



VENICE DECLARATION

ALLIANCE OF TERRITORIES GLOBAL PROJECT

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BACKGROUND

According to the World Bank, today's urban population of about 3.5 billion people is projected to reach 5 billion by 2030, with two-thirds of the global population living in cities. City leaders must move quickly to plan for growth. The speed and scale of urbanization bring challenges for all family members such as children, parents, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons. The capacity to tackle challenges is essential to assure the safe growth of all family members that live in the city. Some suggested relevant areas for it should promote affordable housing; well-connected transport systems; meeting accelerated demand for infrastructure and built environment; the ratio of the available land, urban development focused in nucleus family needs, urban growth designed for persons with disabilities, respect and social inclusion; access to community support and health services; communication and information; as well as civil participation; jobs and opportunities, particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. A year later, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III – member states signed the New Urban Agenda. This is an action-oriented document, which sets global standards of achieving SDG11, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities. It acknowledges that while most of the global population and capital goods are concentrated in cities, urban areas remain crucial to social development, economic prosperity and poverty eradication. They drive most of the economic growth and are a source of innovation, facing sanitation and security challenges while acting as cultural centres. Achievements in eradicating poverty among developing countries are partly recognized by the significant progress in economic growth performance in the past two decades as well as gains in education and health, and the provision of social protection.

To ensure that no one is left behind in the New Urban Agenda, strategies that have proven to be effective and measurable need to be taken. Modern cities need to be resilient and constantly diagnosed with their urban strength. Only a holistic approach to the numerous variables within the cities can manage to give a complete picture of the city's vigor. A dialogue among stakeholders is equally important; any effort aimed at facilitating it among government, civil society, residents, and the private sector about risks and the performance of urban systems is

a worthwhile cause. With an accurate diagnosis, priority actions and investments can be identified, as well as strengthening resilience for planned or aspirational projects.

The family unit has proven to be the main agent for development within societies and thus the cornerstone for inclusive cities. Therefore, its area of action must be of great concern to facilitate its role in generations to come. If families are these crucial development agents, an adequate environment is needed to facilitate their role. An adequate integrated approach that encourages cross-sectoral collaboration is more efficient when tackling existing issues and unlocking opportunities within the city. A holistic approach to the family will contribute to the three different aspects of sustainable development and will make possible an accurate assessment of the needs for inclusive cities, especially in terms of investment in infrastructure. Sustainable cities start and end with cohesive and sustainable families. Building cities that “work” –inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable– requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. National and local governments have an important role to play to take action now, to shape the future of their development and to create opportunities for all, so that no one will be left behind.

CONCEPT

This project is directed to cities and territories that wish to actively contribute to goal SDG11 to be inclusive of sustainable families by being responsive to their needs. Their commitment consists of signing the Chart that includes the Venice Declaration (see Annex) and presenting once a year a report about the results of their work on the contents of it: Housing, New Technologies, Education, Healthcare, Safety, Clean Air, Transportation, Affordability, Leisure and Tourism, and Vulnerable Families.

The International Federation for Family Development is also committed to proposing new members of the Alliance, publish the reports produced by the members, according to the external evaluation realized by experts; co-ordinate the organization of the annual conference; guarantee the co-ordination with UN Departments and Agencies, as well as the yearly presentation of the results during an event at its Headquarters on the 31st October, designated by the United Nations as the World Cities Day; and disseminate the results and consequent recommendations worldwide.

Together with the Veneto Region in Italy (including Vicenza, Verona, Venezia, Padova, Vicenza, Treviso and Belluno), the following are founding members:

- Département des Bouches-du-Rhône in France (including municipalities as Aix-en-Provence, Arles, Éguilles, La Ciotat, Marignane, Marseille, Martigues, Meyrargues, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, Vauvenargues and Vitrolles).
- Region of Attica in Greece (including Acharnés, Agía Paraskeví, Ágios Dimítrios, Aigáleo, Alimos, Athens, Chalándri, Galátsi, Glyfáda, Ílion, Ilioúpoli, Kallithéa, Keratsíni, Kifissia, Korydallós, Maróúsi, Néa Ionía, Néa Smýrni, Níkaia, Palaió Fáliro, Peiraiás, Peristéri, Výronas and Zografos).

Other territories that have already joined are:

- City of Sao Paulo, city of Mogi Das Cruzes and the State of Paraná in Brazil (including Curitiba, Londrina, Maringá, Foz do Iguaçu, Ponta Grossa, Cascavel and São José dos Pinhais).
- State of Carinthia (including Klagenfurt and Villach).
- Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia in Italy (including Udine, Tavagnacco and Trieste).
- Region of Kujawsko-Pomorskie in Poland (including Toruń, Bydgoszcz, Włocławek, Zamek Bierzgłowski, Górzno, Ostromecko, Świecie, Brodnica, Wenecja and Grudziądz).
- the following Mexican municipalities: Cuauhtémoc (Ciudad de México), Huixquilucan (Estado de México), San Nicolás de los Garza (Nuevo León), Irapuato (Guanajuato), Guadalupe (Zacatecas), Iguala (Guerrero), San Mateo Atenco (Estado de México), Zapopan (Jalisco), Allende (Nuevo León), Valle de Santiago (Guanajuato), San Francisco del Rincon (Guanajuato), Chihuahua (Chihuahua), San Antonio la Isla (Estado de México), Tuxtla Gutiérrez (Chiapas), Hermosillo (Sonora), Los Reyes La Paz (Estado de México), Chapultepec (Estado de México), Durango (Durango), Veracruz (Veracruz), Tizayuca (Hidalgo), San Luis Potosí (San Luis Potosí) and Santiago de Querétaro (Querétaro).

LICENSED DELEGATIONS

- ELISAN - European Local Inclusion & Social Action Network (Europe).
- Family Talks (Brazil).
- Instituto de Análisis de Política Familiar (Mexico).

PRESENTATION EVENTS AND SIGNATORIES' MEETINGS

1. Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families - What is the role of families in making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable? [New York, 6 February 2017].
2. Accessible Cities United - Experts panel on the challenges smart cities face on the occasion of the World Cities Day. [New York, 31 October 2017].
3. Inclusive and Resilient Cities for Sustainable Families - Presentation of the Venice Declaration an celebration of the World Cities Day [New York, 31 October 2018].
4. Inclusive Cities for All: Intergenerational Urban Arrangements - Panel Discussion with audience participation [New York, 31 October 2019].
5. How to Adapt Human Settlements to the 21st Century - First Annual Meeting of the Project [Curitiba, 27-29 November 2019]
6. Inclusive Cities for All: COVID-19 Urban Response - Interactive Discussion of Venice Declaration Signatories in Observance of the World Cities Day 2020 [Virtual Room, 28 October 2020]

7. The Role of Families in Post-covid Urban Settlements – Second Annual Meeting of the Project [Virtual Room, 17 March 2021]
8. Program to Analyze the Impact of the Venice Declaration – in collaboration with the the Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences [September-December 2021]
9. Forum in the Kuyavian-Pomerian Region and Accession to the Venice Declaration [Torun, 19 and 25 October 2021]
10. Inclusive Cities for All: Post-Covid Urban Response - Interactive Discussion of Venice Declaration Signatories in Observance of the World Cities Day 2021 [Virtual Room, 28 October 2021]
11. Online Focus Group on Families and Urbanization [20 January 2022]
12. Annual Technical Meeting of Venice Declaration Signatories [Brussels, 30-31 March and 1 April 2022]

PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS

Future actions agreed on the Annual Technical Meeting include the following:

1. Create an online platform in order to compile good practices from which a manual can be produced for signatories, adapted to their needs. The platform should include the consolidated selected practices that have been presented at the Technical Meeting 2022 in Brussels, as found in the Annex. They should also be presented in a unified format and, if possible, according to some United Nations regular standard *.
2. Create a thematic working group on food security, energy security and circular economy, coordinated by the city of São Paulo.
3. Work on creating a commission to update the Venice Declaration in light of the post-pandemic era. The commission should be integrated by the Veneto Region, the International Federation for Family Development and three representatives from other signatories (Mexico, Brazil and Europe). This commission will start in at the beginning of May and have the draft ready to be approved by the end of the year. It should take into consideration the megatrends proposed by the United Nations for the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.
4. Contribute to the sessions of the upcoming World Urban Forum to disseminate the Venice Declaration, co-ordinated by the region of Kujawsko-Pomorskie. The World Urban Forum will be held in Katowice in June 2022.
5. Accept the invitation to celebrate the forthcoming technical meeting 2023 in the Region of Kujawsko-Pomorskie, at the beginning of May, at the beginning of May 2023

6. Promote the celebration of capacity-building workshops for the empowerment of the signatories.

7. Enhance the work we already do with universities to promote between youngsters and families the relevance of the Venice Declaration. We need to study the common interests we can have with them and design tailored programs according to them. To this end, it will be useful to create a network of ambassadors of the Venice Declaration among the students.



VENICE DECLARATION

We, representatives of cities, regions and local authorities of all sizes and from around the world,

DECLARE AS FOLLOWS

WHEREAS at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and a dedicated goal for urban development, SDG11, which calls to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”;

WHEREAS a year later, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, Member states signed the New Urban Agenda, an action-oriented document that sets global standards of achieving SDG11, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities.

WHEREAS the New Urban Agenda acknowledges that while most of the global population and capital goods are concentrated in cities, urban areas remain crucial to social development, economic prosperity and poverty eradication.

WHEREAS cities and territories drive most of the economic growth and are a source of innovation, facing sanitation and security challenges while acting as cultural centres.

WHEREAS families are crucial development agents provided they can find adequate environment is needed to facilitate their role and make possible an accurate assessment of the needs for inclusive cities, especially in terms of investment in infrastructure.

WHEREAS building cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable require intensive policy coordination and investment choices for families to reach to reach their potential as productive, engaged, and capable agents of sustainable development, contributing fully to their members and communities.

IN SIGNING THIS DECLARATION, we proclaim the commitment of the regions, cities and territories we represent to follow this universal call through the following common endeavours, as proposed by the International Federation for Family Development:

1. HOUSING

Cities design should include all family situations and social groups, flexible urban and environmentally sustainable planning, and social services to meet every need.

2. NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The need of connecting people through new technologies should be also included to ensure social inclusion, to bridge the digital gap via training of older persons, professional carers and families in vulnerable situations.

3. EDUCATION

Inclusive and quality education for all and promotion of lifelong learning should lead to the improvement of accessible and affordable childcare facilities in locations close to the residence or workplace of parents, parenting education, participation of older persons in educational activities for the youth, intergenerational meeting places for cultural and leisure activities, youth integration practices as well as second chance schools and chances to reintegrate in society.

4. HEALTHCARE

Organization of campaigns to promote healthy habits and lifestyles, especially those targeted to prevent mental disorders and to meet the needs of older persons, setting the necessary structure to stimulate innovation and intergenerational relations in hospitals as well as medical attention of visitors and tourists.

5. SAFETY

Creation of a welcoming environment in the streets based on solidarity, mutual support and social interaction, through instruments like promoting volunteers, a community police, the use of technology, information and training on crisis situations.

6. CLEAN AIR

Creation of as many green areas as possible, tax benefits for garden buildings, progressive reduction of pollution produced by public transportation, increase of charging points for electric cars and support for circular economy.

7. TRANSPORTATION

Plan and design rational and accessible public transportation system, while promoting teleworking and recognizing and valuing time at home, unpaid care and domestic work.

8. AFFORDABILITY

Plan to facilitate access to housing for families in vulnerable situations, including youth, persons with disabilities and older persons; develop smart intergenerational living

arrangements with shared services, efficient energy-saving, flexible buildings and care provisions.

9. LEISURE AND TOURISM

Foster of active engagement in the volunteering sector to conserve and restore the cultural and touristic of the city, as well as tools to facilitate access to cultural activities for all through special prices and adhoc exhibitions and locations for museums, theatres, etc.

10. VULNERABLE FAMILIES

Establish specific programs to recognize the value of unpaid work and care, and address the needs of families in vulnerable situations, including single-parent families, large families, migrant families, etc.

TO ENSURE THE INTENT OF THIS PLEDGE IS REALIZED, we commit to submit a Monitoring Report every year before the 31st March to be presented to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs by the International Federation for Family Development secretariat, with information of the previous year on the progress made in the 10 points mentioned above.
