co-chair of GAP Older Persons



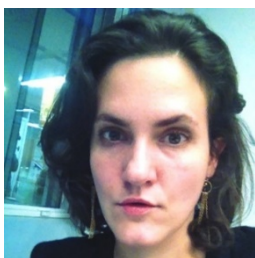
Katherine Kline, PhD, is a former diplomat, arts administrator, adult ESL teacher and documentary producer and distributor. She has worked for over 40 years with and for international organizations and has been a board member on numerous non-profits. Currently, Dr. Kline is co-chair of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) Older Persons Partner Constituent Group and is GAP's Recording Secretary. As one of the UN representatives for INPEA (International Network for the Protection of Elder Abuse), Dr. Kline advocates on behalf of older persons in all aspects of their lives. She holds a PhD in Organizational Change from the Union Institute and a BA in International Studies from American University's School of International Service.

- **Joy Mutai**, UN-Habitat Public Space Programme



Joy Mutai is a Landscape Architect trained at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. She started her career in the private sector working on landscape architectural designs and construction. She undertook a training on Geographic Information Systems at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Kenya. In 2016, Joy Mutai joined the Global Public Space Programme of UN-Habitat where she supports cities with conducting city-wide public space inventory assessments, developing city-wide public space strategies and on monitoring progress towards S.D.G 11.7. Recently, she has started work on nature-based solutions and environmental resilience to climate change.

- **Caroline Laborde**, Ageing expert in the Regional Health Observatory in the Paris Region Institute



Caroline Laborde is a socio-demographer. She currently works at Observatoire Régional de la Santé Ile-de-France and she is affiliated to Inserm. She does research on ageing and health. Her works aim to value disability at old ages for French people and to highlight inequalities (gender, social and geographical). She is currently interesting on the role of home environment and built environment in the disablement process and health.

- **Inés Sanchez de Madariaga**, Professor at the Technical University of Madrid, Spain, Advisory Group on Gender Issues AGGI



Inés Sánchez de Madariaga is a recognized international expert on gender in urban planning, architecture, research and innovation. She is currently Delegate of the Rector for Gender Affairs, President of the Commission in charge of preparing the UPM Equality Plan, and President of the COST genderSTE network on Gender, Science, Technology and Environment, which brings together more than 200 people over 40 countries on five continents. She is also co-director of the Gendered Innovations project, of the European Commission and Stanford University. She has been President of the Committee of Experts of the European Commission in charge of preparing the Structural Change Report of Scientific Institutions, which is the European roadmap for gender equality in research and innovation.

She has a PhD in Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Madrid and a Master of Science from Columbia University in New York, where she studied with a Fulbright scholarship. She is Associate Professor of Urbanism and Spatial Planning at the Polytechnic University of Madrid. She has been Visiting Professor at Columbia University in New York, at the London School of Economics, and Jean Monnet Visiting Professor at the Bauhaus-Weimar School of Architecture. She has directed a score of research projects and is currently a member of the advisory committees of several European projects, among others: GENOVATE, GENPORT, LIBRA, SAGERIP, RRITOOLS.

- **Setha Low**, City University of New York-Director of the Public Space Research Group



Professor Setha Low is Distinguished Professor of Environmental Psychology, Geography, Anthropology, and Women's Studies, and Director of the Public Space Research Group at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley and currently trains Ph.D. students in the anthropology of space and place, urban anthropology, the politics of public space, the social production of the built environment affect and emotion, and anthropology of the body. She has been awarded a Getty Fellowship, a NEH fellowship, a Fulbright Senior Fellowship, a Future of Places Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship for her ethnographic research on public space in Latin America and the United States. Setha is widely published and internationally recognized and translated for her award winning books on public space and cultural diversity. Her most recent publications are *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place* (2017), *Anthropology and the City* (2019), and *Spaces of Security* (with M. Maguire) (2019). This spring (2019) she undertook staff training on public space and social justice at UN Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya and lectured on the public space and civic life at the Strelka Institute in Moscow, Russia. Her commitment is to both research and engagement to create a more just and inclusive city.

- **Luisa Bravo**, City Space Architecture-Founder and President



Luisa Bravo is a global academic scholar and educator, passionate public space activist, and social entrepreneur. She has more than 15-years experience in the professional field as urban planner and designer with a specific focus on public space. Her expertise is grounded in extensive academic postdoctoral research and teaching in Italy and Europe, the United States, Middle East, Asia and Australia.

She is currently Adjunct Professor in Urban Design at the University of Florence in Italy and Guest Researcher at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places in Sweden.

With her non-profit organization City Space Architecture, that she founded in 2013 and currently leading as President, she has organized and curated conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions internationally aimed at



promoting public space culture, through an interdisciplinary approach, involving art and architecture. Under her leadership, City Space Architecture became partner of the UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme and has been included in the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs' Civil Society database and in the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), Research and Academia Partner Constituent Group.

Luisa is the Founder, Editor in Chief and Journal Manager of 'The Journal of Public Space', the first, international, interdisciplinary, academic, open access journal entirely dedicated to public space, that she established through City Space Architecture in 2015, in partnership with UN-Habitat. She is also the Founder and Curator of the Public Space Museum, the first Italian research centre entirely dedicated to collaborative and transdisciplinary approach to public space practice, merging art, architecture and technology into a complex new discipline.

- **Eva Salaberría**, Coordinator of the Donostia Lagunakoa City Plan, Donostia / San Sebastián City Council



Eva Salaberría studied General History of Spain and the Basque Country, at the University of Deusto. Since 1989 she has developed her professional work in the Donostia / San Sebastián City Council, first as a cultural manager in the Department of Youth, and later in the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Participation, an area that she directed between 1996 and 2009. On that date, and until July 2013, she assumed the Coordination-Management of the project San Sebastián European Capital of Culture 2016. Currently, Donostia Lagunakoa coordinates a city plan that focuses on the challenges and opportunities of an ageing Donostia. She has participated, representing the City Council of San Sebastián, in different organizations and national and international networks, and collaborated as a speaker in training actions organized by entities of different kinds on issues related to the promotion of citizen participation in the construction of the collective and the improvement of democratic quality at the local level.

- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, Chief of the Land, Housing and Shelter Section, UN-Habitat



Leader of UN-Habitat's Urban Legislation Unit, which as part of the Legislation, Land and Governance Branch, includes the responsibility for the multi-unit project, "Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment", which is focused on the development of a global pilot in partnership with the City of Medellín, Colombia. Robert is a lawyer with fifteen years' experience in supporting policy formulation and legislative drafting at the national and international levels. Robert holds graduate degrees in Law, Architectural History and History. He has worked for, or provided consultancy services to, a number of United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies as well as national governments and NGO's in five continents. Robert has also taught legislative drafting and intellectual property rights law in Kenya. Robert's principal areas of work have been: legislative processes and methodologies; urban law; land, natural resources and environmental law; trade and commercial law; and, legal history.

- **Alice Pittini**, Research Coordinator, Housing Europe



Alice Pittini is Research Director at Housing Europe, the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing. With over 10 years of professional experience in social and affordable housing, Alice is leading Housing Europe Observatory and she's in charge of providing strategic advice to Housing Europe policy work and devising studies including the bi-annual report 'the State of Housing in the European Union'. She previously worked at OECD as Economist/Policy Analyst setting up a new database on affordable housing. Alice has produced reports looking at challenges and opportunities for the housing sector linked with Europe's ageing population and identifying best practices in this area.

- **Danielle Grossenbacher**, International Organizations Committee of The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), GAP Business & Industry-President / co-chair



Danielle Grossenbacher graduated from the Geneva Institute of International Studies with a post-graduate degree in International Relations. She started her career in Algeria as a Canadian diplomat before going into real estate management in Canada. She subsequently moved to New York City with her family and has been selling residential and commercial properties there since 2001.

Danielle Grossenbacher has been an active member of the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) since 2004, occupying top leadership positions in New York City, the USA and at the international level. She was World President in 2015-2016 and launched FIABCI's World Urban Campaign (WUC) The City We Need is Affordable in January 2016 in Dubai. As Chair of WUC, she oversees the publication of an annual publication highlighting creative and successful solutions to affordable housing. Currently, President of FIABCI's International Organizations Committee, Danielle has also been the main representative of FIABCI at the United Nations headquarters in New York City since 2015. She has been co-chair of the Business & Industry Group of GAP

- **Roseline Kihumba**, International and Regional Policies Coordinator



Roseline Kihumba is the International and Regional Policies Coordinator at HelpAge International – Africa Regional Office. She leads and coordinates seven HelpAge country offices and over 100 network organizations in delivering campaigns, advocacy and policy influencing actions around SDGs, African Union Protocol on the Rights of Older people, United Nations Convention on the rights of older people and Agenda 2063 in more than 35 countries in Africa and contribute to similar HelpAge global commitments internationally. She is also de Co-Chair of Stakeholder Group on Ageing in Africa, the Africa Focal Person for Stakeholder Group on Ageing in New York and the Global Older Person Representative, Facilitation Group – Action for Sustainable Development

- **Alfonso Fajardo Barreras**, Director of Solidarios and CONVIVE Programme



Alfonso Fajardo Barreras, holds a bachelor's degree in Law and a Master's degree in Evaluation of programs and public policies from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM). Alfonso Fajardo is the director of the NGO Solidarios, which created the CONVIVE program. This program connects students who come to live from other cities with older people who live alone. In this way, it promotes the well-being and improvement of the health of the elderly, reducing their loneliness, at the same time that it provides an economical housing solution for university students who come to Madrid alone, through intergenerational coexistence. He began his career in Solidarios as a volunteer in 1992 in the People with Disabilities and Prison Environment programs. From 1996 to 2005 he was director of the entity's Projects Department. From 2005 to 2014 he was an external consultant in the evaluation of development cooperation and social action programs for various public and private entities.

- **Marijo Moreno**, Architect and CEO, ERROTU TALDEA



Architect with Postgraduate Degree in Sustainability and Master's Degree in Universal Accessibility and Design for All. Founding partner of Errotu Taldea, an Architecture studio that develops people-centered environments, where she directs the Consulting and Training section. She teaches the University Master's Degree in Gerontology and Person-Centered Care at the International University of Valencia and the Master's Degree in Care for People with Alzheimer's at the University of Salamanca. She has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Aubixa Fundazioa where she is responsible for the Environment area.

Moreno has extensive experience in various sectors of his profession, having specialized in accessibility and aging: She has coordinated assistance in accessibility to the Basque Government Housing Department, national and European R & D & I projects on Environmental Adequacy, accessibility plans, has participated as a speaker at national and international conferences and has been responsible for numerous projects throughout his 20 years of experience in the world of architecture.

- **Douglas Ragan**, Director of The Youth Unit, UN-Habitat



Douglas Ragan has worked in youth development with NGOs, local and national governments and the United Nations for the past 25 years. Currently he is the Unit Leader for Youth and Livelihoods for UN-Habitat, managing UN-Habitat's Global portfolio on youth development in over 75 developing countries. The programmes focus on urban youth development, including youth employment, governance and participation. He manages three flagship youth programmes for UN-Habitat: the Urban Youth Fund, Youth 21 initiative and the One Stop Youth Resource Centres.

Ragan has authored and co-authored several research and policy publications on urban youth issues faced by marginalized young people in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Doug holds a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies, a Master's Degree in Management for the Voluntary Sector and is currently working undertaking a PhD in urban planning, with a focus on youth-led organizations in slums.

In his previous role as director for the Environmental Youth Alliance from 1991 – 2007, Doug worked with marginalized communities globally such as aboriginal, immigrant and refugee and street youth to develop livelihood programmes. Douglas has also coordinated multi-year programs such as the Growing up in Cities (Canada) program (2003-2005), Youth Action Effecting

Change (2002-2004), the Youth Community Asset Mapping Program (2002-2004) and Get Out! Olympic Youth Legacy program (2005).

- **VardaYoran**, Artist/Sculptor



Varda Yoran is a sculptor, located in Brooklyn. She was born in China to Jewish parents from Russia, lived through the Japanese occupation of China, World War II, the takeover of the communist regime in China, and the independence of the State of Israel. She went to Israel, where she lived for 30 years. Then spent 2 years in London, before relocating to the United States. Her work reflects the many cultures she had been exposed to throughout her life. Her sculptures range in size from very small to 15' high, in a variety of materials - stone, clay, bronze, wax, lucite, aluminum. She has participated in many group shows and solo exhibits, in the United States, Israel, Canada, Italy, Finland. She has 5 large outdoor sculptures in Israel, on the campus of Tel-Aviv University, Rabin Medical Center, the Israeli Airforce Center, and the Ghetto Fighters Museum.

- **José Dionisio González**, Director Advocacy & Outreach International Union of Public Transport



José Dionisio González has been appointed Director of Strategy of the International Union of Public Transport (UITP), the world's leading organization in the development and promotion of sustainable mobility, through its 18,000 partners in 96 countries and 14 offices throughout the world. González, technical director of the Madrid Regional Transport Consortium (CRTM), is a Civil Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Madrid and holds a master's degree in Financing of Infrastructures and Services and in General Management (IESE). Previously, he was part of the Projects Division of the European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) and was Director of Quality at CRTM.

- **Maite Pozo**, Coordinator of the Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network from the Institute for the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO)



Maite Pozo studied psychology at the University of Deusto and is the Director of the Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network from the Institute for the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO) where she organizes training, information and awareness-raising activities and events on active aging and intergenerational solidarity. Prior to that, she participated in the elaboration of the Community Initiative Programs: HORIZON 1991-1994, EMPLOYMENT-HORIZON 1994-1999, EQUAL 2000-2006 and Operational Program 2007-2013 "Fight against Discrimination". She was also the Coordinator of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010, providing technical support in the launch and development of the Social Inclusion Network within the framework of the European Social Fund and aimed at advancing in the application of the Active Inclusion Strategy.



- **Nhu Tram**, Senior Project Officer at AGE Platform Europe



Research project officer at AGE Platform Europe, a European network of non-profit organizations of and for people aged 50+. Its aim is to voice and promote the interests of the 200 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union (Eurostat, 2018) and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most. I am currently managing the day-to-day activities of 4 different EU-funded projects linked with healthy ageing, age-friendly environments and long-term care for older people: In Advance (early provision of palliative care); Athlos (better understanding of ageing by identifying patterns of healthy ageing trajectories); Digital Health Europe (Support to enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market); and Homes4Life (development of a European certification scheme for age-friendly housing).

Prior to that, she was the Financial and Administration Officer - Covenant of Mayors in Sub Saharan Africa at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and the Project officer on Age-friendly environment.

- **Raquel Salcedo**, Mobility and Sustainability Area, Bilbao City Council



Raquel Salcedo is a Technical Engineer of Public Works with a Specialty in Civil Constructions. She has worked for the Bilbao city council since 2006 at the Mobility and Sustainability Area where she has handled all issues related to road safety. She has participated in the drafting of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan. Additionally, she is also responsible for the implementation of the School Paths in Bilbao, as well as the development of the cycling infrastructure.

- **Pamela Carbajal**, Urban health and regional planner, UN-Habitat



Pamela is an Architect from the University of Technology of Monterrey, she works on urban and territorial planning approaches using an integrated thematic approach for crosscutting issues including Health, Well-being, and social inclusion. Pamela coordinates the programme "implementing the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning for improved environment and wellbeing. Pamela also supports different countries in Latin America on its National Urban Policy development process. Currently, she is supporting three cities in Latin America on their City-wide public space assessment.

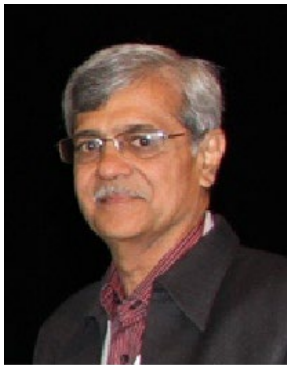
Pamela has previously worked at the Public Space Authority of Mexico City where she was part of the design team, and at the Municipal Planning Institution of Chihuahua, Mexico.

- **Alex Kalache**, President of the International Longevity Centre



Alexandre Kalache is a medical epidemiologist specialized in the study of ageing. Since 2012 he is President of the International Longevity Centre-Brazil (ILC BR) and since 2015 co-President of the Global Alliance of International Longevity Centres (ILC-GA). He formerly directed the World Health Organization global ageing program at its Geneva headquarters, following an academic career largely at the Universities of London and Oxford in the United Kingdom. Kalache has researched, written and spoken in the field of ageing issues as an academic, an international civil servant and an advocate. Alex Kalache is the Director of the WHO Department of Ageing and Health (1994-2008) He has left the legacy of the WHO Age Friendly Cities and Communities which he conceptualized and lead the research in 35 cities in which the WHO AF Cities Guide was based. Since then he has been closely involved in the implementation of several AF cities initiatives-from New York, Ireland, Australia, to Buenos Aires, Singapore, several in Brazil. And, most certainly, in the Basque Country through his work with Matia Foundation and local municipalities.

- **Vinod Shah**, Chairman of Janaseva Foundation



Dr. Vinod Gajanan Shah, M.D. (Medicine) & Gastroenterologist is from Pune, Maharashtra, India. He is the Chairman of Janaseva Foundation he founded in 1988 which received Special Consultative Status from UN. Recognized as Expert in Ageing (Healthy Ageing) he has participated and gave his inputs in workshops / seminars of UN, WHO, Govt. of India & Maharashtra, Help Age India etc.

WHO South East Asia Regional Office appointed him as a member of the SEAR Expert Panel to guide the process of Active & Healthy Ageing program. He is member of : (1) WHO Global Network on Long-Term Care (GNLTC) (2) Expert Advisory Panel for developing a Policy brief to guide Member States to mitigate the impact of COVID 19 outbreak in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs). Expert in Active & Healthy Ageing – Decade of Healthy Ageing – 2020-30. He participated in Age friendly Environments Workshop on ‘WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities’ on Friday 7 May 2010.

His research papers / articles are published in national & international journals. He has submitted his inputs to UN and others and his articles are published in many newspapers. He has delivered more than 100 lectures. He is Hon. Physician to the Governor of Maharashtra for 30 years, Former Member of Steering Committee, Planning Commission, Govt. of India, Vice President for Asia Pacific Region IFA, and Incharge of National Helpline for senior citizens for Maharashtra State. He has received awards from the President of India twice & Ambassador of Goodwill Award from Lions International.

- **Silvia Gascón**, Head of the Active Aging and Longevity Center, ISALUD University



Silvia Gascón is a Professor of Psychology and holds a master's degree in Direction and Management of Social Welfare and Social Services, from the University of Alcalá, Spain. She is currently the Director of the Master's Degree in Management of Gerontology Services at the Isalud University and Pro-Secretary of the Superior Council of said University. Additionally, she is a member of the Board of Directors of Help Age International and the leader of the Age-Friendly Cities project, of the WHO, in the city of La Plata. She is also a professor of postgraduate courses on Health Management and Community Gerontology, with national and foreign universities and international organizations.

Undersecretary of the Third Age of the Nation. During her tenure, she implemented the ASOMA Food Support Program for Older Adults, the first National Program for Home Caregivers. As National Secretary for Human Development and Family (1999-2002), she created the Family Plan, the first income transfer program for poor women Heads of Household, among other programs. She was Head of the mission of the Argentine Government in the "World Assembly on Aging" and alternate vice president of said Assembly. Madrid, 2002. She was Academic Vice-rector of the Isalud University. She has also been a consultant for various international and credit organizations such as CEPAL / CELADE, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, IDRC, OISS, World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization.

- **Maite Morteruel**, Research Group on Social Determinants of Health and Demographic Change, Basque Country University



Maite Morteruel is a nurse and doctor in public health. Researcher at the Research Group on Social Determinants of Health and Demographic Change-OPIK of the UPV / EHU. Her lines of research are related to the study of social determinants of health, health inequalities and health promotion, specifically, aspects related to health in all policies.