# UTC - Planning Megacities Facing Climate Change: Americas, Africa, Europe

EMAIL: eric.huybrechts@institutparisregion.fr

1. UTC Title: (*Title of your Urban Thinkers Campus)*

Planning Megacities Facing Climate Change: Americas, Africa, Europe

2. UTC Date(s): *(Beginning date of your Campus)*

05/25/2022

3. UTC Date(s): *(End date of your Campus)*

05/25/2022

4. Location of your UTC:

Online (webinar)

5. Lead organizer: *(Please provide name of organization hosting the UTC)*

FNAU-MTPA, partner of WUC, member of Habitat professional Forum: Brigitte Bariol-Mathais

6. Co-lead organizer: *(Please provide the Names and URL of partner organizations to be associated to the Campus)*

Institut Paris Region, member of the World urban Campaign: Fouad Awada https://www.institutparisregion.fr/

7. Other organizations that participated in the campus: *(Please provide the Names, URL of partner organizations, and contact email to be associated to the Campus)*

MetroHUB/UN-Habitat & Metropolis - https://unhabitat.org/metrohub-supporting-metropolitan-development - https://www.metropolis.org/

8. Number of Participants:

47

9. UTC Action Day: *(Please describe the theme of your UTC Action Day and its impacts)*

This UTC has for theme the impacts and potentialities that megacities planning involves regarding to climate change problematic. Megacities, by being the densest and resources consuming areas in the world, raise the question of the impact of an adapted planning on ecological issues.

10. Background and Objectives of your Campus: *(Please explain the background and provide the list of objectives your campus aims to achieve)*

Megacities are today at the center of global production and of social and political transformation within contemporary societies. Their role as important nodes of global networks has increased. Tertiary activities have developed in poles dedicated to service companies, while industrial production has tended to mutate into new strategic centers for the mobilization of specific products. Thus, megacities ended up representing distinct, often sprawling regional spatial formations, after undergoing a major transformation brought about by this new globalized world economy. Their organization today obeys a principle of polycentrism, their center being extended by new urban extensions linking different poles of centrality capable of attracting economic, social, and political activities.

According to the last IPCC report of 2021, the year 2020 has been one of the three warmest years ever recorded in the world. In addition to temperature rising, the world is also more frequently put at risk due to extreme climate and meteorological events. Megacities, despite their heterogenous climates, are strongly exposed to climate change and meteorological events as they concentrate large concentration of population are in areas at risks (sea rising, drought, flooding, hurricanes, heat islands, soil…). The concentration of population, converging with weak urban planning and social policies or the poor integration of climate stakes in urban planning and political agendas, lead to increasing vulnerabilities of megacities. Furthermore, rural climate emigration toward megacities is a reality.

Large amount of population come from the rural migrations due to climate change, increasing the part of inhabitants in megacities most vulnerable to climate change. It became a vicus circle of impoverishment and vulnerabilities, facing a coupled challenge of urban mitigation and resilience to climate change linked to the need of social inclusion and equalities. The systemic impact of climate change is increasingly striking urban organization, governance, and social living condition in metropolises. Therefore, urban planning for megapolises needs to integrate concomitant strategies of planning toward the objectives of mitigation and of resilience to climate change. Then, which tools can be enforced or implemented? How to find resources to plan climate resilience and mitigation? How to ensure sustainability and resilience toward climate migrants and against the impoverishment of poor urban areas which are more vulnerable? How to go from commitments to action and how to integrate all stakeholders?

This Urban Thinkers Campus aims to bring together local authorities and megacities networks from Europe, Americas and Africa, in order to make them exchange their best practices on planning climate mitigation and resilience. It is urgent for national, local authorities, private sectors, civil society, to commit for planning resilience in megacities, to take commitments and actions. The campus aims to activate a strong lever for taking actions, to initiate a community of exchanges, best practices, of support and partnerships between megacities, thus strengthening common commitments and goals on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

11. Relation of your Campus to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: *(Please explain how the theme of your campus relates and contributes to the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs (maximum 200 words)*

The UTC relates to several SDGs: - SDG 10 Inequalities. megacities are the place where we find the highest inequalities. Planning megacities should mitigate the impacts on the most vulnerable, limit real estate speculation, offer economic activities based on social interaction, culture, and innovation. - SDG 11 Cities. Planning resilient megacities for the climate is one of the biggest challenges of our century. Compact city model to reduce carbon footprint of cities, Net Zero land take, Net Zero GHG emission and Circular economy are key orientations to take into consideration when planning megacities. - SDG 13 Climate. Climate affect megacities. Megacities affect climate. Mitigation and adaptation are crucial to face risks due to climate change and to reduce human activities impact on climate change. Climate challenge changes the priorities and the approach to reach a new paradigm for planning megacities.

12. The City We Need Now - ACTION AREAS *(Please indicate which actions areas below that your UTC covers)*

1. **Health and Well-being**
2. **Peace and Safety**
3. **Climate Adaptation and Resilience**
4. **Inclusion and Gender Equality**
5. **Economic Opportunities for All**
6. **Culture and Identity**
7. **Local Governance**
8. **Urban Planning and Design**
9. **Housing, Services and Mobility**
10. **Learning and Innovation**

13. List of Speakers: *(Provide name, job title and organization for each speaker and the moderator)*

Moderator Eric HUYBRECHTS, manager of International affairs, Institut Paris Region/MTPA Speakers Introduction Eric HUYBRECHTS, manager of International affairs, Institut Paris Region/MTPA Panel A Didier VANCUTSEM, vice-president, IFLA-Europe Alfonso VEGARA, founder and honorary president of Metropolis, Madrid Francisco CASTRO, special advisor for Sustainability of Sao Paolo Maria Mercedes JARAMILLO, secretary of Planning, Municipality of Bogota Gabriel LANFRANCHI, ex coordinator Urban environmental planning council, Buenos Aires Moses GATES, vice-president Housing & Neighborhood planning, Regional Plan Association, New York Panel B Tadashi MATSUMOTO, head of Sustainable urban Development Unit, OECD Jean BENET, director of Planning, Institut Paris Region Murat GUVENC, director of Istanbul Study Center Trésor KATEMBO, CDUK (Planning agency), Kinshasa Municipality Erik PASVEER, director Space and Sustainability, City of Amsterdam / Eurodelta Conclusion: Rafael FORERO, Policy, Governance and Metropolitan, MetroHUB/UN-Habitat

14. KEY RESULTS: *(Explain the results achieved during your campus, in particular how it will impact cities and communities and help implement the SDG and the New Urban Agenda)*

The panel discussion highlighted the innovative approach adopted or in preparation by megacities to face climate change through adaptation and mitigation. Planning is a key tool to mobilize actors and territories around a common vision and dedicated tools for the medium and long range. Those discussions prepared the launch of an international working group of megacity planning agencies to develop innovative approach based on best practices and shared experiences. It will be managed by MTPA, the global network of metropolitan and territorial planning agencies with the support of UN-Habitat, and Metropolis world association.

15. SOLUTIONS: (*Describe at least 4 solutions presented in your campus that demonstrate how to accelerate the SDG implementation in cities and communities. Explain WHERE (country, city, area), WHAT (what purpose), HOW (how it is achieved), WHO (by whom and for which beneficiary) and IMPACTS.)*

From the corpus of ideas that has been proposed toward the two discussion panels, we can highlight four examples depicted in different cities, two from South America and two European megacities that can reveal the diversity of contexts that the discussion points. In Bogota, a triple ambition of greening the city, enhance transportation system metro lines and decarbonize general mobilities and buildings has been shown. Here, the Latin-American context has been stressed as an important point. Concrete dispositions for climate change reaction at a planification scale are still fledgling in Colombia. Also, public transportation and natural reserve preservation are not as advanced as it could be in North American or European context. Thus, the main obstacle is cultural for developing an ecologically ambitious strategy.

To reach a consensus on those objectives, Bogota’s local authorities made big investments in public transports for the next fourteen years. Yet, in a seven million inhabitant city, a single mayor is elected to represent common good and harmonized urban development ambitions, regarding local and metropolitan scale of the ten million inhabitant conurbation. Buenos Aires developed a participatory method called Planificacción. By updating the environmental plan of Buenos Aires, it aims to enhance heritage, culture but also to react to the capital structural deficits. Joining planification and action into one word, the method gathers four innovative solutions: - Hack the traditional linear planning method (diagnosis, vision, strategy, programs, projects) by implementing experimental projects as a beginning.

- Develop simultaneous actions at different scales: main challenges for strategic agenda, neighborhood scale (comunas) to work with citizens and metropolitan area, discussing with the parliament for a larger scale including fourteen municipalities to involve a sectorial approach.

- Initiate an opened and participatory process, using post-covid new media use to increase participation. The collaboration helps to find more creative maps and data.

- Matrix monitoring to develop transversal actions and break the silos. A grid is proposed as a tool to analyze any innovation’s settings: principles, guidelines, programmatic axes, actions In Paris metropolitan area, three tools are developed in parallel with the strategic regional plan. Its implementation remains a relevant strategy for megacities from the North, where post-industrial society and a progressive decline of car use give way to better footprint monitoring.

- A non-artificialized soils data bank to optimize the coherence of possible biodiversity regeneration at a large scale, after the Net Zero Artificialization has been implemented as a mandatory measure in France to pursue an urban renewal ambition.

- A Net Zero Emission strategy involving public transportation additional frame (with the Grand Paris Express new subway lines during the 2020s) and bicycle paths, getting generalized to the whole metropolitan area since the pandemic crisis.

- A Net Zero Resources ambition exploring circular economy and practices at a large urban context. In Madrid, mobilities have been an opportunity to consider the planning logic threw network, travel time and metropolitan area new gates.

Thanks to airport, high speed train stations on the north and the south, regional trains and metro system, Madrid provides of particularly efficient center, creating a converging and monocentric metropolitan structure. Radius starting from the first ring of peripheric boulevard cross the second concentric ring into potential metropolitan area gates, thanks to a privileged accessibility. Those gates define a crucial step for new programs and their equipment that shall provide the city center inhabitants: urban logistic, soft mobilities. Today, the infrastructural and physical barrier marked by the M30 freeway causes a socio-economic distinction that will be strongly decreased and substituted by high quality public spaces and biodiversity reserves. The goal of this project is to give way to an “Eco boulevard” which would guaranty a better access for cable car, bicycles, and pedestrians. Inside Madrid urban frame, the idea is to switch from a block scale to “leading blocks” scale to reveal a new urban life cell model. This model, comparable to Barcelona’s “superquadras” is gathering nine former blocs into one entity.

16. GAME CHANGERS: *(Describe at least 2 INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS presented in your campus that demonstrate how to accelerate the SDG implementation in cities and communities.* *Explain WHERE (country, city, area), WHAT (what purpose), HOW (how it is achieved), WHO (by whom and for which beneficiary) and IMPACTS.)*

Planning agencies are key game changers in the strategic planning of megacities. There are platforms to support the collective intelligence. They provide data and key analysis, prepare projections and scenarios, and help all actors involved in the preparation of policies and strategies to develop their concept and take decisions. For example, the Institut Paris Region (www.institutparisregion.fr) is a key City changer, providing open data and open mapping, organizing seminars and conference, sharing documentation. Also, the Istanbul Planning Agency (IPA) is a new urban planning agency, a multidisciplinary platform that prepared the Vizyon 2050 of Istanbul in a very large and participatory process at the scale of the largest megacity in Europe.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS - NEW URBAN AGENDA

*RECOMMEND which areas of the New Urban Agenda should be PRIORITIZED in the next 5 years (SHORT/MEDIUM term) and 15 years (LONG term):*

Rafael Forero, concluding this event, shared three relevant points that could have an impact in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda: - Urban prospects and transformations must take in consideration real-estate market within megacities. The megacity phenomenon is increasing massively; and twelve new metropolises could emerge hence 2035. Thus, planning transformations may depend more on policy discussion to provide equal common good repartition.

- Considering both SDGs and Urban Agenda, we might territorialize and scale judiciously the projects ambitions, especially on a chronologic plan by systematically taking in consideration long term vision.

- Finally, megacities must take possession of their diplomatic role in a globalized world where urbanized areas are at the forefront of discussions with regions or even countries. Multilateralism involving different scales requires adapted human and economic resources to consider migrations, democracy and governance in such dense and compact living areas.

18. STRENGTHENING - NEW URBAN AGENDA: *EXPLAIN which areas of the New Urban Agenda should be STRENGTHENED in the next 5 years (SHORT/MEDIUM term) and 15 years (LONG term) and HOW:*

The New urban agenda doesn’t tackle the large issue of the financialization of the economy and its effects on large cities. It is mainly the mechanization of public services and real estate for the benefit of investors without consideration to the inhabitants and users. The results are rocketing price of real estate in well-equipped city centers, evicting population by the market towards under equipped suburbs. The large new production of empty apartments and offices (20% at the scale of China, 30% in Egypt) increase GHG emissions (metal, concrete, energy) for nobody, consume sand and water for nothing, destroy landscape and natural resources. The New Urban agenda insists on good planning and design, that is fine, but in fact good planning is too expansive for half of the urban population in the world. The NUA should focus more on sober planning, incremental planning to develop cities with the poor and make affordable city. The challenge is important in megacities that are facing of huge population increase (Delhi growth is 850.000 inhabitants per year).

19. COMMITMENTS: *List a set of clearly defined commitments by stakeholders involved in the proposed priority actions (individual and joined commitments).*

The main commitment of the participants in this initiative are the following:

- Share experiences on the shift operating by megacities to plan their territories

- Define key issues that are common of megacities

- Define a common programme

- Prepare deep analysis and contributions to the working group

- Participate to the discussions during webinars

- Prepare case studies and thematic articles for a publication

- Share results during WUF-12

- Deliver key messages on the new way to plan megacities facing climate change

20. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: *List the roles of all stakeholders involved in the action plan(s) with responsibilities aligned to the same actions.*

Planning agencies put all actors together to share challenges, define common objectives and prepare proposals on a collaborative process. The international working group gathers megacities and international networking to cross innovative experiences, inspire other megacities, deliver messages from megacities on the new strategies to face climate change.

21. ACTION PLAN: *(Explain your action plan(s) to address the priority actions above)*

The action plan is mainly analysis and advocacy. We consider a clear necessity to take some time to share experiences and ideas to define new processes and orientation in the way to plan megacities. A big shift is operating, from high mobility and separate zoning to proximity, from urban expansion to compact and mix cities, from linear to circular economy, from high GHG emission to sober economy, from material economy to culture and innovation. The important contemporary transition (digital, technology, climate, ecology, demography, finance economy) needs clarification on priorities and on new instruments besides these transformations.

22. ROAD MAP FOR NEXT STEPS: *(Provide a roadmap showing the key milestones, quick wins and longer-term landmarks to reach achievable goals)*

The next steps will be the following: - Launch of the international working group during WUF-11 in Katowice, Poland - UTC Asian megacities in October - Programme definition in November - 6 webinars till end 2023 - A publication - Presentation of the results during WUF-12 in Egypt.

23. MEDIAS: *(Provide links to articles or stories published in relation to this UTC)*

• LinkedIn • Facebook • Twitter • Web sites of WUC/UN-Habitat, Region Ile-de-France, Institut Paris Region, FNAU-MTPA, Metropolis, ISOCARP and megacities invited

24. PHOTOS: *(Please provide a link to pictures that best illustrate your event (preferably using Flickr, otherwise through Google or Dropbox folders)*

www.institutparisregion.fr