

# Right to the City Agenda

For the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda



مرالس

평화 MHP



### WHY WE SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA WITH A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH?

The 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals and targets "seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". By balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), the 2030 Agenda reaffirms the multidimensionality, interrelation and integration of human rights.

By adopting the Agenda, the States have committed themselves to a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. In this sense, its Vision highlights "a world of **universal respect for human rights and human dignity**, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity" (paragraph 8).

In turn, the New Urban Agenda also highlights the relevance of human rights when it envisions "cities and human settlements where all persons are able to enjoy equal rights and opportunities, as well as their fundamental freedoms, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law" (paragraph 12). In this regard, **the New Urban Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all international human rights treaties.**

Therefore, the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, with their related performance indicators, should be imbedded and reflect the integrity of the UN Charter and the UN System, which is built on three purposeful pillars: (i) peace and security, (ii) progressive development and (iii) human rights.

As is well known, the UN Human Rights Based Approach stipulates that:

**1** All programs of development cooperation, policies and technical assistance should further

the realization of human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

**2** Human rights standards contained in, and principles derived from, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process.

Capturing existing norms and standards should form the first step in developing performance indicators on for States implementing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda commitments.

### WHY THE RIGHT TO THE CITY BRINGS A NEW AND NECESSARY PERSPECTIVE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA?

Over the last decades, the Right to the City has been an alternative and a claim with which to respond to some of the most pressing challenges of our time: social injustice, inequality, exclusion, dispossession, spatial segregation, discrimination of all kinds, destruction and privatization of the commons and environmental degradation. By offering concrete solutions, with strong potential for the transformation of our societies, it has also been a way to reaffirm, update and defend human rights and the corresponding state obligations.

The affirmations to "leave no-one behind" (in the 2030 Agenda) and "leave no place behind" (in the 9th World Urban Forum Declaration) commit to the aspiration of cities that are a **place for all**, sharing universal rights, values, and common objectives; but also cities that are a **place for everyone**, where different needs can be heard and specific answers can be provided. The challenge is to make cities a common good and implement new ways to guarantee human rights and participatory democracy while respecting their diversity, as a contribution to economic redistribution, cultural recognition and political agency for all.

The Right to the City reminds us that strong local dynamics are required to bring the goals of international agendas to the local level. More than localizing SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, the question is how the local actors can take ownership of the cause, generating new alliances through a horizontal approach and creating multisphere synergies from the local to the global.

It is important to consider the need to strengthen local authorities through political and financial decentralization. The city as a unit of local government must have autonomy and the institutional capacity to decide and choose its own authorities, access to public resources and the capacity to self-manage programs and public projects.

The Right to the City also reminds us of the importance of realizing the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in the framework of **human rights** to go beyond the economic logic which is currently leading the urbanization process. The right to the city gives a common understanding and shared path for implementing these agendas.

#### **NEW URBAN AGENDA** [paragraph 11]

"We share a vision of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all. We note the efforts of some national and local governments to enshrine this vision, referred to as "**right to the city**", in their legislation, political declarations and charters".

### **THE RIGHT TO THE CITY CONCEPT**

The Right to the City is the right of all inhabitants, present and future, permanent and temporary, to inhabit, use, occupy, produce, transform, govern and enjoy just, inclusive, safe sustainable and democratic cities, villages and human settlements, defined as essential common goods for a decent life, that should be shared by and benefit all members of the community.

The term "city" is to be understood in a broad sense, meaning every metropolis, city, town, village or human settlement that constitutes a political community, and is generally (though not necessarily) institutionally organized as a local governmental unit with municipal or metropolitan character. It includes urban spaces, as well as rural or semi-rural surroundings which make up its territory.

The right to the city means to guarantee cities and human settlements (i) of gender equality; (ii) that are free of discrimination; (iii) that embrace minorities and ethnic, racial, sexual and cultural diversity; (iv) of inclusive citizenship; (v) with enhanced political participation; (vi) that fulfill their social functions, including by recognizing and supporting the processes of social production and reconstruction of the habitat; and (vii) with diverse and inclusive economies.

### **HOW THE RIGHT TO THE CITY CONNECTS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENABLES THE BEST IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA?**

As a collective human right, the Right to the City contributes to the integration and materialization of **all civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights**, as enshrined in existing international human rights treaties, covenants, and conventions. At the same time, this integral right is connected and contributes to the implementation of other collective rights.

The effective materialization of the Right to the City requires the respect, protection and fulfillment of all human rights without exception, together with the specific principles and entitlements that only the Right to the City envisions: the social functions of land, property and the city; the fight against socio-spatial discrimination; quality public spaces; and sustainable and inclusive rural-urban linkages. In this sense, the right to the city brings a perspective of **crystalizing and realizing human rights in the territory**.

The Right to the City necessarily implies the "rights of the cities", as it highlights the right to build a local political community that ensures proper life conditions for all and good coexistence among all its inhabitants and its public authorities. The implementation of the Right to the City requires a strengthening of **democracy** (at national and local level) and greater political decentralization. For this, it is necessary to ensure that its inhabitants have the **right to participate in territorial planning and management**.

### **A GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MOBILIZATION**

The **Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C)** is an international network committed to political action and social change through the promotion, defense and fulfillment of the Right to the City, giving a voice to those people and communities affected by exclusion and marginalization.

The GPR2C is committed to **ensuring the implementation of the Right to the City** by introducing it in local, national, regional and international actions, initiatives, commitments, policies, projects and legislation; monitoring its enforcement and denouncing its violations and setbacks, including the social and environmental responsibility of private and public sectors.

Considering that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda are relevant to build democratic, just, inclusive, sustainable cities and human settlements, the GPR2C presents this **Right to the City Agenda** as a tool for their implementation.

## RIGHT TO THE CITY COMPONENTS

# 1

A city/human settlement free of **discrimination** based on gender, age, health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, migratory condition, or political, religious or sexual orientation. A city/human settlement that embraces minorities and ethnic, racial, sexual and cultural diversity, which **respects, protects, and promotes all non-discriminatory customs, memories, identities, languages, and artistic and cultural expressions** of its inhabitants.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**10.2.** Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

**10.3.** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard



**11.2.** Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons



**16.1.** Reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

**16.B.** Promote non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

**14 (a).** Leave no one behind, by ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions (...), by ensuring equal rights and opportunities, socioeconomic and cultural diversity, and integration in the urban space, by enhancing liveability, education, food security and nutrition, health and well-being (...), by promoting safety and eliminating discrimination and all forms of violence, by ensuring public participation providing safe and equal access for all, and by providing equal access for all to physical and social infrastructure and basic services, as well as adequate and affordable housing

**20.** (...) give particular attention to addressing multiple forms of discrimination faced by, inter alia, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples and local communities, slum and informal-settlement dwellers, homeless people, workers, smallholder farmers and fishers, refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and migrants, regardless of their migration status.

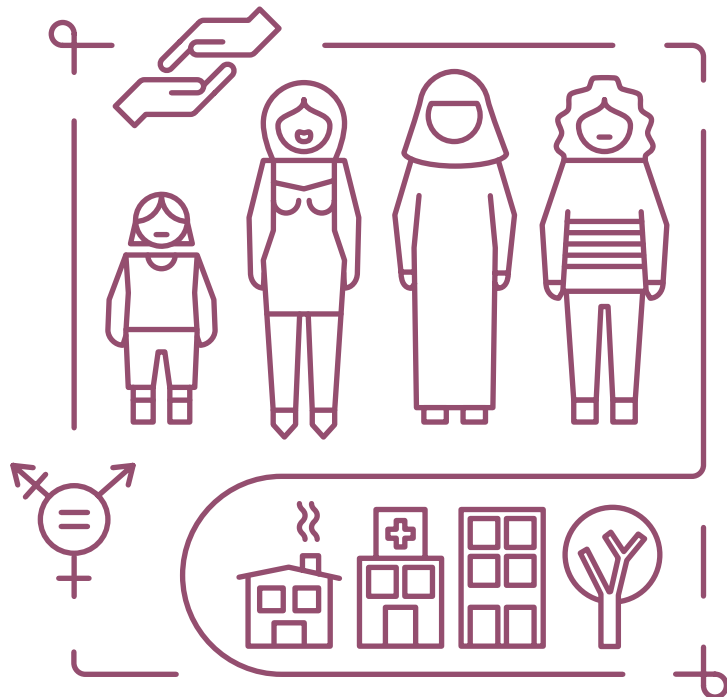
**38.** We commit ourselves to the sustainable leveraging of natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, in cities and human settlements, as appropriate, through integrated urban and territorial policies and adequate investments at the national, subnational and local levels, to safeguard and promote cultural infrastructures and sites, museums, indigenous cultures and languages, as well as traditional knowledge and the arts, highlighting the role that these play in rehabilitating and revitalizing urban areas and in strengthening social participation and the exercise of citizenship.

**40.** We commit ourselves to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy (...).

## RIGHT TO THE CITY COMPONENTS

# 2

A city/human settlement of **gender equality**, which adopts all necessary measures to combat discrimination in all its forms against women and girls; a city/human settlement which takes all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women and girls, guarantee them equality in the exercise and fulfillment of human rights, and a life free of violence.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**1.4.** Ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.



**5.2.** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

**5.4.** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

**5.A.** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources(...).

**5.C.** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.



**6.2.** Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

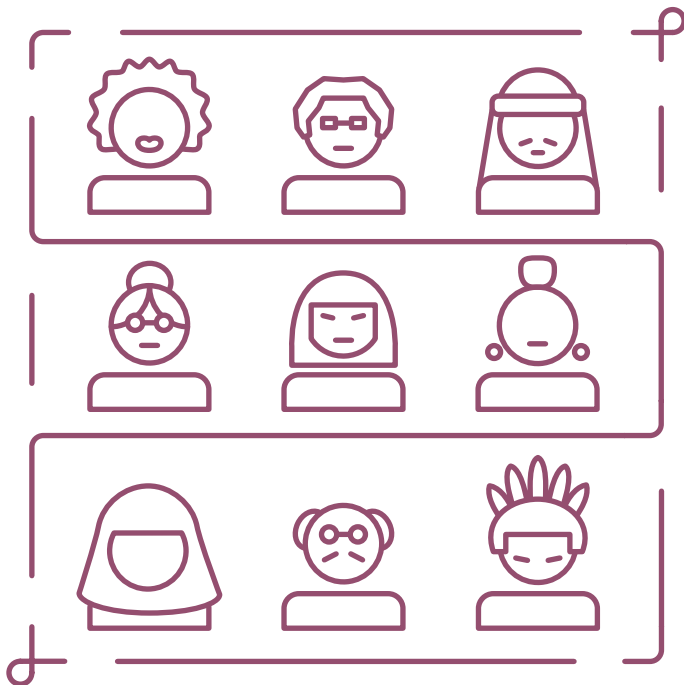
**13 (c).** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by (...) ensuring decent work and equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value, for all women and by preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls in private and public spaces;

**39.** We commit ourselves to promoting a safe, healthy, inclusive and secure environment in cities and human settlements enabling all to live, work and participate in urban life without fear of violence and intimidation, taking into consideration that women and girls, children and youth, and persons in vulnerable situations are often particularly affected. We will also work towards the elimination of harmful practices against women and girls (...).

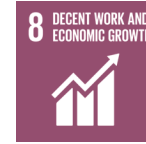
# 3

## RIGHT TO THE CITY COMPONENTS

A city/human settlement of **inclusive citizenship** in which all inhabitants, (whether permanent or temporary) are considered as citizens and granted equal (e.g. women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, LGBT persons, people with disabilities, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence and indigenous peoples).



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**8.8.** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.



**10.2.** Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.



**16.3.** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

**28.** We commit ourselves to ensuring full respect for the human rights of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, regardless of their migration status, and support their host cities in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances and recognizing that, although the movement of large populations into towns and cities poses a variety of challenges, it can also bring significant social, economic and cultural contributions to urban life. We further commit ourselves to strengthening synergies between international migration and development at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels by ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration through planned and well-managed migration policies, and to supporting local authorities in establishing frameworks that enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities and strengthened urban-rural linkages.

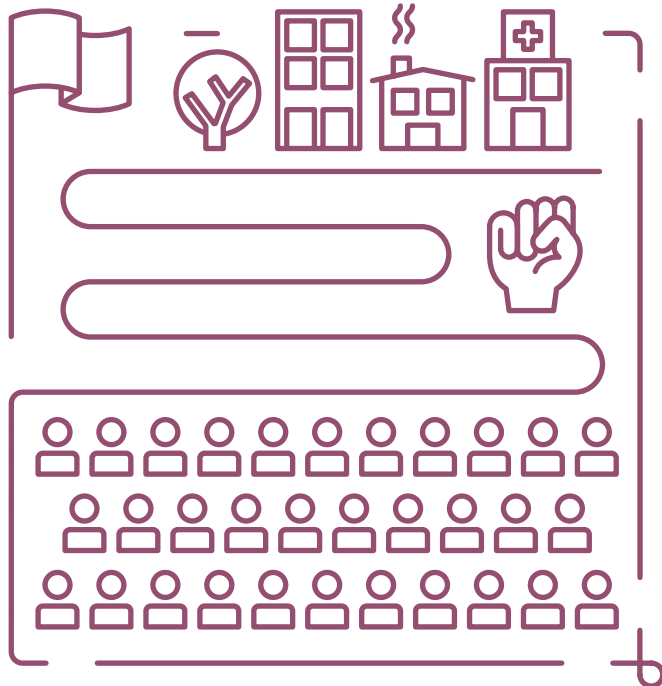
**36.** We commit ourselves to promoting appropriate measures in cities and human settlements that facilitate access for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment of cities, in particular to public spaces, public transport, housing, education and health facilities, public information and communication and other facilities and services (...).

**42.** We support subnational and local governments, as appropriate, in fulfilling their key role in strengthening the interface among all relevant stakeholders, offering opportunities for dialogue, including through age- and gender-responsive approaches, and with particular attention to potential contributions from all segments of society, including men and women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, regardless of their migration status, without discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity or socioeconomic status.

# 4

## RIGHT TO THE CITY COMPONENTS

A city/human settlement with **enhanced political participation** in the definition, implementation, monitoring, and budgeting of urban policies and spatial planning in order to strengthen the transparency, effectiveness and inclusion of the diversity of inhabitants and their organizations. The Right to the City implies **responsibilities on all spheres of government and citizens** to exercise, claim, defend and promote equitable governance and the social function of all human settlements within a human rights habitat.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**5.5.** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.



**6.B.** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.



**11.3.** Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management (...)



**16.7.** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

**13.** We envisage cities and human settlements that: (b). Are participatory, promote civic engagement, engender a sense of belonging and ownership among all their inhabitants(...).

**41.** We commit ourselves to promoting institutional, political, legal and financial mechanisms in cities and human settlements to broaden inclusive platforms, in line with national policies, that allow meaningful participation in decision-making, planning and follow-up processes for all, as well as enhanced civil engagement and co-provision and co-production.

**48.** We encourage effective participation and collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, the private sector and civil society, women, organizations representing youth, as well as those representing persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, professionals, academic institutions, trade unions, employers' organizations, migrant associations and cultural associations, in order to identify opportunities for urban economic development and identify and address existing and emerging challenges.

## RIGHT TO THE CITY COMPONENTS

# 5

A city/human settlement **fulfilling its social functions**, that is, ensuring equitable and affordable access for all to housing, goods, services and urban opportunities, particularly for women, marginalized groups and people with special needs; a city/human settlement that prioritizes the **collectively defined public and social interest**, ensuring a just and environmentally balanced use of urban and rural spaces, and that recognizes and support the social production of habitat.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**1.4.** Ensure that all people, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.



**6.1.** Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

**6.2.** Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.



**11.1.** Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

**11.3.** Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

**14 (c).** Ensure environmental sustainability by promoting clean energy and sustainable use of land and resources in urban development, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, adopting healthy lifestyles in harmony with nature, by promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, by building urban resilience, by reducing disaster risks and by mitigating and adapting to climate change.

**34. (...)** promoting equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all (...) including affordable serviced land, housing, renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health care and family planning, education, culture, and New Urban Agenda information and communications technologies. (...)

ensuring that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples and local communities (...) we encourage the elimination of legal, institutional, socioeconomic and physical barriers.

**69.** We commit ourselves preserving and promoting the ecological and social function of land (...) and to fostering ecosystem-based solutions to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (...) to promoting sustainable land use, combining urban extensions with adequate densities and compactness to prevent and contain urban sprawl, as well as preventing unnecessary land-use change and the loss of productive land and fragile and important ecosystems.'

**108.** We will support the development of housing policies that foster local integrated housing approaches by addressing the strong links between education, employment, housing and health, preventing exclusion and segregation. (...) combating homelessness as well as to eliminating its criminalization through policies and targeted active inclusion strategies, such as comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable housing first programmes.





# 7

## RIGHT TO THE CITY COMPONENTS

A city/human settlement with **diverse and inclusive economies** that safeguards and ensures access to secure livelihoods and decent work for all inhabitants, gives room to other economies (e.g. social and solidarity economy, sharing economy), recognizes the domestic care and community work developed largely by women and ensures the full development of women and girls.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**2.3.** Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment



**8.3.** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.



**10.2.** Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.



**14.B.** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

**14(b).** Ensure sustainable and inclusive urban economies by leveraging the agglomeration benefits of well-planned urbanization, (...) by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, by ensuring the creation of decent jobs and equal access for all to economic and productive resources and opportunities and by preventing land speculation, promoting secure land tenure and managing urban shrinking (...).

**57.** We commit ourselves to promoting, as appropriate, full and productive employment, decent work for all and livelihood opportunities in cities and human settlements, with special attention to the needs and potential of women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, refugees, and internally displaced persons and migrants, particularly the poorest and those in vulnerable situations, and to promote non-discriminatory access to legal income-earning opportunities.

**59.** We commit ourselves to recognizing the contribution of the working poor in the informal economy, particularly women, including unpaid, domestic and migrant workers, to the urban economies, taking into account national circumstances. Their livelihoods, working conditions and income security, legal and social protection, access to skills, assets and other support services, and voice and representation should be enhanced (...).

# 8

## RIGHT TO THE CITY COMPONENTS

A sustainable city/human settlement with **inclusive rural-urban linkages** that benefit poor people, both in rural and urban areas, and ensures food sovereignty; a city/human settlement that **protects biodiversity, natural habitats, and surrounding ecosystems.**



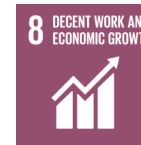
## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**1.5.** Build the resilience of those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.



**2.4.** Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.



**8.4.** Improve progressively global resource efficiency in sustainable consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation (...)



**11.A.** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.



**12.2.** Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.



**15.9.** Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

**13.** We envisage cities and human settlements that: (e) Fulfil their territorial functions across administrative boundaries and act as hubs and drivers for balanced, sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development at all levels; (g) Adopt and implement disaster risk reduction and management, reduce vulnerability, build resilience and responsiveness to natural and human-made hazards and foster mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; (h) Protect, conserve, restore and promote their ecosystems, water, natural habitats and biodiversity, minimize their environmental impact and change to sustainable consumption and production patterns.

**50.** (...) to encouraging urban-rural interactions and connectivity by strengthening sustainable transport, mobility, technology, communications networks and infrastructure, underpinned by planning instruments based on an integrated urban and territorial approach, in order to maximize the potential of these sectors for enhanced productivity, social, economic and territorial cohesion, as well as safety and environmental sustainability (...)

**95.** We will support the implementation of integrated, polycentric and balanced territorial development policies and plans, encouraging cooperation and mutual support among different scales of cities and human settlements, strengthening the role of small and intermediate cities and towns in enhancing food security and nutrition systems, providing access to sustainable, affordable, adequate, resilient and safe housing, infrastructure and services, facilitating effective trade links across the urban-rural continuum and ensuring that small-scale farmers and fishers are linked to local, subnational, national, regional and global value chains and markets. (...) support urban agriculture and farming, as well as responsible, local and sustainable consumption and production, and social interactions, through enabling and accessible networks of local markets and commerce (...).

