



## INVITATION

UN75 Dialogue in observance of World Cities Day

### **Better City, Better Life: Valuing our Communities & Cities**

**Friday, October 30, 2020  
3:00 PM – 5:45 PM EST**

**[RSVP here](#)**

Hosted by

**Permanent Mission of Slovakia and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN,  
NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and UN-Habitat**

Co-sponsored by

**UN2020, NGO Major Group Urban Cluster, SDG Impact Awards Community,  
COVIDxNOW, General Assembly of Partners, Humanitarian Focus Foundation,  
EBW Foundation, Youth for a Better World/MMUN/YIF, Global Family,  
Soroptimist International, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, CoNGO &  
UNA-USA Council of Organizations.**

Our UN75 Dialogue in observance of World Cities Day: “Better City, Better Life: Valuing our Communities and Cities” will address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our communities and cities while strengthening our resilience to build back better. The World Urban Forum – WUF10 and the UN Economist Network for the UN 75th Anniversary: Shaping the Trends of Our Time Report showed us the megatrends which shape our world. The present report focuses on five of these megatrends: climate change; demographic shifts, particularly population ageing; urbanization; the emergence of digital technologies and inequalities. While many are utilizing innovative communication platforms that allow for better engagement to strengthen the resilience of their communities and cities, through the pandemic, others without access are falling further behind. It is vitally important that we continue our focus on the SDGs and the UN2030 SD Agenda to build partnerships with Member States, UN-Habitat, national and local authorities as well as stakeholders from civil society and the private sector in order to be better prepared to achieve the inclusive, safe, resilient and healthier future we want with the UN we need – to “Leave No One Behind.”

### Agenda

#### 3:00h Welcome & Moderator

- **Ms. Margo LaZaro, President & Chair, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Co-Founder & CSO SDGIA Community, Soroptimist International, Urban Cluster Convenor**

#### 3:05h Opening

- **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations**

#### 3:12h Keynote Addresses

- **Hon. Pernelle Beckles, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Trinidad and Tobago** (invited)
- **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations**
- **Mr. Christopher W. Williams, Ph.D., Director of the UN-Habitat New York Liaison Office**
- **Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild, Under Secretary-General and UN Special Envoy for the UN75th Anniversary Commemoration**
- **Mr. Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General & UN Chief Economist with UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs**
- **Dr. Marya Ghuzipura, PhD, MS, Epidemiologist, and Biostatistician at NYU Langone Health, Member of the Mayor of New York City's COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Council**

#### 3:50h Building Back Better

- **Mr. Isaac Reshad, Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC; Co-Founder and President of SDG Relief Fund**
- **Mr. Mitch Landrieu, Former Mayor, City of New Orleans, Founder, E Pluribus Unum** (video)
- **Dr. Geeta Mehta, Founder & President of Asian Initiatives**
- **Mr. Lance Jay Brown, President of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization**
- **Dr. Anna Rubbo, Founder of the Local Project Challenge, Earth Institute & Columbia University**
- **Mr. Theodore Liebman, Principal, Perkins Eastman, VP of Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization**
- **Dr. Andrise Bass, Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Vice Chair of the NGOCSD-NY**
- **Ms. Luna Abu-Yunis, 14-year-old Arab Israeli, Climate Activist, Debate for Peace from Israel**

#### 4:50h UN2020 & the UN75 People's Declaration – Make UN75 Count – video

- **Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Adviser of UN2020 & Together First**

#### 5:00h Interactive Dialogue

#### 5:25h “I Still Stand” – Spoken Word Performance

- **Mr. Songa Bahati Manassé, 21-year old, Spoken Word Artist, Poet-Activist, Social Entrepreneur from D.R. Congo & Uganda**

*Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change*

[www.ngocsd-ny.org](http://www.ngocsd-ny.org)

[www.sdgimpactawards.org](http://www.sdgimpactawards.org)