

# THE URBAN NEWS YOU NEVER GET FROM THE NORTH

OSLO, 24 May 2019 • UN-Habitat and Habitat Norway

## Introduction

UN-Habitat and Habitat Norway have the great pleasure to invite to an Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) during the URBAN FUTURE Conference 2019.

The UJAs are pioneering and innovative initiatives promoted by UN-Habitat to further the knowledge and understanding of international and national journalists and media professionals of the social, economic and economic issues facing cities in the twenty-first century.

The aim of this UJA is to meet and discuss urban challenges with leading urban professionals, bureaucrats and politicians that have been invited to deliberate better urban futures from a new angle: the Northern one. The event in Oslo seeks the engagement of journalists, media professionals and others who are interested or involved in urban development and the challenges facing Northern cities. Stronger engagement of journalists and media professionals on urban challenges encourages greater democratization, transparency and increases the awareness amongst the wider public.

The first UN-Habitat UJA was an innovative experience - developed in 2014 in conjunction with the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum held in Medellin, Colombia - with the participation of more than forty journalists from all over the world and with the presence of representatives of internationally relevant media as Aljazeera (United Kingdom), The Guardian (United Kingdom), Inter Press Service (United States), La Nación (Argentina) and El Pais (Spain). Since then, more than 30 UJAs have been held in various parts of the world.

## UJA objectives

- Strengthen journalists' and media professionals' capacity to analyze the overall process of urbanization by sharing with them substantive knowledge about the main issues of planning and management of cities, as well as by providing them technical expertise in gathering and examining urban data and indicators.
- To share outstanding experiences of communication for development in urban contexts as well as a selection of interesting examples of sustainable urban transformation projects.
- To make urban development issues and challenges clear and accessible to the general public, beyond the professionals, researchers and public authorities, bringing the urban debate closer to the average citizen.

# Tentative Programme

## WHEN

24 May 2019  
08:30 am - 12:30

## VENUE

"Folk Oslo", Torggata  
15, 8th floor, vis-a-vis  
Youngstorget

### 8.30 Opening

- Erik Berg, Chair, Habitat Norway
- Monica Mæland, Minister of Local Government and Modernisation (tbc)
- Marianne Borgen, Mayor of Oslo
- Lars Stordal, UN-Habitat

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### 8.50 – 9.30 Key notes: A New Urban Planet – Towards A Sustainable Future

- Eduardo Moreno, Director, Research and Capacity Development, UN-Habitat
- Clare Short, Former Secretary of State for International Development, UK. Chair, Cities Alliance

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### 9.30 - 10.30 Presentations: The Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda – Some Challenges seen from the North

- *The SDGs in practice - seen from Asker municipality.* Lene Conradi, Mayor of Asker
- *Oslo – trends of inequality and housing exclusion.* Architect/Journalist Odd Iglebæk, Habitat Norway
- *Arctic Cities and Global Climate Change.* Erik Berg, Habitat Norway
- *Media's role in promoting sustainable urban development.* Associate Professor Anne H. Simonsen, Oslo Met.
- **Moderated dialogue/questions.** Diana Huynh and Helge Onsrud, Habitat Norway

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### 10.30 -11.00 Coffee/tea Break

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### 11.00 – 12.30 Inclusive Urban development – addressing inequality

- *Cities and the integrative role of place.* Changing of mind sets? Associate Professor Gro Lauvland, NTNU/Habitat Norway
- *Mukuru, Nairobi – Partnerships for development?* Jack Makau, Know your City/Slum Dwellers International, Kenya.
- *The Cities and Housing for all? Some lifelong experiences.* Ellen de Vibe, Chief Town Planner of Oslo
- **Moderated dialogue/questions.** Diana Huynh and Helge Onsrud, Habitat Norway

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### 12.30 END

- Opportunity for individual interviews, photo session etc.

**PHOTO EXHIBITION: SDG 11 – TEN TARGETS IN A GLIMPSE**