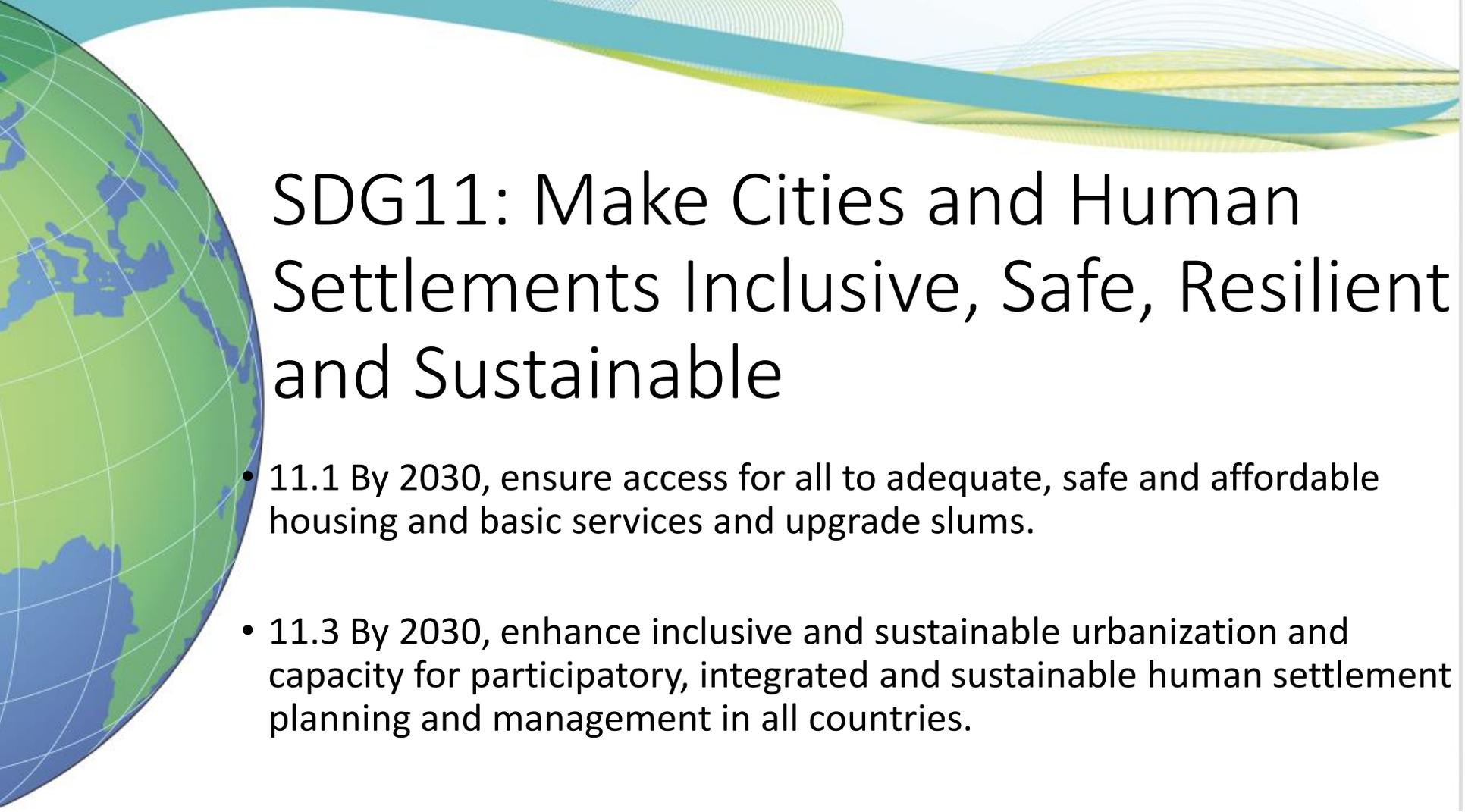




The Role of Families and Family Policies in Achieving Inclusive Societies Focus on SDG 11

Bahira Sherif Trask, Ph.D.
Professor & Dept. Chair -- HDFS
University of Delaware
bstrask@udel.edu



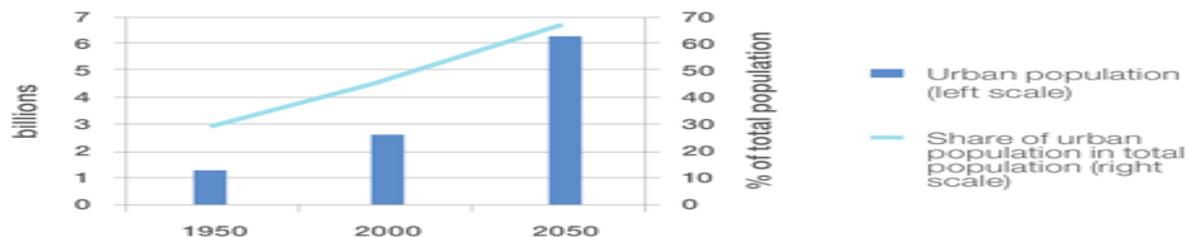
SDG11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable

- 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.
- 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.
- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Global Urbanization

- 55 percent of the global population live in urban areas
- That figure is set to increase to 68 percent by 2050 (UNDP, 2018)
- 95 percent of this urban expansion will take place in developing countries

Figure 2.1: Global Urban Population Growth (1950-2050)



Source: World Economic Forum calculation based on World Urbanization Prospects (2014 revision) data.



Mega-Cities

- Tokyo – 37 million
- New Delhi – 29 million
- Shanghai – 26 million
- In 2028, New Delhi will surpass Tokyo



Global Urban Population Distribution

- North America – 82% live in urban areas
 - Europe – 72%
 - Asia – 50%
 - Africa – 43%
-
- India, China & Nigeria alone will account for 35% of change by 2050



Urbanization Provides Opportunities

- Increased efficiencies and creation of models of sustainable human living areas
- Urban density allows for the linking of economy, energy outputs, environment and social life
- Well-planned cities can lead to greater equity, social inclusion and quality of life (UN Habitat, 2016)



Poverty as Barrier to Optimal Urbanization

- Poverty still stands as a major obstacle to social inclusion and equal participation
- Poor are excluded from decision making processes and often are marginalized and isolated (DESA, 2009).



Poverty & Urban Margins

- Due to the effects of climate change, violence and other disasters, migrants from rural areas often settle at the margin of urban centers where they are socially excluded from the social, economic, and political life of cities
- Poor people, young children and older persons are frequently disadvantaged if they live far away from centers of power, services and resources



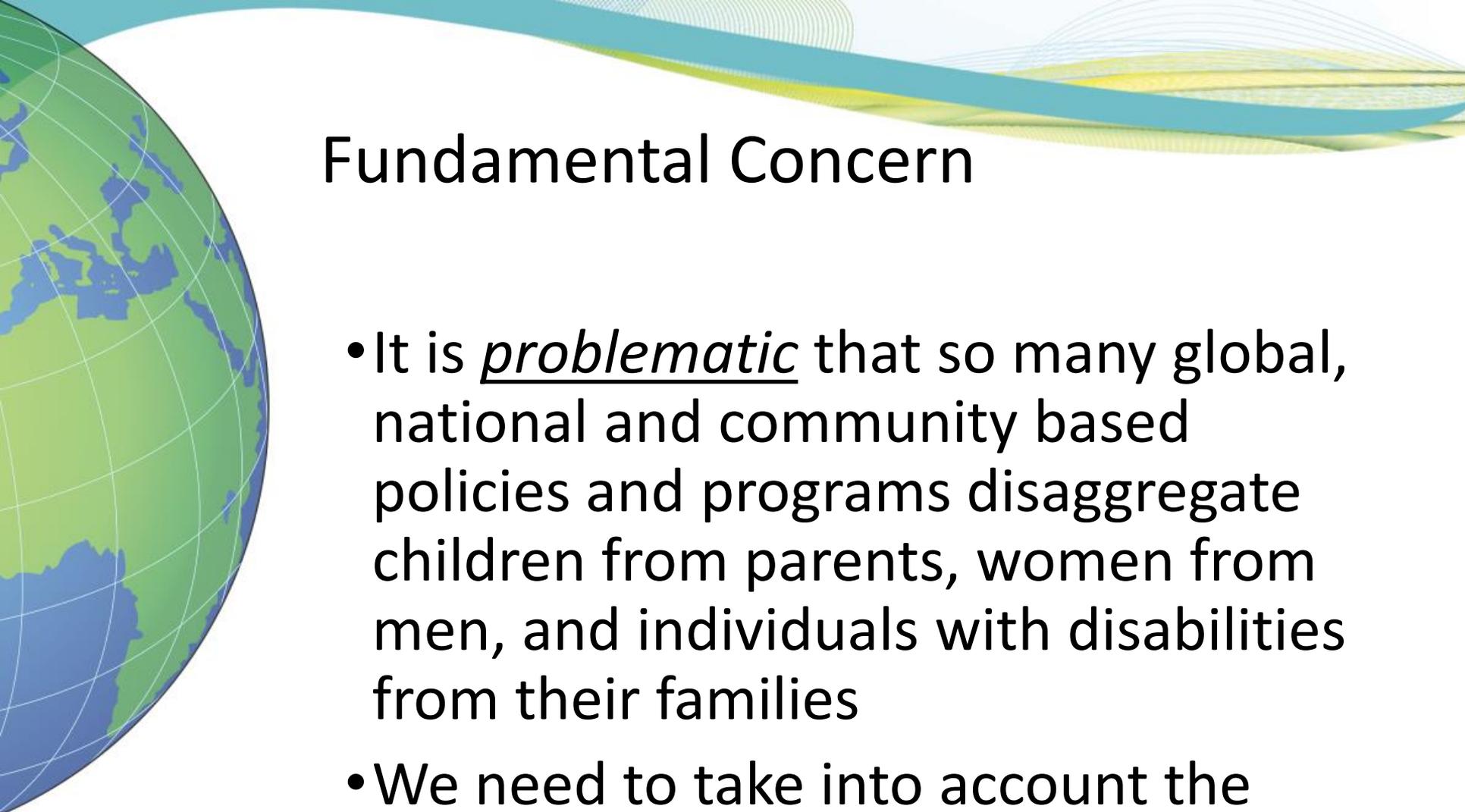
Urbanization Differs by Global Location

- In West: growing “kiddie deserts”
 - High-end restaurants, shops, activities
 - No long-term social commitment to the well-being of the city



What is the Role of Families in Urbanization ?

- Shrinking state support for social services around the world is creating an environment in which families are more, not less important to the health and well-being of individuals, especially children, those who are ill, have disabilities as well as older persons.



Fundamental Concern

- It is problematic that so many global, national and community based policies and programs disaggregate children from parents, women from men, and individuals with disabilities from their families
- We need to take into account the holistic, synergistic relationships of the human experience: life in ***families***



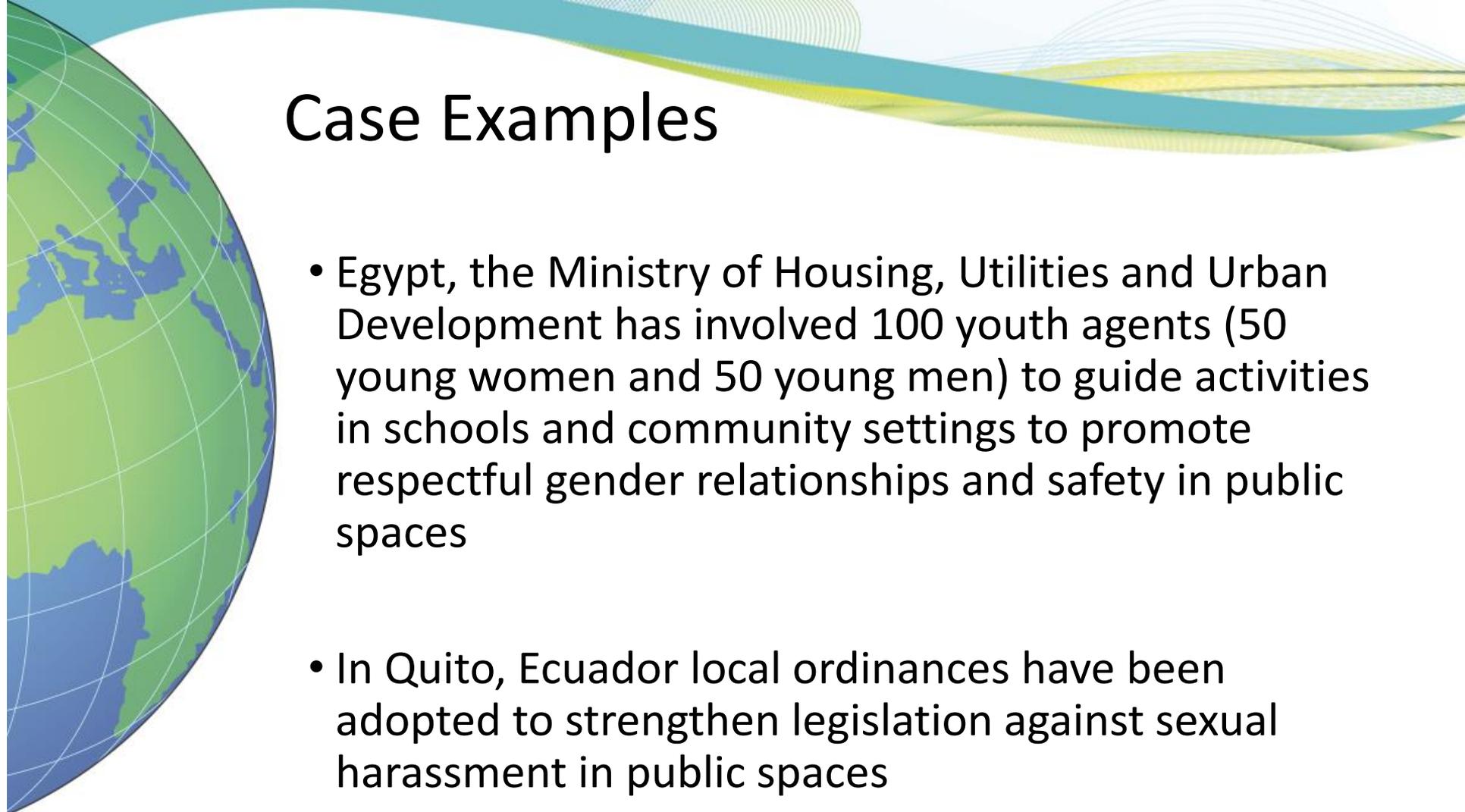
Families Continue to Provide Vital Functions

1. Families provide individuals through membership, a sense of personal and social identity.
2. Families are the unit of basic economic support for their members and for society.
3. Families around the world continue to be the most efficient unit for rearing and nurturing children
4. Families provide care for those vulnerable individuals that cannot live on their own such as the disabled, the terminally ill, and the frail elderly (Ooms, 1996, p. 6)



Gender Equality Matters in Urban Contexts

- Women bear the brunt of inequality in urban contexts if they do not have access to transportation or essential services such as clean water
 - For instance, if a pregnant woman cannot get to a clinic, she or her baby may suffer a disability or even death (UN Women, 2017)
- Women need to be able to move around without being harassed and assaulted – otherwise their participation is limited



Case Examples

- Egypt, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development has involved 100 youth agents (50 young women and 50 young men) to guide activities in schools and community settings to promote respectful gender relationships and safety in public spaces
- In Quito, Ecuador local ordinances have been adopted to strengthen legislation against sexual harassment in public spaces
- UN Women has launched a global program in 20 cities that partners with community-based women's organizations to specifically highlight the needs of women in urban centers (UN Women, 2017)



11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

- Housing is fundamental to family life. Without a place that individuals call “home,” their other spheres of life are severely impacted. As the National Housing Task Force suggested

..a decent place for a family to live becomes a platform for dignity and self-respect and a base for hope and improvement. A decent home allows people to take advantage of opportunities in education, health and employment – the means to get ahead in our society. A decent home is the important beginning point for growth in the mainstream of American life (Bratt, 2002 p. 15)

- Stable housing is critical for positive child development



Physical attributes and availability of housing

good quality and safety
housing, not homelessness

Relationship of housing to occupant

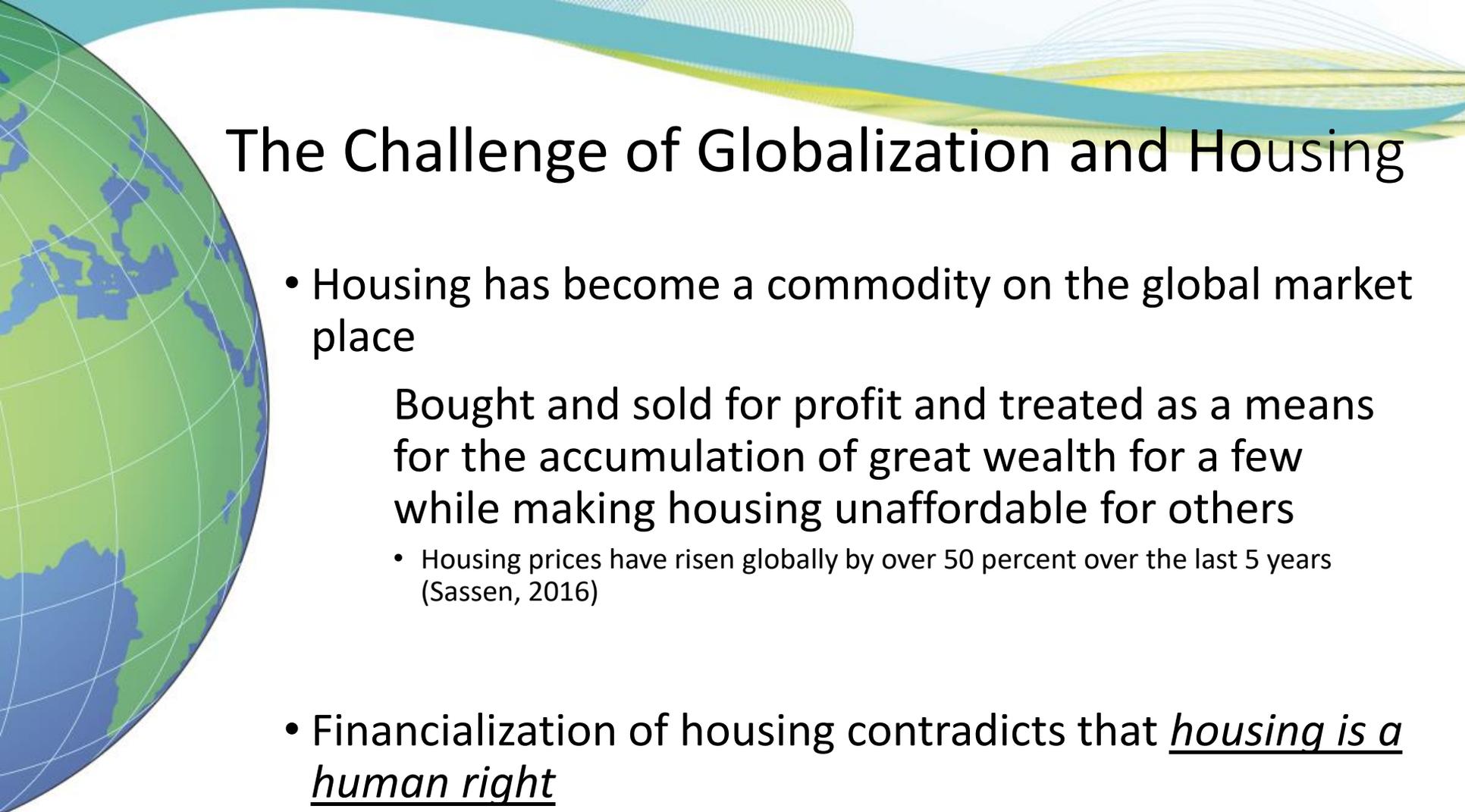
not overcrowded
affordable
opportunities to create positive sense
of self and empowerment
stable and secure
tenure options

Neighbourhood conditions

good quality and safety
accessibility of housing to
employment and education

Family well-being

Figure 1. Connections between housing and family well-being.



The Challenge of Globalization and Housing

- Housing has become a commodity on the global market place

Bought and sold for profit and treated as a means for the accumulation of great wealth for a few while making housing unaffordable for others

- Housing prices have risen globally by over 50 percent over the last 5 years (Sassen, 2016)
- Financialization of housing contradicts that *housing is a human right*



Linking Human Rights and Housing

- Individuals and families need to be at the center, instead of market domination
- Governments have ability to redesign laws and policies and to highlight the centrality of rights of individuals and families to have adequate housing
 - Community, national, and international
- *Housing is a fundamental right that needs to be understood in a framework of human dignity and security*



11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

- Social integration is a critical aspect of sustainable human settlements

Process that enables all people to participate in social, economic, cultural and political life on the basis of equality of rights, equity and dignity

- Goal is to create societies that are safe and just, and that protect and promote human rights and dignity

World Summit for Social Development declared in 1995: “a society for all” (DESA, 2009)

Equal participation ensures that social stability and sustainability will be strengthened even in the face of change



11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

- Urban planning decisions have a key role to play in combatting growing levels of obesity and helping prevent lifestyle-related diseases through facilitating physical activity and positive mental health
- Spending time in nature fosters more positive close relationships with family members and friends
- Child development – leads to interest in sustainability / positive youth development
- Connectivity allows especially for children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities to access employment, services & recreation



The Role of Globalization

- Increased interconnectedness despite growing nationalistic tendencies
- Increase importance of transnational organizations with planning, coordination and monitoring
- Urbanization is an issue that allows for greater partnering / global compact



Ensuring the Success of the SDG's

- Data collection & analysis needs to inform policy formation
- Create awareness and interaction among stakeholders:
 - Policy makers
 - Transnational NGO's
 - Academics
- Private – public partnerships
- Participatory leadership
- Adherence to the rule of law
- States advocating for citizens
- Policies need to take into account
 - Needs of the newly re-settled are different from long-timers
- Prioritize the inclusion, protection and participation of vulnerable populations and families
 - Differential access to resources (social and economic) undermines global efforts
- Lack of attention to *family membership within specific cultural contexts* risks marginalizing further vulnerable populations



Ensuring the Success of the SDG's

- States need to regulate the runaway housing markets that are dominating the global rental and homeownership scene
- Government housing policies are needed to position affordable housing as an anchor for creating communities where families thrive and ensure that their members have access to services
- Efficient transport systems – access employment, health services and education
- Inclusion of socially excluded and vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities, women and youth in planning, creating, and monitoring green spaces



Without centering families and their vital functions at the forefront of every nation-state's agenda the SDGs will not be implemented in the holistic, integrated manner with which they were conceived



Thank You!