#COVID-19 Urban Thinkers Campus Series 2

1. **UTC Title**
   
   Please provide the exact title of your Urban Thinkers Campus (maximum 20 words). **Health and Equity through Multi-Level Governance**

2. **Partner(s) organizations**
   
   Please provide the Names and URL of partner organizations to be associated to the Campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (TBC)</th>
<th>URL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
<td><a href="https://www.who.int/">https://www.who.int/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wits School of Governance</td>
<td><a href="https://www.wits.ac.za/wsg/">https://www.wits.ac.za/wsg/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Area Metropolitana de Barcelona</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amb.cat/en/web/area-metropolitana/">http://www.amb.cat/en/web/area-metropolitana/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cideu.org/miembro/as0areas-asociacion-areas-metropolitanas/">https://www.cideu.org/miembro/as0areas-asociacion-areas-metropolitanas/</a></td>
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3. **UTC Date**
   
   Please provide the Date of the Campus between 8 June and 30 July 2020.
   
   Date: Monday July 27th 2020

4. **UTC Time (duration 90 minutes)**
   
   *start of the event: ...15:00.............*(Please use CET coordinates)
   
   *end of the event: ..............16:30.............* (Please use CET coordinates)

   Please keep in mind that for maximum participation, the timing should be suitable for audiences in many geographical locations

5. **Description of your Campus (Background and Objectives of the Campus)**

   Please provide a narrative of the Campus which explains the background and objectives of your campus in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

   **Background:**
   
   The Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-Habitat will present a session titled “Health and Equity through Multi-Level Governance”.

   With a range of urban actors (formal and informal) participating at different levels in decision-making, there is a need to foster network-based instead of hierarchical governance. Governance plays a vital role in the planning, finance and management of urban areas. However, failure to agree on a shared vision in many urban areas has hindered cooperation, even when actors share common objectives. Limited capacity and legitimacy of government agencies, weak performance and accountability mechanisms and the immaturity of political institutions can undermine urban governance and result in pervasive clientelist relations and corrupt practices. The Covid-19 pandemic has gone a step further and highlighted the crucial role of government coordination cooperation and the urgent need for early health crisis preparedness.
At the pandemic’s outset, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that vertical coordination between the national and subnational governments is the “first step of an effective response.” Non-coordinated action among levels of government can generate collective risks, such as “passing the buck”, and conflicting responses. In places where subnational government operate with high degrees of autonomy, policy responses are more likely to be fragmented. In countries where bottom-up coordination and communication is weak, there is a greater possibility of operating with one-size-fit-all measures that may not address local needs. These problems can be avoided or curbed through effective vertical coordination.

Associations of regional and local governments as well as metropolitan and other kind of supra-municipal governance mechanisms are also playing an important role in supporting vertical coordination. On the one hand, they act as interlocutors between national and subnational governments. On the other hand, they continue to coordinate efforts, identify solutions, and support the implementation of emergency measures. Regular dialogue between the national government and these associations can be particularly valuable to address crisis-generated social and economic damage throughout a country.

In the face of Covid-19, the UN-Habitat Good Governance Principles, for participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive urban systems have become even more relevant to help orientate the actions of national, sub-national, local, and other actors to respond to the pandemic and take action for an environmentally sustainable and inclusive post-Covid-19 recovery. Whole-of-government coordination approaches can assist sub-national and local governments to understand health threats, map epidemics, measure or estimate the health impacts in development activities and implement evidence-backed health interventions through use of data and technologies.

The objectives of this session are to:
- Discuss the governance and institutional dimensions in the context of COVID-19 and health;
- Learn more about how vulnerable groups can be supported through cooperation of all levels of government;
- Understand the challenges faced by sub-national and local authorities in estimating the health impacts in development activities; and
- Discuss ways in which cities can implement health interventions through use of data and technologies.

6. 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.

Good urban governance is outcome-oriented and promotes the rights of all people by ensuring that all urban residents reap the benefits of urbanization. These elements are recognized by the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) which both note that weak institutions and poor governance mechanisms increase the risk of low performance, wasted resources, inefficient sectoral interventions, human rights violations and an overall lack of progress. Thus, governance processes should be participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective, efficient, equitable and inclusive. This will reduce mal-administration and ensure that the views of minorities are considered and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard within the decision-making process.

UN-Habitat’s Work on Urban Governance

The NUA and the SDGs call for institutional coordination at all levels through new governance arrangements and improved metropolitan governance structures. UN-Habitat is tasked with assisting local governments to effectively capture domestic revenue, improve fiscal decentralization, manage urban displacement and utilize frontier technologies. The Agency has developed the following four principal working areas on governance:
Normative Actions - development of tools and methodologies as well as the identification of best practices. Technical Component – field and technical cooperation projects including testing and implementation of developed tools. Advocacy Actions - establishment of partnerships and cooperation mechanisms between various stakeholders and the development of MOUs and joint agenda. Knowledge and capacity development component – seminars, workshops, case studies and training events. Development and dissemination of discussion papers and research publications.

7. YOUR CAMPUS:
a. URBAN THINKERS SESSION - List of Speakers*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remy Sietchiping</td>
<td>Chief</td>
<td>Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-Habitat</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SPEAKERS (maximum 7 speakers)

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Marc Ho</td>
<td>Technical Officer</td>
<td>WHO Health Emergencies Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor David Everrat</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>Wits School of Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier Tiana Casablanca</td>
<td>Head of International Relations</td>
<td>Area Metropolitana de Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco Felipe Chacón</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipra Narang Suri</td>
<td>Chief</td>
<td>Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat</td>
</tr>
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b. ROUNDTABLE – questions (maximum 4) *

Please list below the key questions to be addressed in the roundtable discussion opened to all attendees. Please keep in mind that those should help issue practical recommendations at the end of the campus session:

Question 1 Which changes have governance mechanisms had before/after the crisis?
Question 2 How can all levels of governments cooperate and promote healthy equity and support vulnerable populations?
Question 3 What are the roles of non-state actors in managing the impacts of the pandemic?
Question 4 How can cities use and improve their digital infrastructure and culture to manage disease outbreaks?

Agenda:

East Africa Time (EAT)

16.00: Welcome, Introduction (Moderator) – Remy Sietchiping, Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-Habitat

16.05: Opening Remarks - Shipra Narang-Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat

Speakers/Panellists

16.10: First Speaker: Dr Marc Ho, Technical Officer, Health Security Preparedness, WHO Health Emergencies Programme
16:20: Second Speaker: Professor David Everrat, Head, Wits School of Governance

16:30: Third Speaker: Xavi Tiana, Head of International Relations, Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona

16:40: Fourth Speaker: Marco Felipe Chacón, Executive Director of the Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas (with translation by Rafael Forero)

Moderated Roundtable and Discussion
17:00: Discussion and Questions from participants to panel

Wrap-up
17:20: Takeaways and Insights
17:30: End of the Session

8. Focal Point of the event*

Please indicate Name and email
Anne Amin: anne.klen@un.org