

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