

# THE URBAN NEWS YOU NEVER GET FROM THE NORTH

OSLO, 24 May 2019 • UN-Habitat and Habitat Norway

## Introduction

UN-Habitat and Habitat Norway have the great pleasure to invite to an Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) during the URBAN FUTURE Conference 2019.

The UJAs are pioneering and innovative initiatives promoted by UN-Habitat to further the knowledge and understanding of international and national journalists and media professionals of the social and economic issues facing cities in the twenty-first century.

The aim of this UJA is to meet and discuss urban challenges with leading urban professionals, bureaucrats and politicians that have been invited to deliberate better urban futures from a new angle: the Northern one. The event in Oslo seeks the engagement of journalists, media professionals and others who are interested or involved in urban development and the challenges facing Northern cities. Stronger engagement of journalists and media professionals on urban challenges encourages greater democratization, transparency and increases the awareness amongst the wider public.

The first UN-Habitat UJA was an innovative experience - developed in 2014 in conjunction with the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum held in Medellin, Colombia - with the participation of more than forty journalists from all over the world and with the presence of representatives of internationally relevant media as Aljazeera (United Kingdom), The Guardian (United Kingdom), Inter Press Service (United States), La Nación (Argentina) and El Pais (Spain). Since then, more than 30 UJAs have been held in various parts of the world.

## UJA objectives

- Strengthen journalists' and media professionals' capacity to analyze the overall process of urbanization by sharing with them substantive knowledge about the main issues of planning and management of cities, as well as by providing them technical expertise in gathering and examining urban data and indicators.
- To share outstanding experiences of communication for development in urban contexts as well as a selection of interesting examples of sustainable urban transformation projects.
- To make urban development issues and challenges clear and accessible to the general public, beyond the professionals, researchers and public authorities, bringing the urban debate closer to the average citizen.

# Tentative Programme



## 8.30 Opening

- Erik Berg, Chair, Habitat Norway
- Marianne Borgen, Mayor of Oslo
- Lars Stordal, UN-Habitat

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## 08:50 - 09:00 Introduction: Journalism and cities: the role of media for sustainable urban development

- Simone d'Antonio, Head of Communication, Italian Association of Cities and Municipalities.

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## 9.00 - 9.40 Key notes: A New Urban Planet – Towards A Sustainable Future

- Eduardo Moreno, Director, Research and Capacity Development, UN-Habitat
- Clare Short, Former Secretary of State for International Development, UK. Chair, Cities Alliance

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## 9.40 - 10.40 Presentations: The Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda – Some Challenges seen from the North

- *The SDGs in practice - seen from Asker municipality.* Lene Conradi, Mayor of Asker
- *Oslo – trends of inequality and housing exclusion.* Architect/Journalist Odd Iglebæk, Habitat Norway
- *Arctic Cities and Global Climate Change.* Erik Berg, Habitat Norway
- *Media's role in promoting sustainable urban development.* Associate Professor Anne H. Simonsen, Oslo Met.
- **Moderated dialogue/questions.** Diana Huynh and Helge Onsrud, Habitat Norway

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## 10.40 - 11.00 Coffee/tea Break

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## 11.00 - 12.30 Inclusive Urban development – addressing inequality

- *Cities and the integrative role of place.* Changing of mind sets? Associate Professor Gro Lauvland, NTNU/Habitat Norway
- *Mukuru, Nairobi – Partnerships for development?* Jack Makau, Know your City/Slum Dwellers International, Kenya.
- *The Cities and Housing for all? Some lifelong experiences.* Ellen de Vibe, Chief Town Planner of Oslo
- **Moderated dialogue/questions.** Diana Huynh and Helge Onsrud, Habitat Norway

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## 12.30 END

- Opportunity for individual interviews, photo session etc.

**PHOTO EXHIBITION: SDG 11 - TEN TARGETS IN A GLIMPSE**

Nairobi/Oslo, 15 April 2019

Dear Media Professionals,

On behalf of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Habitat Norway, we are pleased to invite you to an Urban Journalism Academy, in Oslo, Norway on 24 May 2019. The event will focus on the role of urbanization in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Urbanization is one of the twenty-first century's most transformative trends. By 2050, the world's urban population is expected to have doubled, posing unprecedented global sustainability challenges in cities and communities. At the same time, the implicit opportunities of urbanization as an engine for sustainable change are tremendous. The future of our societies depends to a large extent on how we plan and manage our urban future.

In 2016, one year after the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change were adopted, United Nations Member States agreed on a New Urban Agenda. It provides a roadmap towards sustainable urbanization. As an accelerator for other global development frameworks, it builds on the positive notion of urbanization as a force for prosperity and well-being for all, while at the same time protecting the environment and addressing climate change.

As part of the change in global development paradigms that the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda represent, media have an important role to play in analysing the opportunities, challenges and solutions needed to harness the potential of urbanization. Moreover, a stronger engagement of journalists and media professionals on urban challenges encourages greater democratization and better governance. In particular, it increases awareness and active participation among the wider public.

The Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda are universal declarations. It is now pertinent to bring the urban opportunities and challenges of the global North into the discourse. The context that stands out is the evolving inter-dependency of issues such as climate change, migration and poverty at the global scale.

It is against this background – on the margins of the Urban Future Global Conference - that UN-Habitat and Habitat Norway will be organizing an Urban Journalism Academy in Oslo on 24 May. It is an honour and pleasure to invite you to this event.

The Academy will bring together leading Norwegian and global urban experts and seek the engagement of journalists media professionals attending from all parts of the world. It will seek the involvement of representatives of organizations and institutions that are involved and interested in urban development challenges. The future takes place in the city.

Attached is a draft programme for the event. Please register at [www.habitat-norge.org](http://www.habitat-norge.org). Habitat Norway can be contacted for any further information at [habitat.norway@gmail.com](mailto:habitat.norway@gmail.com). We look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Christine Musisi  
Director, External Relations  
UN-Habitat



Mr. Erik Berg  
Chair  
Habitat Norway