

# 1. Some **issues** in sustainable urbanization in the MS of WEOG Regional Group

- Cities are facing a triple crisis in the wake of the pandemic: tackling the health impacts of COVID-19; dealing with the climate and ecological emergency; and addressing social and economic inequality;
- Refugee crisis in Europe needs urgent solutions and will take a heavy toll on resources;
- Raising housing costs are a concern in North America, Europe and other WEOG countries;
- Air quality in the larger cities remains an issue in many countries of WEOG.

**What other key issues are of concern to WEOG?**

## 2. Some **opportunities** for sustainable urbanization relevant to the WEOG Regional Group

- Cities have the potential to become a major driving force for a green and just recovery in Europe — provided that they are actively involved in the decision-making process from the beginning. The unprecedented EUR 1.8 trillion stimulus package agreed by the EU will reshape EU cities in fundamental ways.
- Infrastructure investment will play an important role in stimulating urban economic activity after the crisis, if accompanied by better integration of policy sectors and actions to maximise co-benefits.
- Key opportunities for a green and just recovery lie in rethinking urban mobility and land use; retrofitting the urban building stock; enhancing the role of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions; and transforming urban food systems and the circular economy.

**What is expected of UN-Habitat by WEOG in tackling the issues?**