

## Cities for Adequate Housing after COVID-19

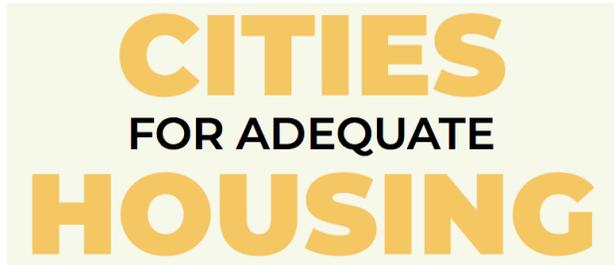
*UCLG's Community of Practice on Housing meeting proposal*

*May 22, 15:00-17:00 CEST*

### Background

On July 16, 2018 local governments from across the world rallied together through UCLG at the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations to denounce the housing crisis affecting cities worldwide. The [Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration](#) stated that "(...) *the lack of national and state funding, market deregulation, growing power of global corporations, and increasing competition for scarce real estate often become a burden on our neighborhoods, causing serious distortions in their social fabric, and putting the goal of ensuring equitable, inclusive, and just cities at risk.*"

Despite of the progress made on certain dimensions, the velocity and ferocity with which COVID-19 has hit our societies has revealed and amplified housing inequalities. On April 1st, mayors from around the world, representatives from civil society and international organizations gathered together in the Live Learning Experience: ensuring everyone can safely #StayAtHome, co-organised by UCLG and UN-Habitat, to stress how the COVID-19 crisis entails a point of no return -- highlighting how now, more than ever, ensuring populations' access to adequate housing is a necessary precondition for the fulfillment of many



other human rights. The session provided a platform for local and regional governments to exchange the challenges faced and responses they are giving to the crisis in its different stages, including ensuring temporary accommodations for the most vulnerable groups (homeless people, victims of domestic violence, migrants...) but raising also awareness on the situation of the residents who are no longer being able to pay their rents or mortgages due to job loss or poverty. Putting an end to evictions, everywhere and regardless of the reason, was stressed as a critical condition to address the epidemic, as well as a key political message shared by all participants.

A variety of subsidy schemes are being set up to help households endure the first economic effects of the crisis. However, even if these measures have prevented a housing crisis in the short-term, much more needs to be done to protect households from the upcoming crisis and guarantee the right to housing

for all. The challenges lying ahead are as complex as they are critical for the future of our societies. Stepping up to face such challenges requires establishing robust partnerships that allow us to collectively learn from each other.

Building up on the important steps taken in this direction, UCLG's Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights and the City of Barcelona convene the meeting of the UCLG's Community of Practice on Housing - the working group created alongside the *Cities for Adequate Housing* Declaration - in the aftermath of the pandemic. Coming together at this

critical moment, participants will be addressing questions determinant to the future of housing in our cities and territories. How to support the generation of creative and innovative policy responses to ensure the fulfillment of all populations' right to housing? How to leverage the dialogue between national and local governments and reinforce the collaboration with civil society organizations? How to bring together more local governments from around the world to work together, share knowledge and find solutions? And equally important: how to build on our collective knowledge to trigger action on the ground?

## Objectives

Start a second phase of the conversation on housing in order to define how to transition from physical distance to a world of solidarity #BeyondTheOutbreak.

Debate potential solutions to the current and future housing crises resulting from COVID-19 and the measures adopted by local and national governments so far.

Discuss potential partnerships with civil society and the private sector to guarantee the right to adequate housing for all.

Form a united front to demand national and international institutions to provide the necessary funding and regulatory frameworks to allow cities to respond to their citizens' housing needs.

## **Agenda**

Welcome by Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG

Presentation – 10min “Human rights-based toolkit for housing strategies” by Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing

Panel – 1h15min

Moderator: **Amanda Fléty**, Coordinator of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG

**Ian Brossat**, Deputy Mayor for Housing at Paris City Council (France)

**Tom Copley**, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development at the Greater London Authority (UK)

**Lucía Martín**, Housing Counselor at Barcelona City Council (Spain)

**Robert Beaudry**, Counselor head of Housing, Real Estate Strategy and major parks in Montreal (Canada)

Q&A with the other local and regional governments representatives

Closing remarks by Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG and Patrick Braouezec, co-president of the Committee on Social inclusion, Participatory democracy and Human rights

## **Registering**

Fill the form attached in order to register and be able to participate in the meeting.

## **Interpretation**

Live interpretation will be available (English, French and Spanish)