



ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2024

Side event organized by the Quality of Life Initiative

Introduction

The 2024 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will be held on 30 January 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the theme **“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”**. The Forum will place a special emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals that will be reviewed at the 2024 HLPF, namely Goal 1 (No Poverty); Goal 2 (Zero Hunger); Goal 13 (Climate Action); Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

UN-Habitat and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are co-hosting a virtual side-event on the margins of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum. The side event will introduce participants to UN-Habitat and ESCWA’s new Quality of Life Initiative and will discuss the importance of looking at quality of life from a people-centred perspective, which includes the use of processes such as participatory planning at the city level, and their role in delivering global agendas.

Side event proposal

“How further measuring quality of life can enhance inclusive decision-making and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?”

A new human-centric approach promoted by the Quality-of-Life Initiative aims to develop innovative measures of quality of life in cities, to produce fresh and first-hand data on what matters the most to individuals and communities and to communicate in terms of personal views and preferences. Those subjective dimensions will be associated with essential objective conditions. This data shall fill information gaps that have impeded the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and contribute to the acceleration of the SDGs. Data collected from the Quality-of-Life index will also support the design of well-informed local interventions in specific urban areas and aim to produce better outcomes and higher social acceptance and cohesion in cities and communities.

Objective

This session will discuss how human-centric approaches to planning for development can reinforce participatory governance, while accelerating the localization and delivery of SDGs. Panellists will shed light on the opportunities offered by advanced measures of quality of life at the city level, and explore how it contributes to build sustainable, peaceful and inclusive cities and communities.

Through concrete examples, panellists will present how human-centric and innovative approaches can be executed in planning for development at the local level, what are the impacts of these approaches and the possible innovations enabled by the measurement of quality of life. They will draw lessons on how these innovative approaches can contribute to fill the urban data gap and to meet development goals at all levels of governance. Recommendations will also be provided on how these could drive the post-2030 agenda.

Expected results and outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of how innovation in quality of life measurements contributes to better participatory planning, building more sustainable, peaceful and inclusive cities and communities; and connects with measuring and monitoring of SDGs;
- Presentation of practical examples on the execution of human-centric approaches to planning for development in cities;
- Recommendations to create enabling environments for the collection of human-centric data and their use in strategic foresight to improve people's quality of life;
- Recommendations on the role of human-centric approaches to development and quality of life measurement for the post-2030 agenda.

Provisional program

1. Welcome and introduction by the moderator on the objectives of the panel discussion and its context (5-10 minutes);
2. Introduction of panellists and the guiding questions (3-5 minutes):
 - What is the meaning of human-centric and spatial development? What changes did it bring in relation to planning for urban sustainability?
 - What innovation were driven by human-centric approaches in relation to urban data production and collection? What value added has it brought regarding the timely production of new, high-quality, disaggregated urban data, and how have these data been used to improve strategic foresight? –
 - ⇒ **Fernando and Lara (5 minutes each):** introduction of concepts, why urban data matter and examples of places that have enhanced collection of citizen data and inclusive governance (sources, methodology, tools, etc.)
 - ⇒ **Moderator wraps up and introduces next question**
 - What changes occurred in relation to participatory planning and inclusive governance? at the city level – practical examples of participatory approaches, innovation and design.

- ⇒ **Miljana (5 minutes):** concrete example of participatory planning from the Monitoring Unit of the city of Nis and stakeholder participation for the VLRs.
- ⇒ **Moderator wraps up and introduces next question**
- How do these human-centric approaches improve sustainable development, inclusion, peace and security in cities; and built stronger institutions? How is QoL regarded in Global Development Agendas and how can a human/people centric approach help in addressing development challenges and reach sustainable and resilient cities?
 - ⇒ **Sukaina** on the regional perspective (5 minutes)
 - ⇒ **Miljana** on the city perspective: example of UN women (5 minutes)
 - ⇒ **Catherine** on the neighbourhood perspective (5 minutes)
 - ⇒ **Moderator wraps up and introduces next question**
- How can human-centric measurement of quality-of-life benefit from integrating proximities and spatial factors to improve SDG monitoring and facilitate local tailor-made actions?
 - ⇒ **Fernando (5 minutes)**
 - ⇒ **Catherine (5 minutes)**
 - ⇒ **Lara (5 minutes)**
 - ⇒ **Moderator wraps up and introduces next question**
- How can the quality-of-life concept and metrics inform the post-2030 development agenda?
 - ⇒ Catherine on the neighbourhood level (2 minutes)
 - ⇒ Miljana on the city level (2 minutes)
 - ⇒ Lara on the urban planning perspective (2 minutes)
 - ⇒ Sukaina on the regional perspective (2 minutes)
 - ⇒ Fernando on the global perspective (2 minutes)
- **Conclusion from the moderator (5 minutes):** main takeaways and recommendations for decision-makers at the city level – enablers for innovative participatory planning and human centric data collection, main considerations for inclusion, impacts on sustainable development in cities.

This side event will be organized virtually. The session will be moderated by Raphaëlle Vignol, Global Coordinator of the Quality-of-Life Initiative (UN-Habitat) and will invite the following speakers:

- Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Lead of Sustainable Urban Development Portfolio at UN ESCWA
- Catherine Gall, CEO of the Entrepreneurship Territory Innovation Research Laboratory, La Sorbonne University
- Lara Kinneir, Urban planner and Associate Professor at the London Interdisciplinary School
- Miljana Medarov Vujaklija, Head of the Monitoring Unit of the City of Nis, Serbia
- Fernando Murillo, Urban Development Specialist

Contact

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