

83rd session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

San Marino, 3-6 October 2022

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Opening Speech

Excellencies,
Friends and colleagues

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome all of you to the 8rd session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management on my first visit to this beautiful country. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of San Marino for so generously hosting and closely cooperating with the Committee. A special thank you in particular to Minister Canti and Ambassador Beccari for making this session possible: it is thanks to their vision and commitment we are here today.

2022 marks the 75th year since UNECE was established, making it one of the longest-standing regional commissions.

UNECE continues to focus on helping our member States design and implement people-centred policies and initiatives that leave no-one behind. Housing, land management and urban development are of great importance as they constitute fundamental corner stones for achieving the SDGs without which it would be difficult to ensure that inclusive development. This year's session is the culmination of extensive collaboration with our member States and local, regional and central governments to consolidate these three corner stones.

One of the results of this collaboration is the "San Marino Declaration on principles for sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture in support of sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and circular homes, urban infrastructure and cities". The Declaration provides a practical tool for enabling the realization of the vision of the United Nations Secretary-General of "a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations". This Declaration was developed by the Bureau of the Committee with contributions from practitioners and the support of the Secretariat to increase the contribution of practitioners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This session will also deliberate on the objectives, format and frequency of the Forum of Mayors, which has provided throughout its first and second edition a flexible mechanism for ensuring a coherent approach to urbanism, one that involves the local, regional and global levels in a new multilateralism that leaves no one behind.

Friends and Colleagues,

We meet today at a critical time in the history of this important and dynamic region. During the past year, we have been witnessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the rising energy prices. Cities have been at the centre of emergency response

efforts. Their experiences are important to highlight as well as their views and long term needs for achieving sustained urbanism. We will be hearing from city leaders and practitioners on how best to address this complex crisis that is further complicated by climate change.

Even as this complex crisis have created difficult challenges, local, regional and central governments across UNECE have found creative solutions. This session is about highlighting these solutions as well as supporting joint efforts and collaboration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for accepting our invitation to participate in the discussions and for your willingness to dedicate your expertise to make the event a success.

I wish you a most successful and fruitful discussion in the next three days