Celebration of World Cities Day at UNESCO
31 October 2018

As more than half of the world’s population now live in urban areas and is expected to reach 5 billion inhabitants in 2030, cities have now become the stage for a broad range of challenges inhibiting the attainment of peace and sustainable development. Rapid urbanization, conflicts and violence, human mobility, climate change and technological revolution have paved the way for increasing urban poverty, inequalities, exclusion, racism and discrimination among populations. In this context, the role of cities as drivers for change has constantly expanded as they become major actors in steering positive social transformations, both locally and internationally. As incubators for cultural, social, economic and political innovations, cities are well-positioned to instill a type of governance that fosters inclusion, diversity and creativity, and provide equal and fair opportunities to all. After all, urbanization is not only about aiming to become a smart and green city, but also about being an inclusive city.

On the occasion of World Cities Day under the theme “Building sustainable and resilient cities”, UNESCO will organize a series of events to highlight the key role of cities in promoting social inclusion and diversity.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**9:30-10:00 AM: URBAN BREAKFAST (IN FRONT OF ROOM IV)**

**10:00-10:15 AM: OPENING CEREMONY - ÂNGELA MELO, DIRECTOR, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES, SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES SECTOR (ROOM IV)**

*With a video message from Mayor Joe Anderson – Liverpool, United Kingdom*

**10:15 AM - 5:00 PM: URBAN DIALOGUES (3 PANELS, ROOM IV)**

Featuring mayors (including Mayors from the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR), urban specialists, youth city councilors and artists, the session aims to foster reflection and creative thinking on how local authorities, together with their own citizenries, can take leadership in weaving the sociocultural fabric in urban spaces. The objective is to fill the gap that exists in the international discourse on urbanization – where issues of demographics, technologies and architecture dominate, and where the human face of these social transformations is usually a secondary consideration. The discussion will also seek to reinforce UNESCO’s commitment to inclusion and diversity, and to promote a global movement of cities that actively advocate for city-to-city solidarity and cooperation through innovative solutions.

*With the support of:*
10:15 - 12:00 am - Panel 1 (Room IV):
**Inclusive and Sustainable Cities: Understanding the Human Face of Urbanization**
Mayor Chiraz Dhibi – Hessi El Ferid, Kasserine, Tunisia
Mayor Magid Magid – Sheffield, United Kingdom
Deputy Mayor Marik Fetouh – Bordeaux, France
Deputy Mayor Marc Chassaubéné – Saint Etienne, France
Deputy Mayor Christine Bruneau – Boulogne-Billancourt, France
H. E. Elaine Ayotte – Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO, former Montreal councilor
*(Video message from Mingbo Chen – Director-General of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Information)*
Moderator: Shams Asadi – Human Rights Officer and urban planner, Vienna, Austria

12:00 – 2:00 pm: Lunch for the panelists (7th floor) and brownbag lunch for the audience (outside Room IV)

2:00 - 3:30 pm - Panel 2 (Room IV):
**Innovation for sustainable urban development: what works, what doesn’t?**
Mayor Teresita de Jesús Luis Ojeda - San Dionisio, Mexico
Mayor Ted Terry – Clarkston, Georgia, USA
Deputy Mayor Hannu Penttilä – Vantaa, Finland
Alice Charles – Lead, Cities and Urban Development, World Economic Forum
Phillipe Poullaoeuc-Gonidec – UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design, Canada
Atif Rizvi, Executive Director, CELL Foundation
Moderator: Virginie Lepetit, Editor-in-Chief of Courrier International “Villes”

3:30 - 4:50 pm - Panel 3 (Room IV):
**The power of art as a vector for inclusion and non-discrimination in the urban space**
Deputy Mayor Lucienne Redercher – Nancy, France
Benedetto Zacchiroli – President of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR)
Francesca Merloni – Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO Creative Cities
Kouka – Muralist/street artist/social activist
Shuck One – Muralist/street artist/social activist
Moderator: Anne-Marie Melster, Co-Founder and Executive Director of ARTPORT

4:50 – 5:00 PM CLOSING CEREMONY - ERNESTO OTTONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR CULTURE (ROOM IV)

5:00 – 6:00 PM: THE URBAN ARTISTS ARE PRESENT (HALL SÉGUR)
An artistic segment will be organized with street artists who have become, in their own right, social activism influencers in the urban space. Displaying the wealth of urban creativity, it will be a testimony to the continuing rise of this artistic genre as a symbol of social realities in urban culture.
- A live drawing session in the Segur Hall will be conducted by the street artists Kouka and Shuck One and a graffiti wall will be made available for the public to make their own art (with the support of POSCA)
- A musical performance will be given by the xTend and Atipik hip-hop dance companies, followed by an open dance session with the public

6:00 – 7:00 PM: COCKTAIL, 7TH FLOOR

7:00 – 8:30 PM (ROOM XI): FILM SCREENING:
**“SKY’S THE LIMIT: PAINTERS OF THE EXTREME”**
Screening of the documentary by filmmaker Jérôme Thomas, to be followed by a short debate. The film narrates the history of muralism, a growing worldwide phenomenon, its impact on the urban landscape, and how creative expression can contribute to social integration.