



**INCLUSIVE CITIES FOR  
SUSTAINABLE FAMILIES**

ALLIANCE OF TERRITORIES GLOBAL PROJECT

**More information: [www.familyperspective.org/icsf](http://www.familyperspective.org/icsf)**

According to the World Bank, today's urban population of about 3.5 billion people is projected to reach 5 billion by 2030, with two-thirds of the global population living in cities. City leaders must move quickly to plan for growth. The speed and scale of urbanization brings challenges for all family members such as children, parents, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons. The capacity to tackle challenges is essential to assure a safe growth of all family members that live in the city. Some suggested relevant areas for it should promote affordable housing; well-connected transport systems; meeting accelerated demand for infrastructure and built environment; ratio of the available land, urban development focused in nucleus family needs, urban growth designed for persons with disabilities, respect and social inclusion; access to community support and health services; communication and information; as well as civil participation; jobs and opportunities, particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Development Programme will support governments around the world in tackling the new agenda and taking it forward over the next 15 years. Sustainable Development Goals include a dedicated goal for urban development, SDG11, which calls to 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.'

A year later, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III – member states signed the New Urban Agenda. This is an action-oriented document, which sets global standards of achieving SDG11, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities. It acknowledges that while most of the global population and capital goods are concentrated in cities, urban areas remain crucial to social development, economic prosperity and poverty eradication. They drive most of the economic growth and are a source of innovation, facing sanitation and security challenges while acting as cultural centres. Achievements in eradicating poverty among developing countries are partly recognized to the significant progress in economic growth performance in the past two decades as well as gains in education and health, and the provision of social protection.

## THE ROLE OF FAMILIES IN THE URBAN AGENDA

UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

In October 2016, during Habitat III member states signed the New Urban Agenda. This document sets global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities. Through drawing together cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors, including at all levels of government as well as the private sector, UN-Habitat is applying its technical expertise, normative work and capacity development to implement the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11.

To ensure that no one is left behind in the New Urban Agenda, strategies that have proven to be effective and measurable need to be taken. Modern cities need to be resilient and constantly diagnosed of their urban strength. Only a holistic approach of the numerous variables within the cities can manage to give a complete picture of the city's vigor.

A dialogue among stakeholders is equally important; any effort aimed at facilitating it among government, civil society, residents, and the private sector about risks and the performance of urban systems is a worthwhile cause. With an accurate diagnosis, priority actions and investments can be identified, as well as strengthening resilience for planned or aspirational projects.

Some other goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focus on topics that are directly related to families - ending poverty, promoting shared economic prosperity, social development and people's well-being while protecting the environment. In all of them, families remain at the center of social life ensuring the well-being of their members, educating and socializing children and youth and caring for young and old. In particular, family-oriented policies can contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1 to 5 relating to doing away with poverty and hunger; ensuring healthy lives and promoting of well-being for all ages; ensuring educational opportunities throughout the lifespan and achieving gender equality.

In other words, there is no better holistic approach than a family perspective. The family unit has proven to be the main agent for development within societies and thus cornerstone for inclusive cities. Therefore, its area of action must be of great concern in order to facilitate its role in generations to come. If families are these crucial development agents, an adequate environment is needed to facilitate their role. An adequate integrated approach that encourages cross-sectorial collaboration is more efficient when tackling existing issues and unlocking opportunities within the city. A holistic approach to the family will definitely contribute in the three different aspects of sustainable development, and will make possible an accurate assessment of the needs for inclusive cities, especially in terms of investment in infrastructure. In order to achieve this objective, families may need to be provided with adequate tools for strengthening their

ability to reach their potential as productive, engaged, and capable agents of sustainable development, contributing fully to their members and communities. Sustainable cities start and end with cohesive and sustainable families. Building cities that “work” –inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable– requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. National and local governments have an important role to play to take action now, to shape the future of their development and to create opportunities for all, so that no one will be left behind.

## CONCEPT

The Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Cities project is an Alliance of Territories from all over the world promoted by The International Federation for Family Development that aim to be inclusive of sustainable families by being responsive to their needs in these ten issues, based on 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and under the leadership of the Veneto Region in Italy: Housing, New Technologies, Education, Healthcare, Safety, Clean Air, Transportation, Affordability, Leisure and Tourism, and Vulnerable Families. Their commitment consists on presenting once a year the results in those topics and attending an annual Conference organized to share good practices.

The International Federation for Family Development is also committed to propose new members of the Alliance, publish the reports produced by the members, according to the external evaluation realized by experts of the Universidad Nove de Julho – Uninove in Brazil; co-ordinate the organization of the annual conference; guarantee the co-ordination with UN Departments and Agencies, as well as the yearly presentation of the results during an event at its Headquarters on the 31st October, designated by the United Nations as the World Cities Day; and disseminate the results and consequent recommendations worldwide.

Together with the Veneto Region, the founding members are Département des Bouches-du-Rhône (France), Comunidad de Madrid (Spain) and the Region of Attica (Greece).

## PRESENTATION EVENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

1. Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families - What is the role of families in making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable? [New York, 6 February 2017].
2. Accesible Cities United - Experts panel on the challenges smart cities face on the occasion of the World Cities Day. [New York, 31 October 2017].
3. Inclusive and Resilient Cities for Sustainable Families - Presentation of the Venice Declaration [New York, 31 October 2018].



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## VENICE DECLARATION

We, representatives of cities, regions and local authorities of all sizes and from around the world,

DECLARE AS FOLLOWS

WHEREAS at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and a dedicated goal for urban development, SDG11, which calls to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”;

WHEREAS a year later, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, Member states signed the New Urban Agenda, an action-oriented document which sets global standards of achieving SDG11, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities.

WHEREAS the New Urban Agenda acknowledges that while most of the global population and capital goods are concentrated in cities, urban areas remain crucial to social development, economic prosperity and poverty eradication.

WHEREAS cities and territories drive most of the economic growth and are a source of innovation, facing sanitation and security challenges while acting as cultural centres.

WHEREAS families are crucial development agents provided they can find adequate environment is needed to facilitate their role and make possible an accurate assessment of the needs for inclusive cities, especially in terms of investment in infrastructure.

WHEREAS building cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable require intensive policy coordination and investment choices for families to reach to reach their potential as productive, engaged, and capable agents of sustainable development, contributing fully to their members and communities.

IN SIGNING THIS DECLARATION, we proclaim the commitment of the regions, cities and territories we represent to follow this universal call through the following common endeavours, as proposed by the International Federation for Family Development:

### 1. HOUSING

Cities design should include all family situations and social groups, flexible urban and environmentally sustainable planning, and social services to meet every need.

## 2. NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The need of connecting people through new technologies should be also included to ensure social inclusion, to bridge the digital gap via training of older persons, professional carers and families in vulnerable situations.

## 3. EDUCATION

Inclusive and quality education for all and promotion of lifelong learning should lead to the improvement of accessible and affordable childcare facilities in locations close to the residence or workplace of parents, parenting education, participation of older persons in educational activities for the youth, intergenerational meeting places for cultural and leisure activities, youth integration practices as well as second chance schools and chances to reintegrate in society.

## 4. HEALTHCARE

Organization of campaigns to promote healthy habits and lifestyles, especially those targeted to prevent mental disorders and to meet the needs of older persons, setting the necessary structure to stimulate innovation and intergenerational relations in hospitals as well as medical attention of visitors and tourists.

## 5. SAFETY

Creation of a welcoming environment in the streets based on solidarity, mutual support and social interaction, through instruments like promoting volunteers, a community police, the use of technology, information and training on crisis situations.

## 6. CLEAN AIR

Creation of as many green areas as possible, tax benefits for garden buildings, progressive reduction of pollution produced by public transportation, increase of charging points for electric cars and support for circular economy.

## 7. TRANSPORTATION

Plan and design rational and accessible public transportation system, while promoting teleworking and recognizing and valuing time at home, unpaid care and domestic work.

## 8. AFFORDABILITY

Plan to facilitate access to housing for families in vulnerable situations, including youth, persons with disabilities and older persons; develop smart intergenerational living arrangements with shared services, efficient energy-saving, flexible buildings and care provisions.

#### 9. LEISURE AND TOURISM

Foster of active engagement in the volunteering sector to conserve and restore the cultural and touristic of the city, as well as tools to facilitate access to cultural activities for all through special prices and adhoc exhibitions and locations for museums, theatres, etc.

#### 10. VULNERABLE FAMILIES

Establish specific programs to recognize the value of unpaid work and care, and address the needs of families in vulnerable situations, including single-parent families, large families, migrant families, etc.

TO ENSURE THE INTENT OF THIS PLEDGE IS REALIZED, we commit to submit a Monitoring Report every year before the 31st March to be presented to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs by the International Federation for Family Development secretariat, with information of the previous year on the progress made in the 10 points mentioned above.

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