
COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Panel discussion: Affordable housing and inclusive urban development for All

Organised by: Division for Inclusive Social Development (UNDESA)

& UN HABITAT

Monday, 10 February 2020, 1:15pm – 2:30pm,

Conference Room E, UNGA Building, New York

Background

Lack of access to affordable housing and inclusive urban development for all people, has been one of the underlying causes for a number of problems including homelessness that challenge social development in both developed and developing countries. By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, Member States and the United Nations committed to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for all nations and peoples in all segments of society- leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first.

It is against this background, on 10 February 2020, during the 58th session of the Commission for Social Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs through its Division for Inclusive Social Development (UNDESA/DISD), in collaboration with Member States, UN agencies and civil society partners, will organise a panel discussion along the sideline of the 58th Commission for Social Development session, to make a contribution to the Commission and relevant global discourses and policy development.

The Panel discussion will aim to identify key challenges, opportunities and explore promising strategies and practical solutions to promote affordable housing and inclusive urban development for all, including in particular for those in vulnerable situations such as older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, indigenous peoples and the homeless.

Chair/Moderator the host of the event will open the session with a brief welcome remarks and introduction of moderator and panellists. Remarks shall be delivered by a representative of UN-Habitat . The Chair will then invite the panelists to speak, each up to 7 minutes. Following the panel presentations, the Chair will facilitate an interactive dialogue among panelists and lead discussants and other participants, and then invite questions and comments from the floor.

Profiles of the panel

Chairperson/moderator

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Speakers/Panelists

Ms. Francesca Deferrari, Officer-in-Charge of the UN- Habitat New York Office

Ms. Marissa Plouin, currently coordinates the OECD's work on affordable housing policies and the OECD Affordable housing database in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. In more than 8 years at the OECD, she has worked with national, regional and city governments around housing and urban policies, climate change, inclusive growth and governance. Prior to the current role, she led the OECD Champion Mayors initiative and contributed to the OECD's cross cutting work on inclusive Growth in the Office of the Secretary General. She also advised on housing affordability, urban policy and other matters to the Governments in France and USA.

Mr. Emeka Obioha, from Nigeria, is a full professor of Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences and Research Chair, at Walter Sisulu University, South Africa. He had previously worked as a Social Development Researcher and Expert at the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) and Professor at various universities in Lesotho, Nigeria and South Africa.

Mr. Jan Wampler, is a Professor of Architecture, and Director of the Undergraduate Program in MIT-Massachusetts Institute of Technology and also a Distinguished Professor in University of South Florida. In the past four decades, Mr. Wampler worked and led in various capacities in teaching, designing and administrating urban development and housing in different cities in the United States of America. For instance, early in 1960s, he worked in San Juan, Puerto Rico as Director of the Diseño Urbano at ARUV. During this time, he designed numerous housing projects and received the First Design Award in 1968 from Progressive Architecture for the project La Puntilla in the old city of San Juan. Wampler was Director of the Planning Design Group for the Boston Redevelopment Authority during the time he designed the 1976 International Exposition that was to be built in Boston. Mr. Wampler published numerous papers and several books on architecture and urban development.

Ms. Ingalill Wahlroos-Ritter is a well-known architect, educator, a full Professor and Dean of the School of Architecture at Woodbury University. During a twenty-year teaching career, she has taught at Yale University, Cornell University, UCL Bartlett School of Architecture, and SCI-Arc. Ingalill is also Director of WUHO, the Woodbury University Hollywood gallery, and has produced over 100 exhibitions that have broadened the way the public views architecture. Ingalill has collaborated on multiple award-winning projects including as façade consultant on Bloom with DoSu Architects, the Portland Aerial Tramway with AGPS, the Centre Pompidou exhibition, Continuities of the Incomplete, with Morphosis, and as project architect for the Corning Museum of Glass with Smith-Miller + Hawkinson.
