



THE URBAN NEWS YOU NEVER GET FROM THE NORTH

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums



Oslo May 24, 2019

Presentations: The speakers

Edited by: Oddrun Helen Hagen, Habitat Norway Oslo 2019

Photos: Oddrun Helen Hagen, Habitat Norway Oslo 2019

PREFACE

The first UN-Habitat «Urban Journalism Academy» (UJA) was held in 2014 in conjunction with the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum of Medellin, Columbia. Since then, more than 40 similar events have been organized all over the world.

The Oslo UJA – the first one in the Nordic countries - took place on 24 May 2019 and was innovative and pioneering in particular as it deliberated the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda from a new angle: The Northern one. It is often neglected that the SDGs and NUA are universal declarations. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, they are not focusing only on the Global South. The importance of bringing the urban opportunities and challenges of the North into the discourse is evident, particularly as the global inter-dependency of issues such as climate change, migration, inequality and poverty evolve. We are all in the same boat.

UN-Habitat and Habitat Norway are pleased to submit this report to a wider international audience. It contains all presentations held at the Oslo UJA including a summary article highlighting the main themes of the event. The report is meant as an inspiration for further work.

The organizers would like to thank the speakers for their contributions, the “Urban Future Global Conference” for including the UJA in the programme and our sponsors for their support. A particular vote of thanks to “Folk” for providing excellent meeting room facilities.

Based on this constructive partnership we look forward to arranging future successful UJAs in Oslo – Europe’s 2019 environmental capital.

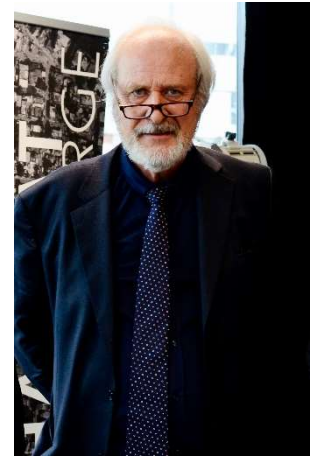
The Organizers



Eduardo Moreno, Director, Research and Capacity Development, UN-Habitat, Erik Berg, Chair, Habitat Norway, and Lars Stordal, External Relations Division, UN-Habitat. Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen

CONTENT

Preface.....	2
Introduction.....	5
Urban Journalism Academy – objectives.....	5
Opening and welcoming speeches	6
Erik Berg – Welcoming speech	6
Simone d’Antonio – Journalism and cities: the role of media for sustainable urban development	8
Marianne Borgen, Mayor of Oslo	10
Lars Stordal, UN-Habitat.....	12
A New Urban Planet – Towards A Sustainable Future.....	14
Eduardo Moreno – KEYNOTE SPEAKER.....	14
SLIDES	14
Clare Short - KEYNOTE SPEAKER	16
The Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda – Some Challenges seen from the North	18
Lene Conradi, Mayor of Asker: The SDGs in practice - seen from Asker municipality	18
SLIDES	21
Odd Iglebæk – Trends of inequality and housing exclusion IN OSLO	23
Erik Berg – Arctic Cities and Global Climate Change.....	29
Anne H. Simonsen – Media’s role in promoting sustainable urban development	32
Inclusive Urban development – addressing inequality.....	34
Gro Lauvland – Cities and the integrative role of place. Changing of mind sets?	34
SLIDES	34
Jack Makau – Mukuru, Nairobi – Partnerships for development?	39
SLIDES	39
Ellen de Vibe – The Cities and Housing for all? Some lifelong experiences.....	42
SLIDES	44
ATTACHMENTS	47
Invite.....	47
Programme	48



Marianne Borgen (Mayor of Oslo), Lars Stordal (UN-Habitat), Erik Berg (Habitat Norway), Eduardo Moreno (UN-Habitat), Clare Short (Cities Alliance), Ellen de Vibe (Chief Town Planner, Oslo Municipality), Lene Conradi (Mayor of Asker), Jack Makau (Slum Dwellers International), Simone d'Antonio (Italian Association of Cities and Municipalities), Odd Iglebæk (Habitat Norway), Anne H. Simonsen (*Associate Professor at Oslo Met*) and Gro Lauvland (*Associate Professor NTNU and board member of Habitat Norway*).
Photos: Oddrun Helen Hagen

INTRODUCTION

UN-Habitat and Habitat Norway had the great pleasure to invite to an Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) during the URBAN FUTURE Conference 2019. This report gathers presentations from the seminar in Oslo held on 24 May 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 was to meet and discuss urban challenges with leading urban professionals, bureaucrats and politicians invited to deliberate better urban futures from a new angle: The Northern one. The event sought 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.

The importance of bringing the urban opportunities and challenges of the North into the discourse is evident. Particularly as the global inter-dependency of issues such as climate change, migration, inequality and poverty evolve. In this summary report, presentations held at the Oslo UJA is gathered.

URBAN JOURNALISM ACADEMY – 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.

OPENING AND WELCOMING SPEECHES

ERIK BERG – WELCOMING SPEECH

Erik Berg is Chair of Habitat Norway.

Distinguished guests, colleagues and friends;

It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome you all to the «Urban Journalism Academy» arranged by UN Habitat and Habitat Norway with the Urban Future Global Conference as the frame. A particular welcome to our foreign guests Clare Short, Jack Makau, Eduardo Moreno and Simone d'Antonio.

This event has several functions. The primary is to give participants updates or briefings on some of the urban challenges and opportunities of the North, Nordic, Arctic or circumpolar North. Urban issues - within a global perspective - that seldom are heard of in the international development discourse. Another function is to provide 10 leading urbanists present from their respective platforms and entry points an opportunity to share their experience, analysis and advice. A third function is that for a small association like Habitat Norway this Academy represents a unique opportunity to present our work, to develop our networks and build a stronger membership base. We don't have very many members but have a very big board. Please join us. In planning this Academy Habitat Norway has appreciated the constructive co-operation with UN Habitat's Lars Stordal and the generous assistance of "Folk"s Ida Hatlebrekke and Alexandra Aas Engelstad, making these conference facilities available. With a perfect view as you can see to Youngstorget, Oslo's "Red square". It is in such urban places – all over the world - that powerless people have forged alliances – also with media - and advocated their interests - making history. Let us trust that it never will be turned into a beautification scheme, a supermarket or an amusement park.

The Academy in its briefings will raise several issues. One is about the social challenges of bigger Nordic cities. Challenges such as growing urban inequalities, spatial and social segregation, ethnic segregation and the need for public spaces as meeting places. Does a global audience ever get such news from the North? Is an average Norwegian or Swede aware of the future implications of emerging inequalities? Or is the understanding still stuck in the "mythologies" of the Nordic welfare state?

Another central issue this morning is the Arctic climate and environment crises and how it impacts people - not only in the North but all over the world. Metaphorically we can speak of a "butterfly effect" where the flaps of butterfly wings in Alaska – that is the result of increased heating - releases storms in the Indian ocean. And pls. be aware that with increasing global temperatures and population the new mega cities in the world might be built on the higher latitudes of Alaska, Northern Canada, Greenland without its glaciers and on the tundras of Northern Europe and Asia. In order to escape the scorching heat and forest fires of Central Europe, Central America and Central Asia, this might be where our great grandchildren build their urban futures if some of the not even worse case scenarios turn out. Media has a crucial role to prepare us for the implications of the hot issue of melting ice. Please start with reading an article in the Guardian of Wednesday.

Could such urban inequality and climate challenges relevant for all cities in the world - and how to solve them — constitute a starting point for a broader, global discourse among mayors, well experienced urban planners and administrators? Do we need a UN City or a UN Mayors mechanism – not to replace UN Habitat but to complement it - based on sub national stakeholders such as cities? Urban diplomacy has often proven more pragmatic, flexible and goal oriented than the rituals and ceremonies of the Foreign service. Look to the achievements of Kirkenes and Murmansk. The Nordic countries – the richest in the world – with other affluent states - could easily facilitate and fund such a UN mechanism. It is high time that we now prioritize urban and regional development assistance. With 1 billion urban poor in the world our Official Urban Development assistance only stands at 4% of the total.

It is not to exaggerate to say that the UN and its member states, consistently, all through the so-called development era from the 1950ies until today, have neglected urban development issues, also setting a negative agenda for journalists and media professionals. During the first Habitat conference in Vancouver in 1976, reflecting deep anti-urban trends - in order to avoid using the term "city", several member states invented a new concept: «human settlements». During the first Environmental summit in Stockholm in 1972 cities were classified under "wildlife and its habitat".

When the UN has raised urban development issues it has predominantly been those of the Global South. A universal urban perspective first came in 2015, when Sustainable Development Goal 11 – the City goal – was adopted after strong opposition from most OECD countries.

To conclude: The Guardian in another recent article of 19 April this year titled "Why are the US news media so bad at covering climate change?" slashes out at them for badly covering the climate challenge in a situation they describe as "insanely late". Among the Guardian's recommendations are; listen to the kids; avoid silo climate coverage; learn the science; cover the solutions and don't be afraid of pointing fingers. Today's emerging climate crises is basically an urban crisis. As it is created by the energy use and CO2 emissions in cities, solutions must also be found here.

On this optimistic tone, I thank you for your attention! Information is power! Power is information!

Regarding official development assistance an urban neglect has continued from 1950 until today. International aid for social, urban development has stood at an annual average of 4%. As it has for Norway. In the MFA the city is considered a sector and an additional sector cannot be prioritized. But nothing is as multi- and cross-sectoral as the city. Norwegian business and export interest loose market opportunities because of this neglect. Our urban and regional research and training institutions and environments today lack resources to form global, urban partnerships. When it comes to local governance experiences Norway have a lot to contribute with

The rationality behind this event is very much in line with Habitat Norway's overall goal (you can read more about us in the distributed material on your chairs): to build alliances with all relevant stakeholders, in particular media, to advocate and influence a "city for all"/"a right to the city" - perspective. Recently, as an example, as a follow up to the Habitat Day discussions in October, Habitat Norway has taken the Norwegian Oil/Pension Fund, the world's biggest investment Fund, to their "Council of Ethics". The Fund has invested

heavily in Spanish Housing Banks and institutions that contribute to forced and market evictions. Practices that reflecting Spanish laws and policies, repeatedly are condemned by UN's Human Rights Council and the EU Commission. Our ally in the advocacy process has been Norway's leading business newspaper "Dagens Næringsliv" that has followed up very actively.

Democracy and accountability in local government play a key role in Norwegian political life. I don't believe in transferring Norwegian expertise and technology package-wise. It is a matter of transformation built on what already exists. Has the Government Information services ever presented these opportunities? Hardly. To the wider world they would be "News from the North".



Erik Berg, Chair Habitat Norway.
Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen

SIMONE D'ANTONIO – JOURNALISM AND CITIES: THE ROLE OF MEDIA FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Simone D'Antonio is a journalist based in Rome and working at the Italian Association of Cities and Municipalities (ANCI).

Cities are the places where all the challenges of our time are happening contrast to climate change, inclusion of migrants, environmental protection, economic and social growth. At the same time, cities are the places where the most interesting and innovative solutions are tested and implemented.

Media are part of the urban fabric and play a decisive role in highlighting the impact of global phenomena on urban residents and the impact that topics and solutions developed in the cities can have on public debate at national and regional level.

On the other side, with the crisis of media at different levels and with a growing number of newsrooms that are shrinking, media professionals need new tools to understand how the debate on urbanization is evolving at different scales and how to present urban topics in an effective and comprehensible way to the readers.

These are the reasons which pushed UN-Habitat to launch the Urban Journalism Academy programme at the occasion of the World Urban Forum 7 in Medellin in 2014, with the aim of creating an open and collaborative platform to reinforce the dialogue among media professionals and keep them updated on the most urgent and relevant topics emerging from the global debate on cities.

The Academies were organized not only at the occasion of UN-Habitat events but also in the framework of events organized by other international institutions, such as the European Development Days promoted by the European Commission in Brussels, or national institutions, as the Ministries for Urban Affairs in charge of the organization of National Urban Forums, or city festivals and local events, such as the Urban Stories Festival in Amsterdam.

The Urban Journalism Academies played an important role along the Habitat III process, fostering the debate among media professionals on the New Urban Agenda at national and regional scale. Personally, I took part as moderator or speaker to most of the Urban Journalism Academies organized in the framework of the Habitat III process. It was a great opportunity for me to create connections between journalists covering urban topics for international media, such as Citylab-The Atlantic, The Guardian, Place-Thomson Reuters, Citiscope and others, and journalists publishing stories on cities at national and local level. For examples, in South Africa I had the chance to train journalists coming from different township media across the country, visiting townships between Pretoria and Johannesburg and reporting together on the ground. Together with a pool of urban storytellers and media professionals, we contributed to train journalists and communication officials on specific topics included in the New Urban Agenda in Barcelona, Surabaya, Prague, Abu Dhabi, Cuenca and Toluca.

At the end of the Habitat III process, more than 200 journalists took part to the Urban Journalism Academy organized in Quito at the Habitat III Conference, contributing to one of the most interesting debates on the future of cities and the role played by media in making our urban areas more sustainable and inclusive.

The discussion continued also at national level with a series of trainings and events which led to the World Urban Forum 9 in Kuala Lumpur, where the discussion with journalists was focused on the contribution that media can give to raise the awareness towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, sharing good practices and raising the level of the national debate on those topics.

The growing attention towards urban journalism contributed to connect this original type of journalism to innovative global trends such as solutions journalism and impact journalism, while at the same time increased the connection with the academic world and led to the creation of thematic structures such as the Urban Journalism Institute at the Luiss University in Rome.

Along the process, I had the opportunity to learn a lot about the state of the art of journalism and its connection with cities. First of all, journalists around the world are facing the same challenges in their daily professional activity but the dialogue among media professionals can be crucial to highlight innovative ways to cover urban topics, switching from good practices to solutions and sharing new methods and formats of storytelling to highlight the urban dimension in the public debate at different scales.

Urban journalism is a space of contamination of ideas and visions, with stories which can have a direct impact on fostering change at urban level, inspiring decision makers, stakeholders and local communities. At the same time, it is crowdsourcing urban issues and dealing with new types of sources: not only elected representatives but also innovators, city makers, city officials, urban experts and active citizens. Different types of professionals are contributing to urban storytelling, such as architects and urban planners, writing in many cases stories taken from their experience on the ground or from their area of study or analysis.

Furthermore, urban journalism is one of the fields where the approaches of solutions journalism can be better applied and implemented, spreading the word about solutions which can be replicated by other local authorities and local communities to foster change at urban level.

I am fully convinced that urban journalism can contribute to save journalism and can be an effective response to the crisis of media. It can be a relevant way to raise the quality of the contents produced by newsrooms and freelancers, but it is also a way for testing new types of collaboration with international organizations and foundations which can contribute to make media productions more sustainable at different levels.

Media can contribute to make urban residents more responsible and aware of the challenges of our time. A new urban narrative can empower people, promote new types of relation between citizens and public sector but can also be cross-cutting to different issues. The wide range of topics raised by urban stories published across the globe, as urban mobility, public spaces and sustainable urban development, define new topics for public debate and highlight the challenges on which residents and decision makers can work together to improve the present and the future of our cities.



Simone D'Antonio, Italian Association of Cities and Municipalities (ANCI). Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen.

MARIANNE BORGEN, MAYOR OF OSLO

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Oslo! Welcome to the European Green Capital for 2019!

It is a great pleasure for me, as Mayor of Oslo, to greet the Urban Journalist Academy here at FOLK.

More than 30 years ago, in 1987, the Brundtland Commission wrote:

The future will be predominantly urban, and the most immediate environmental concerns of most people will be urban ones.

Today, we can all agree how right they were:

- More than half of the world's population – 4.2 billion people - now lives in cities.
- Cities account for 60-80% of energy consumption and at least 70% of carbon emissions.
- It is in the cities you find increasing poverty and insufficient housing, basic services and infrastructure.
- The cities also struggle with worsening air quality and lack of open public spaces such as parks, gardens, playgrounds, and so on.

Does this mean, then, that all hope is lost? Are cities around the world facing a future of increased population density, more poverty, chaos, conflict? Is there a way out? What could we, as media professionals, researchers, diplomats and politicians possibly do about it?

There is some evidence that cities are resourceful. For centuries, cities have been centres of commerce, culture and innovation, and the birthplace for some of humankind's greatest ideas.

Cities are also where you find the major political and financial centres today, along with research institutions and other human resources.

Cities are also in the forefront in making changes:

- In Paris, Mayor Ann Hidalgo has addressed the suffocating car traffic.
- In London, the price for driving through the toll ring with a truck is 25 pounds.
- In Stockholm, the Mayor and current President of EuroCities has recently forwarded a call on behalf of 210 European cities, demanding binding and ambitious emission reduction targets by their governments.

Oslo has made – and continues to make – a large contribution: We have reduced car traffic heavily over the years while strengthening public transport. We have succeeded in turning waste into new resources through investment in highly advanced recycling. We have continued to strengthen people's access to green areas, rivers and the fjord. Oslo is now implementing one of the world's most ambitious climate strategies. And we were the first city in the world to introduce a climate budget, where CO2 emissions is counted in the same way as money. So, the evidence is there that progress is being made towards sustainable urbanisation.

However, it is not going fast enough. We will need an unprecedented level of cooperation and sharing of information to make real headway in the coming years.

This is what the European Green Capital year is about. This is what many international initiatives now seek. And this is what this conference, and the opportunities which come after it, can lead to.

As journalists and media professionals, you have a unique possibility to spread awareness around the world about the challenges we are facing, but also the opportunities. You can empower people so that they participate in improving their communities or cities. And you can hold local authorities accountable for what there are doing – or not doing.

I can only hope that cooperation between us all – journalists, experts, politicians, will become even stronger in the coming years. I hope we will see more critical journalism which also challenges the authorities. And, I would like to stress that governments around the world must get their act together and protect journalists from prosecution, harassment and other kinds of oppression. We need a free press with resources enough to analyse power and misuse of power, a press which people can trust which opposes also the development of fake news.

I want to conclude by thanking the organisers, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Habitat Norway, for hosting this conference. I wish you all a wonderful conference and pleasant days in Oslo.

Welcome to our city!



Mayor of Oslo - Marianne Borgen. Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen

LARS STORDAL, UN-HABITAT

Lars Stordal is Regional Partnerships and Monitoring Officer (Asia-Pacific) - World Urban Forum Secretariat UN-Habitat.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to welcome you on behalf of UN-Habitat to this Urban Journalism Academy here in Oslo. Thank you Mayor Borgen for your remarks and for being with us here today. Congratulations on a successful hosting of the Urban Future Conference, and not least on your award as European Green Capital of 2019 and for last years' nomination as the World's Best Mayor.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all our other distinguished speakers here today who are experts in their fields and drawn from a variety of backgrounds. We are grateful for your presence and look forward to your contributions to this exciting programme.

In particular, I would like to thank our close partner Habitat Norway, especially Erik as Chair and the members of their Board, for their commitment and hard work which made this event possible. UN-Habitat is grateful your support and looks forward to strengthening our collaboration with Habitat Norway, into Urban October this and beyond. As a Norwegian, I also cannot hide a feeling of a little bit of additional pride and gratitude from being able to partner with you at this.

I would also like to recognize the presence of Mayor Conradi of Asker who continues to be a champion in putting the Sustainable Development Goals into practice. We look forward to learning more about this and to engaging with you as you go through your change and transformation process.

I would like to thank the organizers of the Urban Future Conference for their support in facilitating and promoting the Academy as part of this year's conference. This is the third time that we organize an UJA during the Urban Future Conferences, so it is hereby a tradition and we look forward to continuing the smooth collaboration we have experienced so far.

Dear guests, sustainable urbanization is at the center of our future. We live in an urbanizing world. However, we must rethink our way of life and the way we urbanize, also in the north. In 2016, at the once-in-twenty-years Habitat III Conference, the United Nations member states adopted the New Urban Agenda, which sets out an agreement amongst all 193 countries on how our urban world should be shaped and governed. It prescribes a focus on integrated, well-planned and well-managed urbanization that puts people at the center, regardless of their status or background. A successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda and its principles and guidelines is crucial to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN-Habitat is the United Nations agency technically specialized on urban development. We focus on supporting national and local governments to achieve a more sustainable urbanization process. Through our normative work and projects in almost 100 countries, we foster innovative solutions for a better quality of life in cities and communities, leaving no one and no place behind.

We also focus on advocating and raising awareness on the need to ensure a better future for all in this urbanizing world. We explain why sustainable urbanization matters and demonstrate good practices and solutions. We disclose some of the failures too. In this effort, the media is a key partner. Through the media, we can promote a more accurate analysis and share important stories about the urbanization process. We believe in the power of good journalism to increase engagement in these important issues, and also to hold those in power to account on the way cities are governed and shaped. This why we created the Urban Journalism Academy. Through events such as this, we seek to bring urban experts and media professionals together and foster a more robust analysis and stronger awareness on key issues of sustainable urban

development. Today, therefore, we are here to share with you a series of excellent substantive contributions, experiences and examples about the planning and management of cities, from a Northern perspective. We hope that through this event you will become even more interested and involved in urban development challenges and help us make these issues clearer and more accessible to the public, because the future takes place in the city.

Thank you very much.



Lars Stordal, Regional Partnerships and Monitoring Officer (Asia-Pacific) - World Urban Forum Secretariat UN-Habitat.
Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen.



Photos: Oddrun Helen Hagen.

A NEW URBAN PLANET – TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

EDUARDO MORENO – KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Eduardo Moreno is Director, Research and Capacity Development UN-Habitat

SLIDES

URBAN JOURNALISM ACADEMY
HABITAT NORWAY
UN-HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

A New Urban Planet
Towards a Sustainable Future

Eduardo López Moreno
Director Research and Capacity Development

Oslo, 24 May 2019

1

Is our urban planet becoming more sustainable?

ONU@HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

2

Need to change the pattern of urbanization

1. Cities are sprawling and reducing densities
2. Urban inequality has increased worldwide
3. Housing has become a speculative asset, ...and unaffordable
4. The steady increase in the number of slum dwellers
5. The urban risk of climate change and disasters
6. Rising insecurity and urban risk

ONU@HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

3

1. Cities are sprawling and reducing inequalities

- Cities grew on average **1.8** times for the developed world with a population increase of 18%
- The urban extent increased by **3.5** times and the population double

The expansion of cities is not related to population growth

ONU@HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

4

1. Residential densities are declining worldwide

1990 – 2015
Developing countries (2,1% per year) = 42%
Developed countries (1,5% year) = 30%

Worldwide average	98 hab. / Ha
South and central Asia	184 Hab./Ha
Latin America and C.	90 Hab./Ha
Europe and Japan	50 Hab./Ha

The reduction of residential densities conspires against prosperity/ sustainability

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5

2. Urban Inequality has increased worldwide

Today the world is more unequal than 20 years ago:

75% of cities

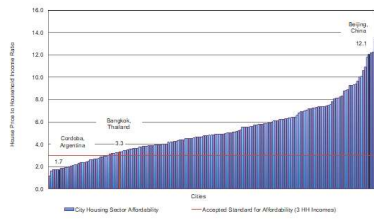
Latin America & Caribbean	0.5
Africa	0.43
Asia	0.4
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	0.35

Opportunities have stalled in many regions of the world.

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6

3. Housing has become a speculative asset ... and unaffordable



Housing affordability is limited to less than 20% of the world's population

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POR UN MEJOR FUTURO URBANO

7

4. The steady increase in the number of slum dwellers



- 1 out of 3 people living in cities in the developing world was a slum-dweller (2014).
- There are 800 million people living in slum-like conditions
- Slum dwellers grow every year by 8 million

2.3 billion people still lack access to basic sanitation service
1.2 billion people lack access to clean drinking water worldwide.

1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing, many without proper security of tenure

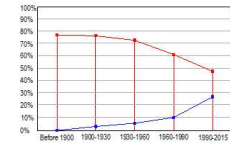
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POR UN MEJOR FUTURO URBANO

8

4. The urban risk of climate change

- Little progress in the notion of intergenerational equity
- 13% of the world's population lives in low-elevation coastal zones.
- Urbanization increased from 29 to 52%, while global carbon emissions by almost 500%.

Sprawl + low density urbanization + the share of planned areas in cities is diminishing =



Planning frameworks in many cities do not include climate change considerations; they do not respond to citizens' vulnerabilities

ONU HABITAT
POR UN MEJOR FUTURO URBANO

9

4. Rising insecurity and urban risk



- 60 to 70 per cent of urban residents have been victims of crime in developing or transitional countries
- SARS, Ebola – important urban component
- Terrorism and urban militarization
- Private security systems increased by 30% in developing countries

Terrorism, urban warfare, heightened securitization, and disease and pandemics – undermine sustainability.

ONU HABITAT
POR UN MEJOR FUTURO URBANO

10

However, there is an important room for optimism

1. The Transformative Force that Urbanization Represents
2. High contribution of cities to national income
3. Cities have become a positive and potent force for driving innovation
4. Poverty has reduced worldwide, particularly through urban-based activities
5. Cities can become places of inequality reduction and inclusive prosperity
6. Slum incidence has reduced in the world
7. The emergence of new regional/urban configurations:
urban corridors, mega-regions and megacities
8. Advance in Global monitoring mechanisms

Urban areas are emerging as sites of opportunity for effective environmental protection and action

ONU HABITAT
POR UN MEJOR FUTURO URBANO

11

ONU HABITAT
POR UN MEJOR FUTURO URBANO

12

CLARE SHORT - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Clare Short is CHAIR, CITIES ALLIANCE.

This conference is focused on the challenge facing Northern cities - and there is no doubt there are challenges - of growing inequality, very high cost of housing that result from the financialization of housing, and the massive problem of completely unsustainable lifestyles. But we all know that the massive dangers we face from climate change and loss of ecosystems will hurt the people of the Global South disproportionately and we also know that the cause of this coming crisis has been generated from the Global North.

All who understand the challenge of these times - which excludes some leading politicians but includes most people - know that to prevent catastrophic developments in the future. we have to both transform our way of life in the North, to make it more sustainable, and we have to unite our efforts across North and South so that all can live a dignified life. This is not just a moral preference; it is the only way to create a sustainable future for the generations to come.

It is worth reminding ourselves, when we start to think about the challenge of urbanisation in the Global South, of the challenges experienced in Europe and North America as a result of urbanisation. There were slums, poverty, disease and child labour, riots and repression. But there was also the beginning of the organisation of working people, the spread of education, the demand for democratic progress, the organisation of trade unions and demands for decent work and wages. And this struggle lead over time to the settlement after the Second World War of full Employment and the welfare state that produced the Golden generation of which I am a member.

It is informative to compare the spread of urbanisation across the developing world now. It is much more rapid- particularly in Africa- than it was in Europe - but there are the same slums, poverty and ill health and also people becoming organised and educated and demanding justice and dignity.

The big contrast is that in Europe this process took place as industrialization was accelerating and creating jobs and wealth. In Africa it is all based on informality in provision of housing, the delivery of water and in people's economic activity. The state provides water to the upper middle class at very little cost but people in the slums pay considerably more by the bucket. There has been an assumption African economies will formalize just as European economies did but in fact we are seeing a growth of informality in our own economies so this assumption might prove incorrect.

The Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda are the key to a sustainable future for humanity. They are very challenging - they include amongst many other things, the abolition of poverty and violence, education and health provision for all and a sustainable way of living for all North and South by 2030 - but if we do not achieve them, we are all in trouble. Almost all governments worldwide have signed up to them but major political developments in the world are unfolding in a direction that does not respect them and will not fulfil them. This is our challenge, we have the capital, knowledge and communication capacity to fulfil these goals or we can instead see the development of crisis, antagonism and conflict.

It is important to be clear that not all is Gloom and Doom. Humanity has made great progress in the last 20 years in reducing poverty, infant mortality and maternal mortality, increasing educational opportunities and providing better healthcare. It is true that the most spectacular progress has been made in China but there has been progress everywhere. But we have to achieve more, and the urban challenge in the Global South is central to this. The poor are urbanising and so the SDGs must focus on urban areas. And there are great opportunities, urban populations are more concentrated, so it is easier to provide sustainable energy, better transport systems, sanitation and water. Urban populations are also hard-working creative people open to

new ideas and new ways of doing things. Urbanisation creates an opportunity for rapid advance and should make it easier to achieve the SDGs but it requires new ways of working.

It is 20 years since Cities Alliance was established with Nelson Mandela as its patron and the World Bank and UN Habitat as co-chairs. Donors funded a World Bank trust fund in order to make small grants and work to draw attention to the challenge of slums and urbanisation which was little recognised at that time. It soon became clear that small grants and one-off projects were inadequate and what was needed was organised slum dwellers recognised as citizens, competent local government with access to sufficient resources and governments that accepted that slum dwellers would not go away, and evictions and demolitions solved nothing. Norway and Sweden strongly influenced the development of Cities Alliance's current model, which supports the development of local capacity and encourages donors to work together to invest in that capacity, rather than create projects that do not sustain. Cities Alliance now focuses on secondary cities where the majority of the poor live, where local government is weakest, and donors are least interested.

The point I want a stress today is that the SDGs, the Paris agreement and the New Urban Agenda cannot be achieved without engaging with secondary cities in this way and that the possibility for progress in secondary cities is enormous.

I would add that if there is no progress there will be trouble – just as there was in Europe and North America. We saw beneficial political developments in the Arab Spring, which has been reversed by counter revolution just as were the earliest democratic revolutions in Europe. But the Arab Spring will come again in a new form because all the factors that produced it are still there - educated young people with few prospects and no access to justice and dignity. Recently we have seen successful democratic uprisings in Sudan and Algeria, and we must hope that they can sustain. But the risings can be more malevolent particularly in the face of war and repression as with Al-Qaeda and Isis.



Clare Short, Cities Alliance. Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen

So, in conclusion, I very much hope that Norway – which was an early mover on this agenda – will re-engage with Cities Alliance. We did have some talks about Norway possibly funding a unit focused on forced evictions that would monitor such actions, which destroy the little property and identity papers some of the poorest people have and offer a better model for development. For example, Cities Alliances is currently working with the Ugandan Government, the EU and Africa Development Bank who are funding an economically crucial North-South Road but cannot make progress because crucial land is squatted by slum dwellers and their markets. We have agreed to work with Slum Dwellers International to help people to move on condition that they secure a better option and in particular title to the land on which they build. This is crucial work; they can be development that is beneficial which also takes account of the needs for a better life for slum dwellers.

My second wish she had a more informed and engaged journalistic community will help create a more informed debate and therefore help to drive the progress that is needed.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA – SOME CHALLENGES SEEN FROM THE NORTH

LENE CONRADI, MAYOR OF ASKER: THE SDGS IN PRACTICE - SEEN FROM ASKER MUNICIPALITY

Dear all,

Thank you for giving me the chance to share some thoughts and experiences on the new opportunities arising from our municipal merger with Røyken and Hurum. Here you see a map of our new municipality – showing us being busy building something new. New Asker is situated in a typical semi-urban area, in the Oslo region – one of the fastest growing capital regions in Europe. Locally we therefore face challenges such as maintaining a balance between urban centers with services, transport, public transport possibilities, and housing – and at the same time, conserving our green recreational areas.

The UNs Sustainable Development Goals came officially into force in January 2016 - at the same time that we started planning our merger. It was therefore natural for us to use them as a framework for building our new municipality. And in retrospect, I can tell you that this decision has been a lucky strike – the SDGs has unified us, inspired us – and provided us with a common platform in so many un-anticipated ways. The merger is a fresh start, and we are determined to use this opportunity to its fullest – to see the bigger picture and create something new and better together.

Even though we only are a small municipality in the big world, we also need global partners such as UN Habitat. For three years I was a member of UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and the UN Advisory Group on Gender Issues. I became part of a unique meeting place for more than 70 mayors from all corners of the world. Meta cities, mega cities, large cities and small cities were all represented. Purpose: to identify the challenges, exchange knowledge and experience – and best practices on present and future urban development problems and opportunities. I learned so much from this experience – and realized that local governments, despite our differences, have similar challenges across the world, and that we have a lot to learn from each other – and a lot to gain from closer partnership.

However, dear journalists, our local press did not like that I had a role in an international organization. Why should a local politician be interested in the rest of the world? And use resources on such a thing? Journalists and media professionals have important roles to play to raise the awareness about the global problems we are facing today - and the fact that local communities are a part of the action to solve these problems. I hope that media will give more positive attention to the efforts of local authorities taking actively part in international cooperation.

Through the SDGs, the world has agreed on a roadmap for a sustainable future and every nation is responsible to deliver on the goals by 2030. And within each country we locals need to do the job. We must localize the SDGs. Norway reports to the UN. And this month all Norwegian municipalities received a great big document with the latest edition of expectations from our government. New on the long list – is sustainable development and implementation of the SDGs. We are happy this is being mainstreamed across the nation. It will make it easier for us all!

I sometimes wish we could make a reverse document though – with expectations FROM the municipalities to the government – and to the global community. From the local point of view, I believe that more Nordic mayors and local administrations should seek partnerships with different UN organization. And with financial support and facilitation from the member states, we locals can contribute directly to the urban agenda.

We have so much to learn from others, and Norway can contribute on several issues. I believe we could make better use of our local practical experience. Maybe we could create a national platform to gather and share our local experience – and in this way promote and strengthen an international involvement of Norwegian local authorities. We could maybe create an Urban knowledge Bank.

We have practical experience and best practices to share. For example, from our long tradition in decentralization and giving local authorities considerable decision-making authority, in promoting gender equality and working against social inequality. Also, we can contribute with a “technical” planning practice that implies little corruption and generally a democratic, multidisciplinary and strategic approach. There is a clear link between planning, funding and implementation in Norway.

I will now take you through the short version of the methodological framework we have developed in order to integrate the SDGs in our municipal master plan. As part of the larger municipal merger organizational project, we formed a sub-committee specifically on the SDGs. Both elected officials and administration representatives worked together on this project. Their work resulted in a methodological framework for translating the goals to our local reality - and making them relevant to our local community. In developing this method, our local politicians looked beyond partisan politics and traditional sectors. The Sustainable Development Goals have in this way already helped us to find common ground, to see the bigger picture, and to look at new opportunities for our municipality.

Here’s an illustration showing how we have worked (see slide 8). The upper triangle shows how we started off with the “big things” – and then narrowed down from the global to the local perspective. The lower triangle shows how the SDGs in our local plans are rolled out for implementation. During this process we assessed all the 17 goals and their relevance for new Asker. Then we translated the goals into what they actually mean for our municipality, before we identified which of the 169 targets had most relevance for our work. All the goals are important, but we had to start somewhere. And by using a materiality matrix, we saw that our municipality had more influence over some goals than others. In this way, we identified goals where the local pre-conditions were in place – and opportunities to make positive change.

At this point in our process we have decided on some preliminary priorities for six of the goals. These involve Health, Education, Industry and infrastructure, Sustainable communities, Climate action, and Partnerships for goals. And 34 prioritized targets.

It is important to be aware that the actual content of the SDGs are not something completely new for a municipality. Among our responsibilities are already health services, education, housing policy, infrastructure, clean water and refuse collection and disposal. And we implement measures to reduce climate impact. The SDGs add a global dimension to our planning. They show that we are part of a global community – and that we must all move together toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the past two years and a half we have worked on localizing the goals based on our local context and developed the method I just described. We have made a brochure about this work – it can be found on our web pages. The main activity areas in the new Municipal Master Plan will reflect the six SDGs selected as preliminary municipal priorities. We will of course also include other priorities. In addition, new Asker is to look at consequences for the SDGs in all municipal plans and policy documents.

Now I am excited to tell you more about what I firmly believe is the future of municipal structure. Partnership and Co-creation are at the core of it all! New Asker will be built on the foundation that we’re in this together!

Co-creation means that public, civil and private sectors work together for common interests. Therefore, both as a follow-up to SDG 17 on partnership, and as a pre-condition for co-creation, we have established a specific area of operation for Medborgerskap – Social citizenship and Civic engagement. Partnership and co-creation are not invented by Asker – even though we act like that sometimes 😊 One of the many wisdoms I have gained from working closely with communities in the Global South is how young and elderly people supports each other. For instance, young and elderly people living together in extended family systems. This is an arena where Asker could learn and benefit, for instance in relation to our institutions for elderly people.

It has been such an amazing experience to see how our decision to commit to the SDGs has inspired people. We see so many examples where individuals embrace the SDGs and create their own initiatives in support of sustainable development. The public sector cannot make development happen alone – it is a two-way exchange where ordinary people must take part. If we are to develop functional cities for all, we depend on the resources of people on the ground. This is an aspect I have tried to develop during my time as Mayor in Asker. Meeting ordinary people face to face is what inspires me to do my job. On this slide (see slide 14) you see a mother and daughter who have started a “bytte hytte” – using a shed in their garden as a place to share and exchange used items. And in the middle, you see a local pop up workshop offering simple repairs, instead of buying new – and a stand for sharing books – for free. These are but a few examples. The private sector is for example also very active in support of the SDGs.

All over the world we see young people demonstrating for greater climate action. And in Asker we see that the SDGs inspire children and youth. They want to be involved. The global-local connection is evident to them! Here (slide 15) you see photos from local children visiting the town hall during the school strike for the climate earlier this spring. I am impressed by their knowledge and commitment to the climate cause in particular, and all the SDGs in general. And today a new school strike is scheduled! During 2018 and 2019 all schools in new Asker have worked on an SDG educational program. And from 2020 knowledge of the SDGs will be a part of the new national curriculum for all primary and secondary schools in Norway.

One of the most exciting experiences and results from my involvement with the UN is the three Asker Conferences on Youth and Governance. Last autumn we hosted our third Asker conference together with UN Habitat. 60 young people from new Asker and other parts of the world met to discuss the SDGs and solutions for the future. It is very important that youth involvement leads to more than words and niceties. And I am pleased to say that the recommendations from the conference will provide input to our new Municipal Master Plan from 2020. We have had many positive experiences with our three Asker conferences, and it is important that the North – South exchange goes both ways. We have a lot to learn from how youth in the Global south involves themselves in the development of their communities. Young people meet easier across ethnic, social and national barriers. Historic prejudices and traumas more often disappear among young people if common activities that unites are initiated. Could we, for example, in co-operation with UN Habitat bring the Asker Conference to Kenya? And in this way present our models and experiences in areas such as youth involvement, gender, sports etc. testing them against different realities?

Finally, I would like to show a short movie. On the evening of the Asker conference – also the UN Day - we organized a night hike in support of the Sustainability Goals up one of our many local hills. More than 4000 people from all over Asker, Røyken and Hurum participated and civil society organized all sorts of entertainment and activities. It was a magical night, and through this little film, I hope you all will all get a sense of the energy – and the great feat of cooperation that made this night possible.


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXHInvDoDno>.

I hope you enjoyed the film. The memories from this spectacular evening makes me feel confident that all is possible – as long as we work together - both locally and globally! I hope our work on the SDGs can inspire others – and that we get more opportunities to work together for our common future.

SLIDES

The Urban News you never get from the North

The SDGs in practice
- seen from new Asker municipality



Lene W. Conradi
Mayor Asker Municipality 24 May 2019

1

Building new Asker



The municipal reform in Norway

- 2014: Parliament agrees on municipal structural reform
- 2016: Asker, Hurum and Røyken decide to merge
- 2020: New Asker will be the 8th largest municipality in Norway
- From 60 000 to 93 000 inhabitants
- From 101 square kilometers to 377

2



3

UN HABITAT
Global partnerships




4

International and National expectations



5


Our method



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



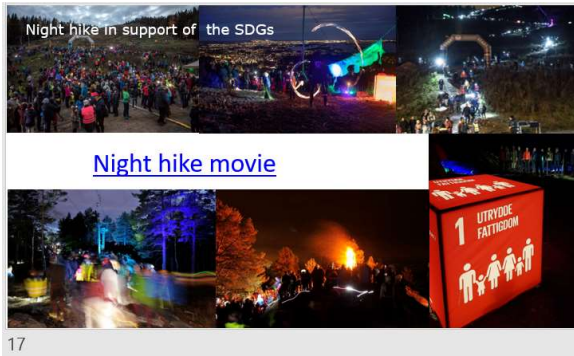
14



15



16



17



18

ODD IGLEBÆK – TRENDS OF INEQUALITY AND HOUSING EXCLUSION IN OSLO

A background note provided and written by Odd Iglebæk for his presentation at the Urban Journalism Academy – arranged by UN Habitat and Habitat Norway in Oslo 24 May 2019. Iglebæk is an architect/journalist and a board member of Habitat Norway.

Oslo has always been a class-divided city. The rich have mostly lived in the west in large flats or villas, while the poorer have been in the east in tenements and later in blocks of flats.

The net income in (2005) in Vestre Aker in the richest parts of Oslo (with very few immigrants) was 619 000 NOK. In the poorer parts of the city it was between 200 000 and 250 000 NOK – a third of the richest. Life-expectancy were 80,5 years at Vestre Aker and 68,4 years at Sagene in the inner-east, i.e. 12 years less. (Espen Søybye)

Oslo population figures: 1855-32 000, 1900-250 000, 1950-430 000, 1970-480 000, 1985-450 000, 2000-500 000, 2019-670 000. Number of immigrants in the year 2006: 120 000 (22% of the total population) Without immigrants, the population of Oslo today would be the equivalent of 1940.

The huge population growth from 1855 to 1900 was based on immigration, mostly from Norway's eastern countryside plus neighbouring parts of Sweden. The poverty in the countryside was huge. In terms of population Oslo was the fastest growing capital in Europe in late 19th century. At its peak, the population increased by ten thousand inhabitants in one year.

Oslo's east-west pattern was established by the early 19th century. It was cemented during the city's first major period of industrialization - from around 1870s until 1910-15. The main source of energy for early industrialization was waterpower. In Oslo this meant the river Akersele, falling close to 200 meters over a stretch of 10-12 kilometres - down to the sea and the harbour - with plenty of waterfalls, which could be used for milling and spinning. The river and its banks became the key cradle of modern industry in Norway, a pattern common to cities like Manchester and Barcelona. The river runs north south. The original eastern part of Oslo included the industries and working-class housing on both banks of the river.

All the people who came to work in the city- mostly young and unmarried man and women - had to be housed in some way or another. The property speculators and the banks saw their opportunities and built first three, and later four, storey tenements at an extremely density – often five rows of buildings in one block (kvarter). The pattern was based on German/Austrian working-class tenement housing.

The further you entered these neighbourhoods, the less daylight and the smaller the rooms. The population density was very high, usually 3-4 persons per room, but there were cases of seven-to-ten sharing one room

and sleeping on shifts. Most schools also had double shifts, one set of pupils in the morning and another in the afternoon.

For the property-speculators, the profits were incredible. There are examples of land for development being sold for ten times what it was bought for, in a period of four years. From 1890 until 1899 the housing stock of Oslo grew by 400% and housing prices with 160 %. (To compare: from 2006 until 2016, house prices in Oslo increased “only” 86 %.)

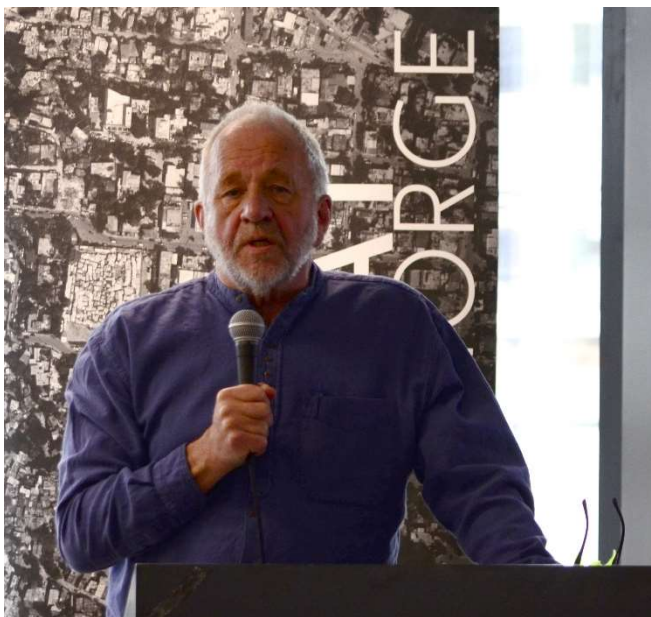
But in 1899 Oslo saw a total collapse in the in the property market. Although rents were halved in some new tenements, 12 % were empty. They were still too expensive for poor people to move in. From 1899 to 1900 the production of bricks declined from 69 to 33 million. The number of building applications were halved in the same year. Six banks went bankrupt, unemployment expanded, and emigration to America exploded, from 5000 in 1898 to 20 000 in 1900. It was not until 1908 did Oslo's population started to growth again.

Almost all housing in eastern Oslo was rented accommodation. Jobs and income were insecure and the possibility to save money to purchase a house of your own was in reality impossible for working-class people, unless you could start some kind of business with other people working for you.

The typical flat had cold water, coal-stoves, single glazing and drop-toilets on the landings between each floor. It should take more than one hundred years until all houses in inner Oslo had water-closets. (I came to Oslo in 1973 and got a small flat at Grünerløkka. It was relatively cheap to live here, but all I had was cold water, electricity, and a drop-toilet in the outhouse in the backyard. The windows faced the neighbour’s gable two meters away.)

In the west there were also tenement-type buildings, usually with large green backyards. In the east it was pebble-stones or asphalt. The flats in the west were much larger, usually four to six rooms. The buildings had two sets of stairs. The main stairs for the owner/renters, and the additional back stairs for the maid.

In large areas of the west, particularly just north of the royal palace, large town-villas of up 300 m² were constructed. They were usually family owned - with large plots of land – and greens at four sides. Homannsbymen and Frogner are the typical examples. Most of the villas here were constructed of brick due to the fire risks.



Odd Iglebæk. Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen.

There were and still are variations to this east-west pattern. In the east you find the rich suburb Nordstrandsskråningen. The location is beautiful. facing the Oslofjord with great views and evening sunsets. In the late 1800s, the area was divided into large garden-plots of 1000, 2000 and sometimes 3000 m². The inhabitants soon arranged to have their “own” electric tramline. The same was the case with Holmenkollen – a large hill north of the centre. Here also the villas face west and south. There is more snow here, so it is excellent to live here for skiing enthusiasts, who can afford it.

Not all factories were located in the east. There were some pockets in the west, with adjacent tenements/ working-class housing.



The views of Oslo from Ekebergskråningen. Photo: Odd Iglebæk

Norway's famous prime minister Einar Gerhardsen, in the second part of the 20th century, grew up in such an area at Majorstua, only 1 km north of the royal palace, Slottet.

From 1911 the Oslo municipality for the first time started to provide a substantial amount of housing for working-class people. During the following twenty years, 7200 flats were built, totally publicly financed. Parallel to this, 6300 were privately built, but with municipal guarantees. In total the schemes provided homes for some 54.000 people.

Early 1900 Ebenezer Howard launched his plan for village-type "garden suburb" housing settlements, called The Garden Cities of Tomorrow. In fact, Howards's ideas have had a major influence on new housing in Oslo in the early parts of the 20th century. The first urban "village" to be built was Arctanderbyen on the slopes of Ekebergskråningen, facing west, comprising typical middle-class rows of rather beautiful houses with front and back-gardens. This "village" did not house working-class tenants, it was too expensive.

The largest of the garden cities were Ullevål Hageby built 1915-1922 in the north side of the city and beside the town's largest hospital, also called Ullevål. Again, this was a well-designed housing area with a lot of green spaces and private gardens. It was and still is very popular among medical professionals. Since the 1960s it has also attracted academics. The new university in Oslo was built in these years and is within a 10-15minutes walk from Ullevål Hageby.

Also, in the eastern part of Oslo the garden city idea is evident in e.g. Lille Tøyen and Torshov. Again, these are well designed houses, but smaller flats and with no private front- or back- gardens. There is an indoor w.c., but no bathroom. During the last few decades, these houses have undergone extensive renovation, including converting lofts and basements to living accommodation. They are very popular with young middle-class couples. (In my professional role as an architect, I have been in charge of around twenty such renovations projects.)

In the 1930s Oslo also saw major functionalist-styled housing developments with very large townhouses, at Heia in Bydøy Allé, and large flats in parallel-blocks at Marienlyst/Kirkeveien. Both are in the west and are still expensive places to live. During WW II there was hardly any construction of new housing. The building industry was geared towards building airports and military fortresses.

In 1946 there were 22, 600 people registered on Oslo Municipality's (Leiegårdskontore) waiting-list for a council house while 4000 were on a list at the housing-cooperative (OBOS). In 1948 the total number waiting had risen to 45 000. Demonstrations were organised outside Stortinget (the parliament) to speed up housing construction in the country and capital.

In fact, until 1950 a lot of the house-building capacity in Norway was used in northern Norway. Here the government was obliged to launch a program to rebuild the homes burnt down by the German occupiers when they left the country in 1945.

A major change in Norwegian and Nordic housing policies came in the 1930s with the establishment of housing cooperatives, organisations building houses for their members. You are on a waiting list to get a flat, and the longer you have had your membership, the better position you have in the queue. Since thousands were waiting, it soon became popular to give membership as birth-presents. By this gift, you secured seniority, when new houses became available.

But it was really only after WWII that the cooperative housing movement took off. It was financed by a combination of member-savings and bank-loans. With social democrats in charge of the government, they soon established state-banks to finance this type of "no-luxury" standard housing. There were different kinds of rent-subsidises and tax-reductions. Soon cooperative houses in Norway were being built by the thousands every year. In Sweden they built one million such housing-units during the 1960s.

And very important, until the early 1980s the prices of these cooperation-flats were controlled according to governmental guidelines and regulations. The same was the case for tenement-flats, and possibly 50 % of all the houses in Oslo was thereby under some form of price-control.

Although the membership of housing-cooperation is individual, it has always been a class-issue. When the rich and the upper middle-class live in flats, they are usually organised as self-owners. In this manner, they are free to buy and sell flats at market-prices. Since 1982, it has been possible to do the same with cooperative flats. However, a member with the longest seniority can always buy the house, if he/she is willing to pay equivalent of the highest price offered, when the flat is up for sale.

In 1948 the municipalities of Oslo and Aker, to east of the city, were merged. This provided the "new" Oslo with large areas to expand. Here, the so-called satellite-towns (drabantbyer), were built to house mainly working-class people. In this manner, the east-west division was maintained. In total, some 15-20 of these drabantbyene were built from the 1950s until today. Usually, the satellite-towns are connected to the underground rail-system 'tunnelbanen'.

Typical examples are Lambertseter, Holmlia and Mortensrud, to the south. Eastwards, in Grorud-dalen we find Bjerke, Årvoll, Veitvet, Beitvedt, Ammerud, Romsaas, Vestli, Stover, Furuset, Tveita, Kalbakken, Manglerud, Haugerud, Oppsal and Rødtvedt. The population in Grorud-dalen grew from 40 000 in 1949 to 195 000 in 1979, i.e. the increase was almost fivefold in 30 years.

Although there are some villas around drabantbyene, most houses are in blocks of flats. My guestimate is that half the total units are in four to seven stories high buildings. The other half is usually in more high-rise type buildings, of eight to fourteen floors, and often on hilltops with vast views.

In the 1960s Oslo had, like the other Nordic capitals, grand plans of inner-city urban motorways. This was combined with tearing down the tenements and building new le Corbusier-inspired blocks of flats. It never really took off. Two exceptions are the flats at Enerhaugen in Oslo (13 stories) and the office-blocks at Hötorget in Stockholm. Both developments were met with massive protest from local people, but they lost. However, if you visit Folkemuseet at Bydøy, you will find some of the original small houses from Enerhaugen well preserved.

Just after WWII Norway passed legislation regulating rents of all inner-city tenements in Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger and Trondheim built before 1938. The purpose was to avoid property owners exploiting the lack of housing, since almost no houses were built 1940-1945. The legislation also declared that the owners were obliged to provide a minimum standard of maintenance. Usually, the rents were kept within the framework of the legislation. However, two methods were used by landlords to increase the profits. One was to change the designation of the flat from unfurnished to furnished. The other was to convert the flats to offices. Close to the city centre there was a good market for such innovations.

In the 1970s, a combination of grassroots engagements, including occupations of tenements planned for demolition, and political initiative in the municipality, changed this. The municipality developed plans to expropriate the tenements, rehabilitate them, and sell them as cooperative housing to the tenants in the property.

It started well, but there was not the necessary parallel political control of the banks. In the late 1980s, interest on housing-loans went from 8 to 18 percent within a few years. As a result, the rehabilitation-programme came to a halt. The state intervened to write off loans or parts of them, but it was not enough, many people living in the newly renovated, now cooperative, houses lost their savings. Usually, this also meant they had to find cheaper accommodation, e.g. move out of Oslo.

Even though there was the great hiccup in the 1980s more or less completely liberating the housing market in Oslo, the east-west differences have not changed. While houses in the far eastern part of the city (Stovner og Søndre Nordstrand) in 2019 are sold for around 41000 kr./m², the prices in the most attractive parts of inner Oslo on the westside (Frogner) are more than double at 88 000 kr./m². (Leieutredning).

More importantly, class-difference, or relative poverty, has increased in recent years. In 2017 some 98 000 children in the country were growing up under conditions officially defined as poverty. That is 10 % of all children in the country. However, this percentage has trebled since 2001. In other words, the number of children in poverty has increased from around 33 000 to close to 100 000 in less than twenty years. And since most children live in households, also the total group of poor people in Norway is rapidly increasing

In Oslo most of the poorest people either live 10-15 km from the centre in parts of Grorudalen, Søndre Nordstrand or in a few pockets in the eastern part of the inner city – Tøyen and Grønland.

The latter can be said to be under double or treble pressure. One reason is that those who live in rented flats owned by the City of Oslo, which there are many of in this part of the city, are on contracts of maximum three years security, previously five years. This generates increased insecurity for planning for the future. The rent in municipal-owned flats follows market-rents, and while average income has grown with 62 %, the rent has grown by 85 %. In other words, the renter has less and less money to spend on other things than accommodation.

A recent report from Oslo municipality provides examples of low-income people who in one case were obliged to spend 60 %, and in another case 77 %, of their income to rent a small flat, the latter in fact owned by Oslo municipality. A similar study in Sweden showed that poor people renting in Sweden spend 36 % on housing, compared to homeowners spending 18%. No doubt, it is expensive to be poor. In fact, of the 25 % with lowest income in Norway, only 48 % own their house compared to 77 % as the national average.

Oslo today has a total of 331 880 households and probably 100 000 flats for renting. The number of so-called second homes were 51 000 in 2015 and increased to 53 000 in 2018. Some 36 000 are owned by private institutions (student-accommodation included ??) and commercial companies. One of the latter is Fredensborg owned by the billionaires Ivar Tollegesen and Tollef Svenkerud. In total they own 35 000 units for renting in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Several thousands of them are flats in Oslo.

The municipality through its company Boligbygg owns 11 000 flats to rent. To compare the municipality of Helsinki, which is the size of Oslo, has 40 000 flats for rent. Their contracts are without time limitations. I suggest this should be a challenge for Oslo!



Oslo, from east towards the north. Photo: Odd Iglebæk

ERIK BERG – ARCTIC CITIES AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Erik Berg is Chair of Habitat Norway.

On medieval European maps describing unknown, dangerous waters in the Arctic a text frequently hits you. “Cave! Hic Dragones”. Watch out! Here are dragons. Looking at global news coverage of ongoing human developments here, it could seem as if present day media professionals still are afraid. It is good reason to be afraid – not of dragons – it is the climate, loss of nature and biodiversity that give reason for fear. People at Lennox island in Canada is afraid. They have lost 400 acres in a few generations. Melting ice is not a hot enough topic?

Regarding the issue of climate and cities - international, national and local media tend to focus on the drama of island states in the Pacific and Indian oceans threatened by raising sea level, extreme weather, typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. They certainly deserve their headlines. The challenges of cities, towns and settlements in the Arctic, however, on our own doorstep and their vulnerable peoples, economies, nature and biodiversity - located in some of the richest countries of the world – receive relatively less attention. Despite situations where whole settlements are disappearing in the sea. This is a challenge.

Extreme weather conditions in the Arctic limit human presence to relatively few cities and settlements. Some 80 per cent of the population lives in 400 communities that constitute less than 1 per cent of global population and 15 per cent of the land area. Indigenous peoples make up 10 per cent. The population is increasingly moving from small villages to larger towns. Privatisation of dwellings have become an important issue across most of the Arctic. Devolution processes has been going on in several countries from state level to sub-government, regional level.

The Arctic Council promotes cooperation, coordination, and interaction among Arctic states and its peoples. Permanent members include eight states and six organisations of indigenous peoples. Presently, the Council manages six working groups; none is dealing directly with local government nor urban development. Mayors are not represented in the Council – not even as observers.

Because of this neglect, in May 2017, eleven mayors took an important step to convene an Arctic Mayors’ Forum in Fairbanks, Alaska, in May 2017. They reached agreement to prioritise city to city cooperation in sectors such as economic development, infrastructure, information technology and climate adaption. UN-Habitat has established an Arctic Cities Resilience Network that met for the first time in Reykjavik, Iceland last autumn. The effectiveness of these Arctic local government initiatives, however, are seriously hampered by lack of financial resources.

Please also be aware that if we look at the United Nations’ New Urban Agenda (NUA) from 2016, it is not referring to the emerging challenges of the Arctic cities nor of the Antarctic. The last time the UN Human Settlements Programme – UN Habitat - discussed “Arctic Cities” was in 2008 – based on a resolution proposed by Russia. That was when I became interested in the topic.

I would now like to draw your attention to how climate changes manifest themselves in different ways in cities, towns and settlements across the Arctic focusing on cases from Russia, the United States, and Canada.

The main problems for Russia’s Arctic cities are thawing permafrost and increased precipitation. From 1999 to 2013, soil temperatures have increased by almost 1 degree Celsius. Particularly hard hit is Norilsk, a city of 180,000 inhabitants 290 km north of the Polar circle. It is Russia’s most polluted city as a result of nickel production. Cracking and collapsing physical infrastructure are an increasing challenge. In Norilsk, it is estimated that 60 per cent of buildings are deformed.

“Greenpeace” has documented that thawing creates thousands of breaks on oil and gas pipes, resulting in irreversible pollution of land, air, and water. In Siberia, at least seven giant craters have emerged with exploding methane from the ground. Such polluted conditions cause the anthrax bacteria to develop. A 12-year-old boy has died of contamination.

At the same time, Russia is expanding military bases and infrastructure for oil and gas exploitation - like other countries in the North. President Putin believes that increasing temperatures will benefit the nation. Expenses related to prevention and repair would be enormous and like in the US and Canada could not be covered through regular budgets. National media hardly mention the problems it creates. Question: Is the UN prepared for the new challenge of humanitarian action in the Arctic – expertise and resource wise?

In Alaska it is claimed that someone forgot to close the door of the refrigerator. Warmer temperatures in Alaska is evolving at twice the speed compared to the rest of the United States. It has consequences for the whole of the American continent also with wider global repercussions. State authorities have identified 31 towns at particular risk. Shaktoolik is among the top four. The sandbank on which the settlement is built loses 4,000 square meters per year. The ice cover along the coast protecting it from storms and massive sea waves is shrinking because of increasing temperatures. Some years it is entirely gone. The Obama administration granted USD 400 million to upgrade physical infrastructure in coastal societies of Alaska. So far USD 1 million have been received. With climate sceptic Donald Trump as US president, there is little reason for optimism. Subsequently, young people are giving up hunting and fishing and moving to the cities.

In Canada, indigenous people are struggling for their capital city. Following a referendum in 1995, Iqaluit became the capital of Nunavut territory. It implied home rule for the Inuits and control over local institutions. Its population has since increased from 3,000 – mostly Inuits – to 8,000, of which today only half are Inuits. English has become the main language. The native language is disappearing, and with it a unique culture. Thawing tundra and melting sea ice makes the culture of hunting impossible as it has been practised for hundreds of years. New opportunities need to be identified and developed.

The Inuit way of life has also changed dramatically because of immigration from all parts of the globe. What the Nunavut territory was meant to fight – Southern domination – has become the result. The median income for non-Inuits is USD 86,000 per year, while the income for Inuits is USD 19,900 (2014). The unemployment rate is 20 per cent, and the suicide rate has grown to one of the world’s highest at 63.9 per 1,000 inhabitants. Prevalence of family violence is high. Amid these traumas, the seal skin industry was a pillar for the Inuits and an opportunity to maintain and develop the ancestral culture. The ban against seal skin trading initiated by the European Union (EU) in the early 1980s led to a collapse in the international demand. In one year, income for hunters fell from CAN 54,000 to 1,000. In Nunavut 7 of 10 Inuit children went to school hungry.

A 2014 report shows that 40 per cent of adult Inuits have experienced sexual abuse as children. According to a recent Truth Commission, Inuits were sent to boarding schools where abuse was common.

CONCLUSION

State of Arctic Cities Report. Data collection and analysis is an important normative task for UN-Habitat. As part of its flagship State of the World’s Cities series, plans are prepared for a “State of Arctic Cities Report”. Its main functions will be producing and collecting basic data and developing policy recommendations as well as goals for action at city and regional level. The report will fill vast information gaps and convene relevant stakeholders on all levels for exchange of experiences and knowledge. Given resource constraints and climate challenges in some of the Arctic countries, the report will also focus on future investment needs in relation to climate adaptation and mitigation. Global interest in the Arctic would increase considerably through such a UN report. Presently, innovative climate funds localising activities in the Arctic are lacking.

UN Habitat last year sent an application to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to fund the production a State of Arctic Cities Report. It was forwarded to the Ministry of Modernisation Local Government with the argument that the Foreign Affairs does not deal with cities. Hopefully, in the Ministry of Modernisation and Local government this important application will soon be handled. As data on cities generally are lacking.

Increased geopolitical importance Geopolitics and geophysics meet in Arctic cities, towns and settlements. The region's strategic military importance is coming to a head, with melting sea ice and new trade routes. Borders on continental shelves are in the process of demarcation. Some of the world's largest energy and mineral reserves are found here. Tourists with purchasing power are starting to grasp the uniqueness of the Arctic nature, wildlife, and immaterial and material world heritage, including architecture. Frost and the Northern Lights have become commercialised, implying employment and income opportunities for local populations. New mosques signal that migrants and refugees from Southern regions see opportunities. Arctic cities are the starting point for new investments in resource management and in economic, social and physical infrastructure, both on sea and land. Arctic cities are however the most vulnerable when it comes to people and their social, economic and physical infrastructure.

Information technology, with its lines and cables, is a driver for economic development. It also connects cities in the Arctic. More direct governance and forms of collaboration are emerging, including between cities across national borders, to regulate and control environmental, social and economic challenges. The direct dialogue between Kirkenes, Norway and Murmansk, Russia is probably more effective than the dialogue between the respective capitals of Oslo and Moscow. Cities and regions are important facilitators for Norway's partnerships in the Barents Sea region.

While the most important decisions regarding the Arctic and its future are still made far away from its cities, new trends are evident: circumpolar cities stand out as stakeholders and problem solvers. New knowledge, research, and education institutions are fast emerging, and stronger, more varied business activities are following right behind. A global trend described by Norwegian researchers Henrik Thune and Leiv Lunde is well reflected here: power moves downwards from state to local government, civil society, business and academia (6). Such players are now strengthening their urban foundation, becoming standard setters in an intensified struggle of regional and global interest.

Developments in Iqualit and Nunavut are in the hands of conservationists far away. The Inuits have, however, begun a struggle for the rights and opportunities that home rule implies. The EU ban on seal skin trade is being challenged, Inuktituk-language schools for children are being established, and efforts to preserve traditional art forms such as throat singing, drum dancing, and storytelling are underway. The city has become the focal point of the struggle for the identity of an indigenous people.



Erik Berg, Chair Habitat Norway. Here together with Eduardo Moreno, UN-Habitat. Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen

In Russia, new cities and towns are on the drawing board as new harbours and military bases are being developed along the northern coast. China recently announced its plan to create an ice-free "Polar Silk Road." Transport time – the time at sea - could be reduced with 40%.

ANNE H. SIMONSEN – MEDIA’S ROLE IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Anne H. Simonsen is an Associate Professor at Oslo Met.

An honor to be invited.

I am associate professor at IJM, OsloMet and responsible for a BA course we call “Journalist in a globalized world”. Each year we send approximately 50 students to all corners of the world, to do journalistic long-reads on issues related to globalization, and the reason I am here today is that some of my students have done some rather impressive fieldworks that managed to get the attention from UN Habitat Norway.

Unfortunately, I cannot show you anything, as their stories are yet to be graded, but I can tell you a little about their work:

My students are free to choose what they want to work on, as long as it is related to globalization in one way or another. Conflict, poverty, economic development, gender, migration, whatever they are interested in. And over the last couple of years, I find that a growing number of students have chosen to work on, or at least integrate, urban issues into their work.

Three years ago, I had a student who looked at city planning in poor areas of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. He was probably one of the first to address urbanization as his main topic.

Last year and the year before, three separate groups of students went to Ulan Bator in Mongolia, to look at the contrasts between nomadic and urban lives. Some worked with climate and environmental issues, such as pollution, others explored how children are raised in relation to these contrasts. Social mobility, and the difference between a slum and a so-called arrival city, were issues addressed by most of them.

This year, sustainable tourism in European cities like Barcelona and Venice has been on the agenda, and I have also had the pleasure to supervise a few highly creative and independent projects: One student who chose to explore a shopping mall in Djakarta as a social microcosmos, mirroring modern Indonesia, and another who stayed for weeks in the fairly unchartered sprawls of Tananarive in Madagascar, exploring everyday life in deep poverty.

They all come home with complex and thought-provoking stories that make me very proud.

Urbanization is a global trend that profoundly changes how we organize ourselves on Mother Earth. As a phenomenon, urbanization is complex and fascinating and scary and innovative and there is lots and lots of politics involved within cities, between cities, between cities and nation states. Yet, traditionally it has not been the easiest aspect of globalization to sell to the students. It has been difficult to find a suitable curriculum for journalism students with no previous experience from university studies. The literature is usually quite complex, abstract and hard to penetrate and operationalize.

What makes it even more complicated is that the concept of urbanization itself is hard to operationalize. Journalism is a profession that deals with concretes, and large numbers and intricate statistics, or slow and often muddled and entangled social processes do not automatically provide for a good and easily accessible journalistic story.

Urbanization is thus more likely to play the role of a dimension of other, and more tangible stories, on e.g. poverty, environmental issues, such as pollution, planning issues such as people being forced to move from their neighborhoods in relation to big sports events, etc.



Anne H. Simonsen. Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen.

In my view, the best way for journalists to promote sustainable urban development is to identify the issues, ask the right questions and to have their ears to the ground. It sounds simple, but I am afraid it is not.

Journalists are trained to sniff out economic and political power, but in a globalized world, power has become fragmented and it is often difficult to understand, and to access.

There is also the growing challenge of getting journalists out into the field at all. Media houses today do, increasingly, serve as curators for content

produced outside of the in-house news rooms. Also, urban related stories are often treated on a discursive level, such as politicians quarreling about planning, or the shape of a new art museum. Political protest is more easily treated as a question of ideology than of living conditions.

On the ground exploration is quite rare, and it is my impression that journalists often lack observational skills, as well as language, when it comes to urban politics. They are not trained to read the urban landscape, (or other political landscapes for that matter) and journalists may thus become too dependent upon referring talking heads rather than exploring political agendas already in motion.

Journalistic storytelling must be effective, and the competition for the attention of an audience is hard. As a result, journalistic reports often appear as quite essentialist, fragmented and they sometimes over-simplify important complexities. We like it if something is good or bad, if there are villains and heroes and victims.

Yet, I am hopeful on behalf of the ambitious journalistic story, and I find that several journalists and media houses are trying to address social and political complexities in new ways. New technology and new platforms provide us with immense possibilities to access people's minds and hearts. Several media houses are these days experimenting with ways to get stories on climate change across in new and engaging ways, something that everybody saw as a doomed project only a year ago.

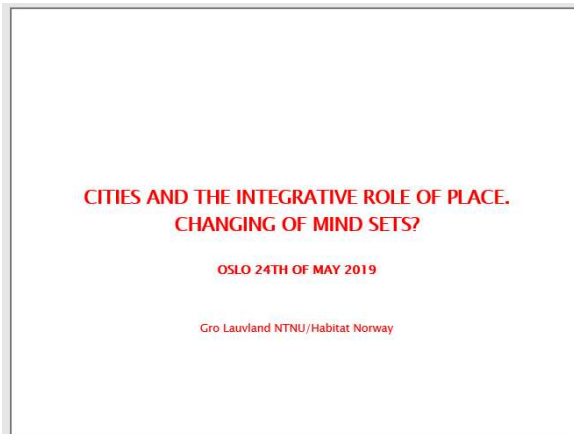
The challenge is to make stories on urbanization matter. To link the small and the large in intelligent ways. To identify and analyze politics, whether it is open political agendas or more tacit processes. To add landscape reading to the journalistic toolbox. And to take peoples' lives seriously.

INCLUSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT – ADDRESSING INEQUALITY

GRO LAUVLAND – CITIES AND THE INTEGRATIVE ROLE OF PLACE. CHANGING OF MIND SETS?

Gro Lauvland is an Associate Professor NTNU and board member of Habitat Norway.

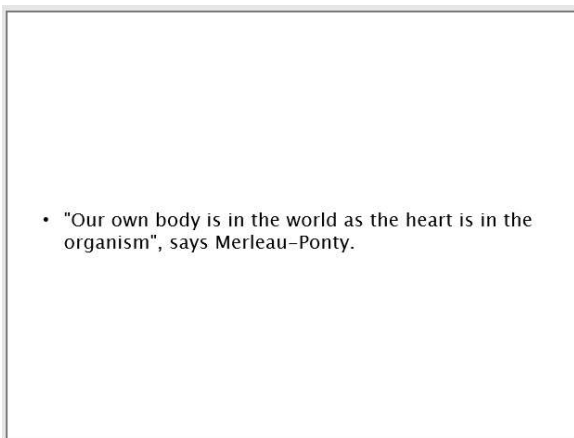
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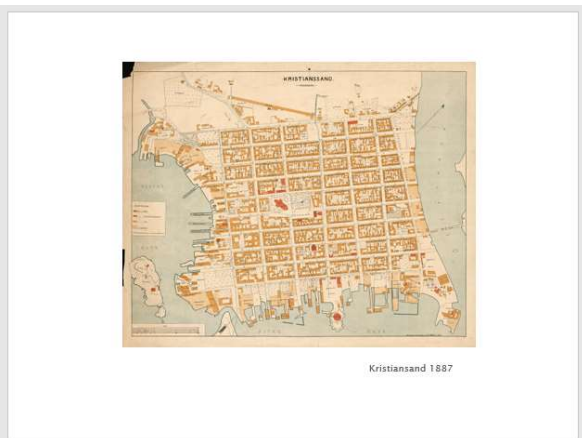
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4

- OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD IS MANIFESTED IN WHAT WE MAKE AND PRODUCE.

5

- Cities are growing at a pace we have never witnessed before.
- Historic buildings are destroyed and replaced with new, instrumentally planned, short-lived buildings.
- The urban poor experience forced eviction from the city centres.
- New buildings – also public institutions – often have a lifetime only up to thirty, forty years.

6



Kristiania 1881.

7



8



9

- UN sustainability goal number 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

10

ARCHITECTURE BELONGS TO THE ARTS,
AND IT UNITES
POIESIS AND PRAXIS,
AESTHETICS AND ETHICS

11

- **COGNITION**
(THEORY WITHIN THE SCIENCES... AND MODERN
PHILOSOPHY)
-

- **THOUGHT**
(PHILOSOPHY)

**A POETICAL UNDERSTANDING/
METAPHYSICS**
(PHILOSOPHY)

12

Cognition: "...the chief manifestation of the
cognitive processes, by which we acquire and
store up knowledge, is the sciences. (...)

See Arendt, Hannah, *The human condition*. Chicago:
University of Chicago Press 1958, pp. 170-171.

13

Thought: "Thought, the source of art works, is
manifest without transformation or
transfiguration in all great philosophy...(...)

See Arendt, Hannah, *The human condition*. Chicago:
University of Chicago Press 1958, pp. 170-171.

14



From Charlie Chaplin's *City Lights* (1931)

15



Lacaton and Vassal's project for Place Léon Aucoc

16



HUBRIS:
Ikaros and Daidalos

17



From Kolkata. Photo: Wera Sæther

18



19



The Opera House, see: <https://snohetta.com/projects/42-norwegian-national-opera-and-ballet>

20



From Kleven in Mandal

21



Stormen, Bodø. Photo: David Grandorge

22



Stormen, Bodø. Photo: David Grandorge

23

- Daniel Rossbottom in DRDH Architects says: "Architecture is a collective art; it is made for the citizen. Architects have responsibilities beyond themselves, to people, the urban realm, history and the future. Buildings should be good neighbours and good hosts."

24



25

JACK MAKAU – MUKURU, NAIROBI – PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT?

Jack Makau is the Director of Know your City/Slum Dwellers International, Kenya.

SLIDES



1

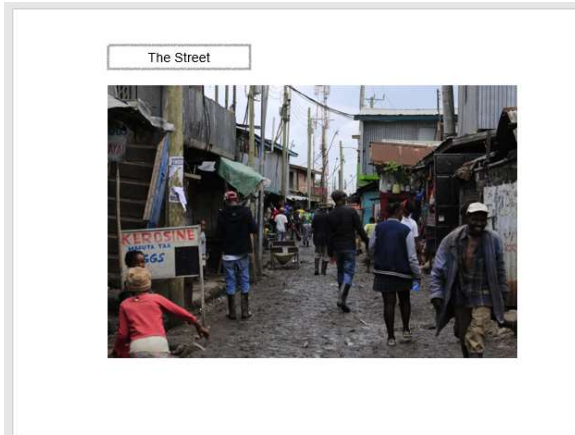
Urbanisation is a global phenomena

And so are the challenges of urbanisation such as poverty and inequality; migration; climate change.

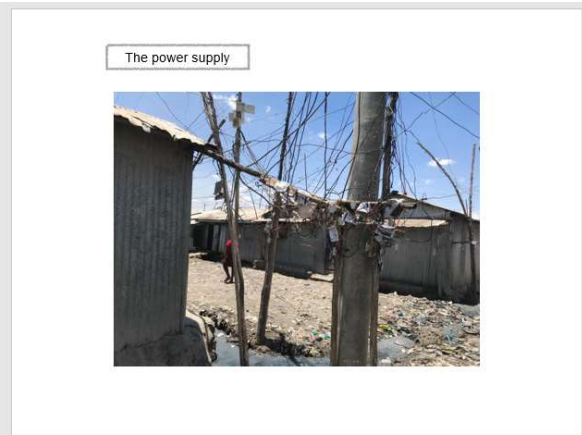
The physical contexts may be completely different, but the story is the same.

This is the story of Mukuru Slums in Nairobi, Kenya...

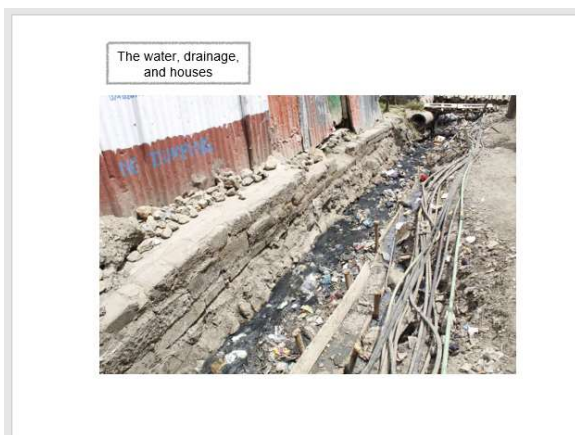
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About Mukuru informal settlement

- 100,561** households & **302,000** people
- 7 billion ksh** annual economy
- 670 acres** of land divided between **230+** land deed holders
- Average **234** households share **1 tap**
- 94%** of residents are **tenants**
- Average **67** people share **1 toilet**
- Housing density is up to **240 hh/acre**
- Services run by **cartels**: households pay **142%** more for electricity & **300%** more for water

Data source: participatory research by Muungano wa Wanawazi, Akiba Meshinani Trust & partners, 2015-17

6

In 2017 Mukuru is declared to be a Special Planning Area

Kenya Physical Planning Act 2012: a County can designate as Special Planning Area an area which has unique development and environmental potential while also raising significant urban design and environmental [social, economic, and physical] challenges"

- Potentially one of the largest slum upgrading projects, ever
- Gazetted in 2017 by Nairobi City County government
- Development suspended for 2 years while an 'integrated development plan' is prepared—to be delivered August 2019
- Innovative, large-scale, collaborative community planning process:
 - Led by Nairobi County government and Mukuru's residents
 - Involving 40+ organizations from civil society, academia, private sector

DECLARATION OF MUKURU KWA NJENGA, MUKURU KWA NJENGA
www.miuungano.net/mukuru

7

The Planning Structure

8

We are here

9

Whatever the context and whatever the planning regime...

Having communities at the centre of the processes of urbanisation is critical

10

Connecting households to the planning in Mukuru

www.miuungano.net/mukuru

11

Connecting households to the planning in Mukuru

12



13

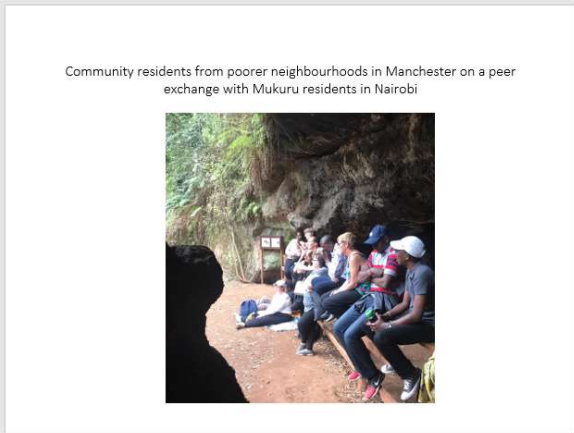
The ideas of change

And the ways of involving communities

Can be shared and used

Globally

14



15



16

ELLEN DE VIBE – THE CITIES AND HOUSING FOR ALL? SOME LIFELONG EXPERIENCES

Ellen de Vibe is Chief Town Planner, Oslo Municipality – Agency for Planning and Building Service

Thank you for invitation to talk at this important gathering. I will very briefly comment on the Norwegian housing policy and market. Secondly, I will talk about some of our tools to make housing areas sustainable and equitable. - Finally, I will swiftly mention an ongoing revision of our housing policy.

Norway is, in relative terms, an affluent country. After WW2 it was a clear goal to make everybody own their dwelling. «Owning» means in this term owner occupation or being partial owner through your membership in a housing association – ‘borettslag`.

Over the years advantageous tax reliefs had the ownership policy being approved by all political parties. The rents in the housing association were regulated at a low cost. During the 1980’s dysfunctional mechanisms turned up; due to lack of housing people started to pay black money to get a dwelling. The housing market was then liberalized, and prices were not any longer regulated and public land being sold off reached market cost. Today the housing associations/co-operations covers 40% of the housing in Oslo. The associations have limits on sub-letting flats to 3 years & the members have the right of pre-emption depending on how old your membership is. The revenue from selling new dwellings is returned to the housing association. The rental market is weak, with few professional actors.

The Norwegian housing politics is based on home ownership, and the goal is that everyone should own their own home. Today 82,3% does exactly that. The tool is tax subsidies on the 23% of the interest of your loan. Everyone gets this subsidy, no matter how high income, and the amount of the loan. The smaller rental sector is dominated by private households who rent out part of their home, or a second house, or a flat they are not using, for a limited period. And semi-professional rental companies. On the positive side, the wealth created by rising housing prices, is evenly distributed along the majority of the population. On the negative side the gap between the house owners and the tenants increases proportionally as the prices go up and makes it more difficult for those who does not own to break into the market. As you can see the majority of Norwegians own their own home. Even 1/2 of immigrants & single parents owns their dwelling. Only 1/3 of low-income people is in the same situation. In other words, the Norwegian models helps to distribute wealth, but also keeps the very poor people outside the market. Today half of buyers in their 20’s get help from parents to buy their first home. In 2003 39% of the low-income households were owning their home, but in 2016 the share of homeowners had decreased to 29%, it means it has decreased by 25%.¹

Only 49 of all the single parents with young children are owning compared to 85,5% of couples with small children and 92,7 of couples with larger children. (SSB). Even if 58% of immigrants owns their home too, it is a low number compared to the average inhabitant. (SSB). For the older generation the owner occupation politics works as a distributor of wealth. 70% of the national savings are in real estate, and with a high ownership rate this wealth is distributed through the masses. For the younger generation it works as a divider because of the explosive increase in housing prices recent years. Half of the house buyers in their 20’s gets help from parents to buy their first home, which both drives the prices up, and separates between the ones who got financial backing from home and those who don’t.

Implementations to respond to current needs and issues, from the planning authority’s perspective. Many fiscal mechanisms affect the housing market heavily. However, we think how you plan the housing projects is important. I will talk about 8 of these tools:

Oslo is a city of growth, as in many cities. Planning the development must meet the challenge both of securing quality and with “hot” or “cold” market in different parts of town. Framework plans like planning programs

¹ Levekårsundersøkelsen EU-SILC (SSB)

with guideline briefs for public space structures is one such tool. This is used when the land ownership is not too complicated & the area is market “mature”, i.e. ready to be developed. In complicated situation, with the need for instance to use compulsory purchase to require necessary land for instance tube lines, we use more legally master plans. Massive pressure to build compact micro flats, of insufficient size in Oslo’s real estate market, has made it necessary to have a tool to regulate the sizes of the housing.

The apartment size norm is one of the tools. This caters for households of different sizes & allows for different phases of housing career locally. The norm is applied differentiated throughout the city according to what sizes the different districts lack. A good example of a housing estate with variation in sizes and typology is Tiedemannsjordet with apartments from 37-132m² and a mix between townhouses, apartments and 2-level apartments from 2-6 rooms. The tower block at the back is a refurbished office block turned into flats. In some projects, such as student housing, there is possibilities to disregard the norm of size and distribution. To ensure quality in this small units, we made a policy for compact housing, which among other things looks at innovative storage solution, internal communal spaces, ratio between façade width and depth of the flats. The policy was developed in cooperation between the student union housing cooperation, a private developer exploring compact housing & the PBA. At the turn of the century we also saw a lot of new projects built too densely, lacking qualities in the outdoor communal spaces. We reviewed 25 different projects and realized that the town planning concept was more important than the density. A quite norm for design of outdoor spaces was developed to ensure sunlight, playgrounds and other thing that were not specified in the national building codes. The norm is differentiated for 4 zones according to their urban design principles, requiring from 0 to 20% outdoor space to built floor ratio. The norm is also flexible for infill plots and historic building in existing structure. The Oslo norm for blue/green factor is a new tool for implementing more green an blue structures in the urban development. The tool with points for different types of green and blue assets such as trees, plants and water handling, gives the developer a choice to how she wants to contribute to better climate adaption. Different levels of coefficients are provided for the inner and outer city.

Oslo has socioeconomic deprived areas, as most cities. 3 different districts have the last 10 years had special action programmes to increase physical, social and governance related improvement. The work is very much related to creating meeting places for people of different backgrounds. It’s about mobilizing young people to take responsibility for their own community. It’s also about making people be part of community. The Library at Tøyen is allocated for youngsters up to the age of 15 only, you are not allowed to wear shoes & and grownups are not admitted. The CDP of Oslo, passed by City Council in January, gives the framework for a more inclusive and equitable housing provision. As you can see here, if you are a nurse with middle income, you are not able to pay for more than 5% of all the available dwellings in Oslo. There is a need for new

economic models. In the CDP the following goals exist: Variation of apartment sizes in the districts. Areas with homogeneous sizes and typologies should be supplemented with other types. More and affordable housing should provide an alternative between the ordinary market and what is offered the most disadvantaged. Areas with today’s lowest prizes should be developed with additional qualities, and not too many disadvantaged people in the same area.

Everyone else who is not considered disadvantaged, is subject to the general market to find a place to live. In Oslo 70% owns their own home, compared to the



Ellen de Vibe. Chief Town Planner, Oslo Municipality – Agency for Planning and Building Service. Photo: Oddrun Helen Hagen

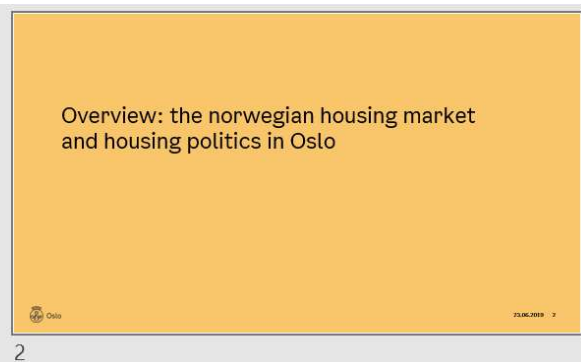
rest of Norway with even 80% homeowners. Like in other growing cities the prices in Oslo, has risen so fast, that it is very hard for people with a normal income to buy an apartment. There is a whole new generation of middle-class city inhabitants who cannot participate in the current house owner market, that earlier would have been able to buy their own home. The nurse index is looking at how many of the available housing units a person with a normal income is able to buy. Other big cities in Norway, is much more affordable. For a single person with a low, or unstable income and no capital, it is almost impossible to get into the real estate market. This would not be a problem if there was an alternative, like a stable and professional rental market, but it is not the situation in Norway.

In rest of Europe the financial crisis is the reason of the housing crisis. The financial crisis from 2009 did not hit Norway very hard, but the rising prices excludes a large part of the inhabitants and creates the same question about affordable housing for all, as it has the same effect of pushing out even people with an stable income, to other regions.

These days, Oslo is about to adopt a new strategy for architecture. This strategy also includes a «Programme for quality and good housing environments». Qualities can be both spatial, social, physical and visual. A list with 12 themes is discussed at different perspectives, from the city to the apartment, all with a focus on climate and environmental and social sustainability. We are inspired by many foreign examples from Austria, Germany to Denmark for instance. Oslo is working on a housing policy, because we want the policy to also include those who are not able to buy a home, but too well off enough to pay for municipal housing. A housing policy for the low to middle income families of the city. Reports on background research and evaluation, and strategies for pilot projects are about to be released soon.

Finally; FutureBuilt is a 10-year pilot programme of 50 full scale model projects during the period 2010–2020. It happens in cooperation with ambitious municipalities and private as well as public developers. Oslo has about 34 projects, many of which are completed. The pilot projects shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport, energy and material consumption by at least 50 per cent. We hope to continue the programme into FUB 2.0 with focus on circular economy, reuse of buildings and components as well as our choices and habits in everyday life. This housing project of 30 first-home flats at Furuset is owned by a Christian non-profit organization, Betanien. 40% of the rental flats are distributed by the city district to homeless people, the rest to young people under the age of 35. Geothermal heating pump, solar panels on the roof, prefabricated compact timber components give passive house standard. The outdoor garden provides eatable plants & bicycle pavilion with workshop. This is not an ordinary housing project in Oslo, but it is inspiring us to make the housing market in Oslo more equitable.

SLIDES



Housing co-operatives & owner occupation



Photo left: Typical 19th century buildings organized as co-operations. Photo center: Typical post war co-operation housing. Photo both: Rolf Sandnes FBE. Photo right: Perimeter block close to the forest with an internal garden.

Oslo

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3

The dualism of the norwegian model; both a distributor of wealth and a segregator

82,3%
home ownership

29%

Low income households own their own home (2016)

The majority of the Norwegians own their own home.

49%
Of single parents with small children owns

58%
Of immigrants owns

Oslo

73.06.2019 4

4

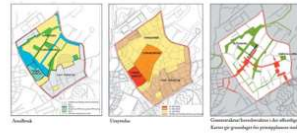
Innovations in municipal planning in Oslo

Oslo

73.06.2019 5

5

Framework plan for development and for public space



Oslo

73.06.2019 6

6

Oslo norm for apartment sizes and distribution

- Category 1: max 35% to be 35-50m² BRA
- Category 2: min 40% to be over 80m² BRA of wich 20% can be a 20m² integrated rental unit.
- Differentiated norm according to where the project is to be in town (2013)

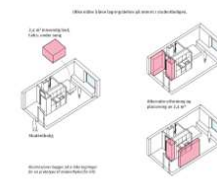


Oslo

73.06.2019 7

7

Oslo norm for Compact housing policy

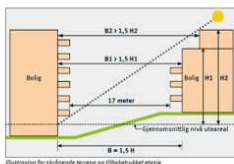


Oslo

73.06.2019 8

8

Oslo norm for Communal outdoor space



Oslo

73.06.2019 9

9

Oslo norm for Blue/Green Factor

Utsatte	Utsatte	Utsatte	Utsatte
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10



Oslo

73.06.2019 10

10

Area improvement programmes



Furuset library. Architect Rodae arkitekter AS Photo: Marco Heijds



23.06.2018 11

11

A more equitable housing politic for Oslo to come...

Oslo

23.06.2018 12

12

Oslo Comprehensive Development Plan

- More rental apartments and a more professional rental market.
- More affordable housing, both ownership and rentals.
- More municipal housing, distributed evenly over the city.
- Experiments with new solutions, both construction and ownership models, housing concepts and sustainable architecture.

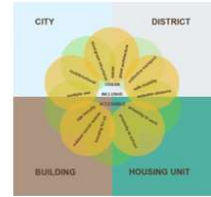
The nurse index Oslo: 5%
Kristiansand 57% Bergen 35% Trondheim 29%



23.06.2018 13

13

Architecture policy and housing quality programme



23.06.2018 14

14

Facts about housing prices in Oslo

- The average price/m² sold flats in 2018 was app. 70% higher than the rest of Norway
- Property prices in Oslo have risen almost 200% from 2003 to 2018

15

We should ease access by offering:

- Affordable rental homes where residents have a role in maintenance. Inspired by Almenbolig* (Denmark)
- First time dwellings where the city pays for and holds 20% ownership
- From rental to ownership dwellings where rent includes down payment of mortgages



Sisseløkken Syd
Architect: AJ Gruppen

16

16



17

Affordable housing: Ulsholtsvein Furuset



Architect: Høegh Schultz Arkitektur
Landskap: Stenstvik Arkitektur
Photo: Tove Lauluten

18

ATTACHMENTS

INVITE



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. Habitat Norway can be contacted for any further information at 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



FOLK

PROGRAMME

Tentative Programme

WHEN
24 May 2019
08:30 am - 12:30

VENUE
"Folk Oslo", Torggata
15, 8th floor, vls-a-vls
Youngstorgtet

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

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

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 Huyrh and Helge Onsrud, Habitat Norway

10.30 -11.00 Coffee/tea Break

11.00 - 12.30 Inclusive Urban development - addressing inequality

- *Cities and the integrative role of place.* Changing of mind sets? Associate Professor Gro Lauwland, 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 Huyrh and Helge Onsrud, Habitat Norway

12.30 END

- Opportunity for individual interviews, photo session etc.

PHOTO EXHIBITION: SDG 11 - TEN TARGETS IN A GLIMPSE



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



FOLK