

**Geneva Launch**  
**World Cities Report 2020**  
**“The Value of Sustainable Urbanization”**

**3 November 2020 | 3.30-5.00pm CET**

English only – via Zoom - Register here: <https://bit.ly/2Ts7eii>

**UN Habitat, UNECE and the Geneva Cities Hub invite you to join Geneva-based international organizations, civil society and local government representatives in a “glocal” conversation on the role of cities and local communities as they address the many challenges and opportunities highlighted in the World Cities Report 2020 to be released on UN World Cities Day 31 October 2020.**

**Objective**

The roundtable will reflect on the main findings of the World Cities Report 2020 from the perspective of areas of expertise resonating with International Geneva, including: health; migration; housing; social cohesion; public space and the environment. Speakers will share good practices and make recommendations for local and global policy and their related actions, from both an institutional and practitioner perspective.

**Concept**

The World Cities Report 2020 finds that millions of people will be pushed back into poverty for the first time since the 1990s. In the mist of the multiple crises the world is experiencing, cities and sustainable urbanization remain critical actors to advance the SDGs by leveraging the collective local action and multi-level governance needed to trigger the systemic, transformative change required for a sustainable, inclusive post-Covid recovery. Innovative approaches are needed to mainstream such approaches. As evidenced at the recent [UNECE Forum of Mayors](#), Covid19 has put a huge strain on cities, who are now more than ever on the frontline, as they struggle to protect their inhabitants’ health, deliver vital public services to all, and avoid socio-economic collapse within their communities. The pandemic has also increased the demand on local authorities to build long-lasting resilience and responsiveness to hardship and disasters, while stepping up sustainability efforts to curb carbon emissions, enhance sustainable urban planning and systematically build strong rural-urban linkages.

**Speakers:**

- **Opening Remarks (video message)**  
Sami Kanaan, Mayor of Geneva, President of the Geneva Cities Hub
- **Main highlights from the World Cities Report 2020**  
Dr. Graham Alabaster, Chief, UN Habitat, Geneva Office
- **Local Governments and the Value of Sustainable Urbanization**  
Edgardo Bilsky, Director of Research, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- **Tackling public health challenges in cities and local communities**  
Dr. Marc Jie Zheng, Technical Officer, Health Security Preparedness, WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- **Community-led solutions to the global housing crisis**  
Bea Varnai, Administrator and Project Officer, urbaMONDE
- **Migration and displacement in cities at times of Covid**  
Cecile Riallant, Head Migration and Sustainable Development, IOM
- **Making urbanization socially inclusive**  
Edmundo Werna, Associate Professor, School of Built Environment and Architecture, London South Bank University. Former urban focal point, ILO
- **Sustainable Cities: From Greening the City to Nature Based Solutions**  
Dr. Alexandre Hedjazi, Senior Lecturer, Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva
- **The Geneva Declaration of Mayors**  
Gulnara Roll, Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, UNECE

**Moderator:**

Daria Cibrario, Director, Geneva Cities Hub

