



**THE NEXUS OF URBANIZATION,
VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT:
Linking SDG Goal 11 and SDG Goal 16**



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR URBAN CRISES

This report derives from a one-day panel event on the theme of the nexus of urbanization, violence and conflict held at UNDP on April 18th, 2016.

The event was co-hosted by the City College of New York – CUNY, the Permanent Missions of Lebanon and Norway to the UN, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The views expressed in this publication are personal opinions of the experts who participated, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the co-hosts, unless noted otherwise.

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Design by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), New York /
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Introduction

Panel discussion April 18th, 2016

Co-hosted by the City College of New York – CUNY, the Permanent Missions of Lebanon and Norway to the UN, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC)

The event was held in coordination with the Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

On April 18th, 2016, in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and Habitat III, and in coordination with the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, the co-hosts presented the one day panel event: “The nexus between urbanization, violence and conflict: Linking SDG 11 and SDG 16”. This one-day panel engaged academics, Policy Makers and Member States who discussed contemporary understandings of urban violence and conflict, its consequences and possible ways in which it can be addressed. The event produced six key messages to be taken forward to the WHS and Habitat III. The event highlighted the synergies between Goal 11 “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” and Goal 16 “Promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies” through grounded case studies.

BACKGROUND

The world has witnessed rapid – and often – unplanned urban growth. Many urban areas exhibit a mix of low institutional capacity, rising violence and growing instability, and inequitable development. Between now and 2030, the world’s urban population is projected to grow by 1.5 billion people. More than 90 percent of that urban growth will occur in areas located in the developing world, mostly in Africa and Asia. A significant proportion of this urban expansion will occur in fragile contexts, plagued with recurrent violence and conflict. Frequently, the urbanization process is poorly managed, resulting in inequitable, exclusionary and fragmented cities and increased risk of violence. This makes it necessary for humanitarian and development organizations to change their ways of working. “Leaving No One and No City Behind” has to be a shared principle.

Key messages for the “New Urban Agenda”

1 ADOPT “LEAVING NO ONE AND NO CITY BEHIND” AS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE

Reducing urban violence and conflict is of critical relevance to the design and implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Vulnerable communities and cities as a whole, affected by conflict or dysfunctional through sustained violence, risk being left behind and require focused attention in view of achieving both SDG 11 (“Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”) and SDG 16 (“Promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies”).

2 STRENGTHEN THE KNOWLEDGE AND EVIDENCE BASE ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION, VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

- a** Invest in scholarly informed context-based research to fully understand the nature, scale and complexity of urban violence and conflict.
- b** Produce consistent data and metrics on forms and impacts of violence and conflict across regional, national and international fora.
- c** Use joined up analysis bringing together urban, academic, humanitarian, peacebuilding, environmental and development actors to address the causes of urban violence and conflict and create an enabling environment for sustainable urbanization.

3 FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING URBAN RESILIENCE IN CITIES AT RISK OF OR AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

- a** Use urban resilience as a common principle in enacting strategies that ultimately help the city prepare for, withstand, and recover from future shocks and stresses, particularly building resilience towards instances of urban conflict and violence. Urban resilience frameworks define collective outcomes for humanitarian, development and peace and security actors, requiring multi-scale, multi-faceted, cross-sector based approaches and provides a framework to bridge humanitarian and development efforts.
- b** Existing inequalities (economic, political, cultural, gender, security, justice, social services, etc.), which can have spatial components and drive violence and conflict, should be addressed within and beyond resilience frameworks. Reducing these inequalities is an effective method of building resilience against urban violence and conflict.
- c** Involve all parties, in particular those driving and/or affected by urban violence and conflict.

4 LINK SPATIAL AND SOCIAL PLANNING PRACTICES TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL COHESION AND BUILD RESILIENT CITIES

The shape and management of the built environment, infrastructure and public space have a two-way relationship with violence, social cohesion and resilience. The outcome of urban planning can be as much a cause of increased violence as a means to finding new solutions. Urban space is both a risk for conflict and an opportunity for conflict prevention and resolution, building and sustaining peace and social cohesion.

- a** Recognize an inclusive and collective right over the processes of urbanization.
- b** Use urban design, spatial and social planning as tools to support efforts to reduce urban violence and conflict, including through fostering the conditions for socio-economic development and collective action in affected communities.
- c** Ensure access to inclusive, mixed-use and culturally sensitive public space and advocate to prevent the privatization and fragmentation of public space.

5 FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING URBAN GOVERNANCE, IN PARTICULAR PROVIDING RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE ACTORS WITH THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER SERVICES AND MAINTAIN URBAN SYSTEMS, IN THE CONTEXT OF VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

- a** Ensure continuous and active community engagement within all governance processes and in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes and projects.
- b** Recognize legitimacy of the state is created not only through the quantity or quality of services or who delivers them but also through how they are delivered through inclusive process and with effective grievance mechanisms.
- c** Promote accountability towards all urban residents, regardless of citizenship, particularly those most marginalized, underrepresented, or who moved into the city to escape conflict or violence.

6 USE CRISIS RESPONSE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET CITIES ON A MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN GROWTH TRAJECTORY

- a** Understand cities in crises through urban specific assessments, including spatial analysis, assessments of services, supply chains, critical infrastructure, governance arrangements and land tenure.
- b** Work within a long-term systems approach that addresses inequalities (governance, society, and infrastructure) and integrates the displaced into the host community, moving from delivering aid to ending need, including through capacity and institution building of communities and local authorities to deliver social services in an equitable manner to the displaced and the host population.
- c** Manage urban displacement as a humanitarian and development challenge, integrated into urban planning and urban development processes (e.g. integration of (temporary) settlement of displaced people as part of planned city extensions).

Opening remarks

Ambassador May-Elin Stener, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations

On behalf to the Missions of Lebanon and Norway, I am pleased to welcome you to this timely event on the nexus between urbanization, violence and conflict. We hope our discussions today will provide us with valuable inputs for the World Humanitarian Summit and the Habitat III consultations.

We need to make our cities sustainable and safe to achieve the sustainable development goals. The goals and the targets provide the direction for urbanization towards 2030. It is now our task to define how to operationalize Goal 11 and Goal 16, as well as other related goals and targets. Norway believes that “The Right to a Safe and Clean City” should be the heart of the New Urban Agenda, with poverty eradication as the guiding goal.

For Norway, it is important that the term “sustainable cities” incorporates all three dimensions of sustainable development:

- 1** Cities should be clean and healthy, with managed waste and sanitation;
- 2** Cities should be resilient with adequate public space; and
- 3** Cities should be safe.

Only then will we release innovative and productive forces, which in turn can combat poverty and hunger. Cities should be all of this for all.

Such cities can only be obtained through good governance and political will, and without violence.

We see that cooperation within the local community is key to addressing complex urban challenges, and that the brutal use of police force will not solve the problems that these challenges bring.

A city will never be green and clean, if the economy is dirty. A city will fail to reach its innovative and productive potential with a violent police and criminal gangs controlling urban spaces.

In the most violent and affected cities, there are numerous UN agencies competing for funding. You will find them oceans apart: from Kabul to Khartoum to Caracas. More can be done by the UN, donors and various other actors to pool resources and co-operate rather than compete.

We are all disheartened by the sights from Syria. We see cities destroyed and made into war zones. Humanitarian response also needs to look further into how to respond in such grave situations where people are affected harder because they live in severely affected urban settings.

The Norwegian Government is funding a research project called “humanitarian engagement in violent urban settings” (NUPI/PRIO/CMI) which will produce a series of recommendations to policy makers. Norway is also working on a white paper on sustainable cities and strong districts, where several of these challenges will be addressed. The paper will be presented to the Norwegian Parliament (Storting) next spring.

We have a very interesting and comprehensive programme for today’s meeting, touching on key issues for both the World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III. We are very grateful to UNDP, UN-Habitat, CUNY and IRC for making this possible. We look forward to a fruitful discussion. Thank you.

Introduction to the nexus of urbanization, violence and conflict

Deen Sharp, Consultant and Ph.D. Candidate in Earth and Environmental Sciences, Graduate Centre, City University of New York (CUNY)

We are often told about how in the 21st century humanity is now predominantly urban and how this urbanization will continue to accelerate in the coming decades. I want to accentuate just how dramatic the urbanization of the globe has been. Geographer David Harvey powerfully articulates the global urban transformation we have witnessed in recent years through a simple fact. From 1900–1999 the US consumed 4,500 million tonnes of cement. In China, in just three years, from 2011–2013, it consumed 6,500 million tonnes of cement. In three years the Chinese consumed more cement than the US in the preceding century. This kind of rapid urbanization has been witnessed throughout the developing world. This urbanization has dramatic consequences ecologically and of course for human social relations.

This century as well as experiencing the unprecedented construction of urban areas has also witnessed increased urban violence and conflict, the focus of today's event. In Syria, for instance, the urban destruction that has been underway since the uprising in 2011 is understood by some to be on a scale not witnessed since the vast urban destruction of World War II.

The processes of urbanization must be taken seriously. How violence and conflict interrelate with these processes also needs to be considered, and what steps can be taken to prevent and reduce urban conflict should be engaged in.

Recent scholarship and work by international organizations has increasingly turned to concerns around violence and conflict in urban areas and is articulating how violence can manifest itself into our global urban fabrics in highly complex and geographically broad ways.

The work of Stephen Graham is of particular note, especially *Cities, War and Terrorism* (2004). The World Bank has published an influential report entitled *Violence in Cities* (2010). But work on urban violence and conflict remains in its infancy both within academia and the broader policy community.

The relationship between violence and the urban is highly complex. And urban violence and conflict prevention is an area in which the development community still has challenges in finding the types of programming that can be effective.

The first two sessions address some of the complexity of urban violence. Drawing from case studies across the global south these two sessions consider:

- How violence has the power to dramatically transform urban space;
- How we can measure urban violence and fragility;
- The different geographies and manifestations of urban violence and conflict.

These two sessions also include insights from development practitioners who provide examples of what types of interventions have worked and what has not.

The third session then takes a more focused look at cases of protracted conflict. Looking at the examples of Gaza, Kabul and the work of ICRC over the past 30 years in a range of contexts in which there has been protracted conflict. This session also focuses explicitly on the role of design and urban planning in alleviating conflict. As has been widely recognized the built environment has an important two-way relationship with urban violence.

The fourth session will take a look at how urban resilience can be applied to cities in fragile settings. It considers the role of resilience in bridging the humanitarian/development divide in order to achieve durable, sustainable, and multi-dimensional outcomes appropriate to the local context following urban crises. This discussion is of particular importance in the context of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

It is widely recognized that ensuring that the processes of urbanization are sustainable will be key to the success of the 2030 Agenda. Thus, in the final and fifth session, panelists will consider what the linkages are to Goal 11 with Goal 16.

This one-day event is a contribution towards highlighting some of the work underway in addressing urban violence and conflict and to encourage further research and discussion. Successfully addressing urban violence and conflict could have a major impact in the success of the sustainable development goals and this event contributes to this effort.

Panel I: Concepts of urban violence

Chair: Stéphane Ojeda, Deputy Permanent Observer/Legal Advisor of the ICRC Delegation to the United Nations

Panelists:

Vyjayanthi Rao, Director of Terreform Centre for Advanced Urban Research

Alejandro Alvarez, Team Leader, Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights, UNDP

Ronak Patel, Assistant Professor, Stanford University

SUMMARY OF SESSION

The opening session considered what is urban about violence and what is violent about urbanism. The panelists noted that violence and conflict in urban areas can involve different categories of violence, such as political, socio-economic, institutional and environmental, and entail complex spatial manifestations, including a range of urban morphologies and infrastructure.

Anthropologist Vyjayanthi Rao noted that urban violence and conflict is not only highly visible and spectacular, and emphasized that research is required to understand less visible and “slower” forms of urban violence and conflict. She also stressed that concepts of urban violence and conflict should incorporate the environment and concerns, for instance, of environmental degradation. Rao highlighted a trash dump in Mumbai, India that was worsening the city’s air quality and enveloping much of the city in a poisonous smoke. The dump represents the slow violence of environmental degradation and the costs borne by all citizens.

Dr. Ronak Patel presented a recent study he co-authored that stressed that urban fragility and resilience can coexist acutely and chronically, both at the same time. The coexistence of both fragility and resilience brings about a new understanding about why, where, and how these varying concepts produce cities that succumb to fragility or endure in resilience. How these fragility and resilience factors interact with one another to develop a new equilibrium in varying contexts remains a critical area of inquiry. The emergence of Big Data is opening avenues for research on city resilience and fragility.

UNDP’s Alejandro Alvarez stated that from his experience in working in Latin America, policies that have successfully reduced urban violence have prioritized enforcement of gun restrictions and limits to alcohol and drug consumption through a solid collaboration with local governance systems and improving public spaces. He stressed that addressing the “cultural” aspect of gun violence is critical and specifically the “macho culture” that often fuels both domestic and street violence. Alvarez also noted that attempts to reduce violence in Latin America have plateaued after significant reductions in many of the continent’s cities in recent years. He cited issues with corrupt law enforcement and the reluctance of police services to reform as major barriers to sustained reduction of urban violence.

POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Invest in scholarly informed context-based research to fully understand the nature, scale and complexity of urban violence and conflict.
- Produce consistent data and metrics on forms of violence and conflict across regional, national and international fora.
- Ensure data is recorded and disaggregated – disaggregated for instance by sex, age, geographic location, combatant/civilian, migratory or displacement status, and any status relevant to the basis of the conflict, which may include, for example, ethnicity, religion, minority or indigenous status.
- Local government is key to reducing urban violence and must lead strategies through a multi-sectoral and multi-level approach.
- Ensure participation and ownership of communities to ensure counter “cultures” of urban violence are tackled.
- Take an epidemiological approach to addressing gun violence.

Panel II: New geographies of urban violence

Chair: Samuel Doe, Policy Adviser for Crisis, Fragility and Resilience, BPPS-UNDP

Panelists:

Deen Sharp, Doctoral Candidate in Earth and Environmental Science, CUNY

Alexandra Hiniker, PAX Representative to the United Nations

Esteban Leon, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat

SUMMARY OF SESSION

Session II illuminated the complex geographies and forms of contemporary urban violence and conflict. The session was opened by geographer Deen Sharp noting that academic and institutional studies continue to be dominated by the examination of metropolitan cores, such as Nairobi, Beirut, Kabul and Bogota. He called for both academics and practitioners to undertake the difficult task of engaging with and highlighting urbanization beyond the metropolitan core and the particularities of urban violence and conflict in these spaces. In addition, to expanding our geographical imaginations we must also increase its depth and complexity, specifically in relation to urban violence and conflict. Urban violence does not refer to conflict in a bounded city or region but can involve attacks on highly complex geographical arrangements of infrastructure and socio-political and economic configurations.

PAX Representative to the UN Alexandra Hiniker focused on the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas. She explained that as well death and injury, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas also causes displacement and damages schools, housing, water and sanitation systems. Hiniker stressed that the wider environmental and public health impact of conflict must not be overlooked, as it can lead to acute and chronic health hazards, and hinder peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Further, Hiniker addressed what can be done to prevent such use. She noted that PAX was seeking a political commitment from member states to end the use of explosive weapons with wide area effect in populated areas. Maintenance is key for any operating system. She stressed that most countries are not prepared for the rapid urbanization that we are witnessing across the globe.

UN-Habitat's Esteban Leon noted that at UN-Habitat they have developed indicators to measure how healthy and resilient a city is. The point was made that the focus should be on the resilience of the city, its systems and its communities, against all possible hazards rather than zooming in on a particular risk. Leon stated that this requires working with all urban actors, including service providers and the agencies that run a city. Urban planning is what brings it all together. Without proper urban planning there is no integration, no prevention and no true resilience.

POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- The policy and research community should ensure that they are engaging with, and producing analysis on, non-metropolitan urban space, in relation to urban violence and conflict and beyond.
- Member States should endorse the UN Secretary-General's call to refrain from the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide-area effects.*
- The international community should make assessing environmental risks of conflicts a standard element of post-conflict reconstruction plans, and allocate sufficient expertise, capacity, and resources to address it.
- Humanitarian organizations together with other relevant actors should improve the collection and sharing of information about conflict-related environmental hazards so that civilians are well informed of acute and chronic health risks, in particular in urban contexts.
- Donors, humanitarian organizations, and other relevant actors should incorporate the wider impacts of conflict on environment, public health and development into post-conflict reconstruction plans.

* Report of the UN Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (18 June 2015), http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/453, S/2015/453

Panel III: Urban protracted conflict

Chair: Saskia Schellekens,
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Panelists:

Michael Sorkin, President of Terreform, Professor of Architecture, CUNY

Gizem Sucuoglu, Researcher at NYU

Philip Spoerri, Permanent Observer of the ICRC to the United Nations in New York

SUMMARY OF SESSION

The third session considered urban conflict under the specific condition of protracted conflict. The Chair of this Session, Saskia Schellekens, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, opened the panel by emphasizing the need for social inclusiveness in addressing urban protracted conflict, in particular by engaging young people – who often make up a large proportion of the urban population - as partners, rather than casting them away as either victims or perpetrators of urban violence. In this context she highlighted the Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, which calls for member states to consider setting up mechanisms that will enable young people to participate meaningfully in the prevention of violent extremism, conflict resolution and peace processes.

Architect Michael Sorkin began his talk by explaining how urban violence and conflict often traffics in the highly symbolic features of the city. Attacks on places such as schools, hospital and other public places in cities are undertaken to destabilize the everydayness and normality of city life - urban violence is a denial of the city. Sorkin also stressed the different forms urban violence can take. He noted that urban violence does not only consist of spectacular attacks on the city but can also involve, for example, restrictions on mobility through the strategic placement of barriers and thresholds.

NYU researcher Gizem Sucuoglu drew from a co-authored paper that focused on the connections between peacebuilding and spatial perspectives in the context of Kabul. She stressed that architecture and urban design should be considered part of peacebuilding efforts aimed at helping to find long-term sustainable solutions to conflict by fostering ownership, cohesion, and inclusion. Looking at conflicts from a spatial perspective through inclusive architecture and urban planning provides an interesting opportunity for finding answers outside of the peacebuilding toolbox. She noted how financing remains a central challenge and that improving urban structures, infrastructure and public space in the aftermath of conflict requires substantial investments. This is compounded by the fact that addressing these longer-term durable response efforts does not yield immediate and visible results.

The ICRC's Philip Spoerri presented their report on *Urban services during protracted armed conflict* that is based on 30 years of the ICRC's work in urban conflict zones including Iraq, Gaza, Ukraine, Syria and Yemen. The report highlights the nature of the impact of the deprivation of urban services during times of protracted armed conflict. It warns that unless humanitarian agencies change their approach to account for the longer-term realities and needs of communities in urban areas affected by protracted conflict, the human and social cost could be catastrophic. When conflicts drag on essential urban services can deteriorate to a point of no return through a "vicious cycle" of accumulated direct and indirect impacts that can pose a risk to public health and lead to displacement.

POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt "Leaving No One and No City Behind" as a fundamental principal and ensure that spatial needs, specifically those living in conflict affected cities, are addressed.
- Strengthen government capacity, when appropriate, to respond to urban planning needs in contexts of protracted conflict.
- Facilitate the creation of mixed-use, culturally sensitive and accessible public space that provide opportunities for inclusion and interaction of all urban inhabitants.
- Create a new paradigm to rethink the relief-rehabilitation-development spectrum, and address the challenge posted to provide basic services during protracted armed conflict.
- Increase the flexibility and duration of funding schemes and structures for contexts of urban protracted conflict to achieve sustainable solutions.
- Increase technical and logistical capacity of local and international actors engaging in contexts of urban protracted conflict to deal with the complexity of the challenges, including, inter alia, the development of technical competences that cover urban water, sanitation and energy services.

Opening remarks to Session IV

Counselor Hassan Abbas,
Lebanese Permanent Mission to the United Nations

IMPACT OF THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR (1975-1991)

There has been severe damage to public and private infrastructure as a result of internal civil conflict, Israeli bombardment during the 1982 invasion, and minimal government spending on maintenance and upgrade (transportation, education, health and electricity sectors).

There have also been multiple waves of internal displacement from different regions in the country towards Beirut, and within Beirut itself as a result of forced sectarian homogenization. Security reasons were the major driver of displacement, in addition to economic and social motives. Chaotic building sprawled on private and government-owned lands in the suburbs of Beirut where many of the displaced or migrant families were accommodated. That was exacerbated by the weak enforcement of planning permits on legal private construction projects.

RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT AFTER THE CIVIL WAR PHASE

In 1993 the government embarked on a nationwide Ten-Year Reconstruction Programme with an estimated cost worth around 11 billion dollars at the time. It consisted of three phases: Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development, and it was financed by treasury bonds in local currency (up to 34% interest at one point) and foreign loans and grants, particularly from regional development banks, like the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and the Arab Fund and Islamic Development Bank. Implementation was carried out primarily by the Lebanese Council of Development and Reconstruction, and by other relevant ministries and public institutions. The goal was to rehabilitate the downtrodden infrastructure, revive the economic image of the country as a financial and touristic hub in the region, rehabilitate and expand the country's transportation, water supply and sanitation networks, expand the reach of the public education sector to the country's underdeveloped regions, and lay the ground for re-attracting external private investment, particularly from the Arab region and from the largely affluent Lebanese diaspora in Africa, and the Gulf region.

The government reconstruction activity was paralleled by a sharp increase in private investment directed towards the building sector and trade, particularly in and around the Beirut area. The Government faced multiple urban and planning challenges after 1992, particularly in Beirut Central District, where the severity of the destruction had left the District almost vacant of any of its original residents and commercial activity. Other challenges had to be dealt with such as the entangled property rights after a 17 year protracted conflict, and the different residential statuses of the previous residents and commercial entities (owners, tenants or long term investors).

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Underdevelopment in the North and East (Bekaa) districts of the country, particularly Akkar and Hermel, has been pronounced compared to Beirut and Mount Lebanon, or even South Lebanon (a previously underdeveloped and occupied region). Southern Lebanon has benefited from better government spending and private investment after the end of the civil war and its liberation in 2000 from Israeli occupation. There are also areas within the Greater Beirut area that suffer from underdevelopment and minimal government and municipal spending for different reasons, particularly the fact that a significant proportion of the housing and commercial buildings in those areas have been built illegally on private and government property or without planning permits; not to mention the severely underdeveloped Palestinian refugee camps as a result of the continuously decreasing budget for UNRWA.

The mass influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon (about 1.1 million registered refugees according to UNHCR's latest figures) has compounded and multiplied the challenges facing the country as a whole, and its underdeveloped regions, especially the North and Bekaa that bore the biggest brunt of the refugee impact overstressing their originally limited resources and their education, health, energy, water and sanitation infrastructure, undermining their security, increasing their unemployment levels, and seriously affecting the economic activity and investment climate in both regions. The refugee influx also increased the demographic pressure on the poorer neighborhoods of Greater Beirut and Palestinian camps, where most of the refugees are currently residing due to their relatively lower rental rates.

Needless to say, there is an urgent need to provide those areas with increased development assistance, in addition to the humanitarian assistance delivered to refugees, to alleviate some of the negative developmental impact they have suffered from, and to strengthen their resilience.

Panel IV: Humanitarian-development nexus – building resilience in urban settings

Chair: Sharif Baaser,
Co-chair of the UN Task Team on Conflict Prevention, UNICEF

Panelists:

Samer Saliba, Urban Response Learning Manager, IRC

Filiep Decorte, Deputy Director, New York Liaison Office, UN-Habitat

Leontine Specker, Programme Specialist, UNDP

SUMMARY OF SESSION

The fourth session focused on urban resilience and looked principally at the contexts of New York, Bossaso in Somalia and Lebanon. IRC representative, Samer Saliba, stressed that the international resilience agenda should be extended to urban contexts and particularly those deemed high-risk to violence and conflict. Complex cases of urban violence and conflict require multi-scale, multi-faceted, cross-sector based approaches well beyond traditional humanitarian and development boundaries. A recovery and resilience based approach provides a universal framework for sustainable outcomes and bridging the humanitarian and development divide in addressing urban violence and conflict.

Filiep Decorte, from UN-Habitat, demonstrated how temporary and durable solutions could be found for IDPs while planning urban growth in more sustainable and resilient ways. He stressed that a solid understanding of urban dynamics was key to address vulnerabilities of the displaced. Progress had been made thanks to a very broad based participatory process.

Leontine Specker of UNDP focused on UNDP's Host Community Support Project in Lebanon and presented the resilience based development pillar of the response to the Syrian refugee crisis. She noted that a focus was placed not only on assisting Syrian refugees, but also the affected Lebanese communities receiving refugees so both can benefit from the international assistance provided, including improved access to basic services, livelihoods opportunities, Rule of Law and support to social cohesion. A regional response plan was created, the Regional Refugee and Resilience plan (3RP), to coordinate the refugee response at a regional level that supported the implementation of nationally owned response plans. Community engagement is key in order to map risk and resources and to build the capacities of affected communities to accommodate displaced groups and encourage socio-economic growth.

POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use urban resilience as a common principle in enacting strategies that ultimately help the city prepare for, withstand, and recover from future shocks and stresses, particularly building resilience towards instance of urban conflict and violence.
- Ensure inclusive and participatory engagement by the urban population in its cities response plans.
- Take a universal approach. Understand and relate to New York's response to emergencies and build resilience (such as the city authorities' multi-disciplinary approach) to strengthen the resilience and preparedness of cities in the global south.
- Promote accountability towards all urban residents, regardless of citizenship, particularly those most marginalized, underrepresented, or forced into the city by conflict or violence.
- In crisis contexts, in cities impacted by large movements of migrants and refugees, ensure a resilience based development approach is applied as early on as possible, supporting both displaced and affected host communities in urban areas.

Panel V: Linking Goal 11 and 16 of the SDGs

Chair: Patrick Keuleers, Director and Chief of Profession,
Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster, BPPS, UNDP

Panelists:

Andrew Rudd, Urban Environment Officer,
Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat

Lucy Earle, Urban Adviser in DFID's Humanitarian Policy and Partnerships Team

Henk-Jan Brinkman, Chief of the Policy, Planning and Application Branch, PBSO

SUMMARY OF SESSION

A major difference between the Millennium Development goals and the new SDGs is the inclusion of an urban goal and a peace, justice and governance goal within the 17 SDG goals that constitute the 2030 Agenda. SDG Goal 11 is a game-changer, as it places urbanization as key in recovery and development processes. Goal 16 recognizes the importance of institutions, governance processes, systems and most importantly of the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. This session focused on the argument that SDG Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities can be transformational if firmly linked with the aspiration of Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions in contexts of violence, fragility and conflict.

The session opened with Andrew Rudd, an architect and urban planner with UN-Habitat, who presented data that showed how well planned and designed urban public spaces help build safer cities. He advocated for the use of urban design, spatial and social planning as tools to support efforts to reduce urban violence and conflict and create new opportunities for socio-economic development and collective action that strengthen

resilient peaceful cities. Spatial and social planning need to be undertaken together. Urban planning can be as much a cause of increased segregation and exclusion as a means towards finding new solutions. The way urban space is designed and organized has an impact on violence levels within a city.

Henk-Jan from the UN Peacebuilding and Support Office (PBSO) noted that urbanization is not mentioned in the 2015 review of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on UN Peacebuilding Architecture and the review of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO), despite the new urban nature of conflict and violence. Horizontal inequalities – e.g. in socio-economic and political areas – among groups within a country or within cities can increase the risk of violence and conflict. We need to be mindful of these enormous disparities and that increased levels of inequality can be a major cause of urban tensions and violence. We need to understand the links between horizontal inequalities and the organization of public space in urban areas to ensure we “leave no one behind”. Brinkman highlighted the need for legitimacy within a peacebuilding context and noted that this is built not through the quantity or quality or who delivers the services but how they are delivered.

Specifically, the establishment of grievance mechanisms is critical. Brinkman noted that the interlinkages of Goal 11 with Goal 16 is clear across three dimensions:

- 1** safe cities (11.1) and reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (16.1);
- 2** access to basic services (11.1) and institutions to deliver social services (16.6); and
- 3** participatory human settlement planning and management (11.3) and participatory decision-making (16.7).

Lucy Earle highlighted the opportunities provided by the SDGs for collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, including in SDG 11 on urban areas that references preventing loss of life and damage to assets in towns and cities affected by disasters. However, she also noted that historically, humanitarians have not routinely engaged with municipal institutions during emergency response, and that this is potentially detrimental to the goal of resilient, sustainable cities, as well as that of strong institutions, as set out in Goal 16. In addition to building and retaining local capacity for crisis response, greater engagement between humanitarians and municipal governance actors can ensure interventions are better targeted to both crisis-affected and host populations, mitigating social tensions and returning towns and cities more swiftly to a sustainable development trajectory.

POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Link spatial and social planning to strengthen social cohesion. Recognize urban planners as an important stakeholder and a capacity to mobilize when elaborating programmes to support local governance and recovery processes in urban settings.
- Recognize that cities demands support to inclusive and participatory decision making systems and humanitarians to work in tandem with city authorities as proximity to services doesn't mean you have access to them.
- Ensure data is disaggregated by neighborhoods, to understand the dynamics within the cities and horizontal inequality patterns to define appropriate responses.
- Recognize the role of effective grievance mechanisms to build the legitimacy of the state and local authorities.

Participant biographies

ALVAREZ, ALEJANDRO

 @alealvarez19

**Team Leader, Rule of Law,
Security and Human Rights, BPPS, UNDP**

Mr. Alvarez is currently the Team Leader for Rule of Law, Justice, Security and Human Rights in UNDP's Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster. He leads a team based in New York and in 5 regional centers that designs, monitors and supports the implementation of multi-year programs, including those most affected by conflict and violence. Beyond UNDP, Mr. Alvarez sits at the management team of the UN Global Focal Point for police, justice and corrections, which is the UN coordination mechanism created by the SG in support of peace operations in the area of rule of law; he co-chairs the UN Security Sector Reform Interagency Taskforce and represents UNDP at technical level in the SG Human Rights Up Front initiative.

BAASER, SHARIF

 @UNICEF

**Co-chair of the Task Team on
Conflict Prevention (UNICEF)**

Mr. Baaser is a peacebuilding specialist with UNICEF, currently based in New York. His expertise lies in the areas of conflict prevention, protection of civilians in armed conflict, peacebuilding, and post-conflict recovery and development. His work is focused on helping fragile and conflict-affected countries transition from fragility and violence to stability and long term peace. Mr. Baaser has worked with non-governmental organizations and the UN in Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan. In his current capacity at UNICEF headquarters, New York, he has been providing technical and programmatic support to a number of countries. He holds a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

BRINKMAN, HENK-JAN

 @UNPeacebuilding

**Chief of the Policy,
Planning and Application Branch, PBSO**

Mr. Brinkman is chief of the Policy, Planning and Application Branch of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office since June 2010. Between 2006 and 2010, he held various positions in the World Food Programme. From 2001 to 2006, he advised Secretary-General Kofi Annan on economic, social and environmental issues. Between 1989 and 2001, he was in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He holds an M.A. in Economics from the University of Groningen and a Ph.D. in Economics from the New School for Social Research. He has written on such topics as the socio-economic factors behind violent conflicts, high food prices, nutrition and human stature. He is the lead author of WFP's *World Hunger Series – Hunger and Markets* (Earthscan, 2009) and the author of *Explaining Prices in the Global Economy: A Post-Keynesian Model* (Edward Elgar, 1999). He holds Dutch citizenship.

DECORTE, FILIEP

 @filiepdecorte and @UNHABITAT_NY

**Deputy Director,
UN-Habitat New York Liaison Office**

Since June 2013, Mr. Decorte has been the chief technical advisor and the focal point for UN-Habitat's crisis-related work in UN-Habitat's New York Liaison Office. During his career, Filiep has predominantly focused on urban initiatives in conflict- and crisis-affected countries, specializing in urban planning, land, and housing issues. He has worked for UN-Habitat for more than fifteen years in different capacities, including long-term assignments in Haiti, the occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, and Morocco. He also acted as coordinator for UN-Habitat's Global Disaster Management Program. He was trained as a civil engineer, architect, and urban and regional planner, with advanced master's degrees from the Universities of Ghent and Leuven in Belgium.

DOE, SAMUEL**Policy Adviser for Crisis,
Fragility and Resilience, BPPS-UNDP**

Mr. Doe is Senior Policy Adviser for crisis, fragility and resilience in UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. Previously, he was the Policy Adviser and Team Leader in the Policy and Planning Division of UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. Prior to the UN, Doe was a civil society leader in Africa for 15 years, having established and led the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, the largest peacebuilding civil society network in Africa; served as chair for the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response, a global network of conflict prevention scholars and practitioners, based in London; and founding Chair of the International Conflict and Security Consulting in London. Doe is a Liberian national and holds a doctorate in Social and International Affairs from Bradford University (UK) and an M.A. in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University (USA). He currently teaches Conflict Sensitive Policy Development and Resilience-based Development at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding.

EARLE, LUCY

 @lucyurbanearle

**Urban Adviser in DFID's Humanitarian
Policy and Partnerships Team**

Ms. Earle is an urban adviser in DFID's humanitarian policy and partnerships team. She leads DFID's Urban Crises Programme (implemented by IIED and IRC) and is part-time seconded to the IRC in New York to work on the advocacy and learning component of the Programme. She co-leads the Urban Expert Group for the World Humanitarian Summit, and is working with IRC and UN-Habitat on the design and establishment of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises that will be launched at the World Humanitarian Summit. She has recently served on a Policy Unit for Habitat III, contributing expertise on urban refugees and displacement.

HINIKER, ALEXANDRA

 @alexhiniker

PAX Representative to the UN

At PAX, Ms. Hiniker focuses on the protection of civilians in Syria, Iraq and South Sudan, including humanitarian disarmament and arms control policies. Before opening the PAX New York office in 2012, she spent five years working on humanitarian disarmament issues in some of the world's most bombed and mined countries, first with the United Nations in Cambodia, and then with the Cluster Munition Coalition in Laos and Lebanon. She began her international development career implementing pandemic preparedness projects in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Alexandra has an M.A. in Central and Eastern European Studies from Uniwersytet Jagiellonski in Krakow, Poland, and spent a year studying at Sciences po-Paris while earning her B.A. at the University of Chicago. She is currently pursuing an M.A. in Urban Policy and Leadership at Hunter College.

KEULEERS, PATRICK

 @Pkeuleers1

Director, Governance and Peacebuilding, BPPS, UNDP

Mr. Keuleers is the Director and Chief of Profession of UNDP's Governance and Peacebuilding Team in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. He was the Senior Advisor and Team Leader of the Responsive Institutions Cluster in the Democratic Governance Group in the Bureau for Development Policy (2009-2013). Prior to that, he served as Democratic Governance Team Leader in the Asia Pacific Regional Centre (2005-2009), Regional Governance Advisor in the Bangkok Sub-Regional Resource Facility (2001-2004); CTA of the Governance and Public Administration Reform Programme in the Prime Minister's Office in Laos (1995-2001); Advisor to the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Improvements in Burundi (1991-1995); Advisor (on public administration reform) to the General Secretariat of the Presidency in Mali (1987-1990), Associate Expert to the Commission for Administrative Reforms in Mali (1984-1987). Mr. Keuleers is a Belgian national and holds a law degree from the University of Leuven in Belgium.

LEON, ESTEBAN**Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat**

Mr. Leon is the Chief Technical Advisor of the City Resilience Profiling Programme of UN-Habitat and the Chair of the Humanitarian IASC RG on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas. He has a background in economics and finance, program design and management, capacity building, as well as building construction and reconstruction projects in post-crisis situations. He has developed, fundraised, initiated and managed projects on post-disaster and post-conflict shelter and settlements recovery in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Pakistan, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Peru, Colombia, Georgia, Gaza, Haiti, El Salvador, Fiji, Samoa and lately Lebanon, Syria and the Philippines while supporting UN-Habitat in Somalia, Myanmar and Bangladesh operations.

OJEDA, STÉPHANE

 @stephane_ojeda and @ICRC_NYC

Deputy Permanent Observer/Legal Advisor of the ICRC Delegation to the UN

Mr. Ojeda joined the ICRC in 1999 and served as a Legal Advisor for about ten years both at ICRC HQ in Geneva and in the field (Israel, Palestine, Lebanon). As such, he has provided numerous lectures on international humanitarian law in various settings and has published several legal articles. He also served the ICRC field operations as a Detention Delegate in Ethiopia, Israel and Guantanamo. Before joining the ICRC, he worked for a humanitarian NGO in Mali. Mr. Ojeda holds a Masters in International Humanitarian Law and Action and a Masters in International and European Law from the University Paul Cezanne of Aix-Marseille, France.

PATEL, RONAK**Assistant Professor, Stanford University**

A member of faculty at Stanford University and an emergency medicine physician, Professor Patel's research addresses the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid urbanization for humanitarian crises, vulnerable populations, their health and resilience. His research focuses on exposing risks and developing tools and interventions to mitigate and address these risks to health and development. In addition to numerous presentations and publications, he has led or participated on multiple expert working groups to develop policies and programs for reducing urban vulnerability and improving operational effectiveness. While at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative he started and led the program on urbanization and he will soon be launching a program on crisis and resilience at Stanford.

RAO, VYJAYANTHI

 @terreformUR

Director of Terreform

Prior to joining Terreform, Ms. Rao held research and teaching positions at The New School for Social Research and at University of Chicago, where she also received her doctorate. From 2002 to 2004 she served as the Research Director of the Initiative on Cities and Globalization, Yale University, and as the Co-Director of Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research (PUKAR), an innovative urban laboratory in Mumbai, India. She has authored many articles in noted journals, was the co-editor of *Speculation, Now: Essays and Artwork* (Duke University Press, 2015) and is completing a manuscript on the spatial transformation of Mumbai.

RUDD, ANDREW

**Urban Environment Officer,
Urban Planning and Design Branch,
UN-Habitat**

Mr. Rudd is the Urban Environment Officer for UN-Habitat's Urban Planning and Design Branch in New York, where he leads substantive advocacy for the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including the SDGs). He also manages a portfolio of projects related to urban sprawl and landscape connectivity. Before that he worked for five years in UN-Habitat's Nairobi office, where he served on the agency's delegation to the Rio+20 conference and managed the *Urban Patterns for a Green Economy* publication series, a photographic investigation of fast-growing cities and UN-Habitat's participation in the Shanghai Expo. Previously Mr. Rudd worked as an architect in New York. He studied architecture at Yale and urbanism at the LSE.

SALIBA, SAMER

 @samermaliba

Urban Response Learning Manager at IRC

Mr. Saliba is currently gathering evidence around how to improve urban humanitarian response in policy and in practice. Prior to this, he served for seven years as an urban planner, bolstering the resilience of New York City and the Northeast US. Through his involvement in innovative programs such as Rebuild by Design, the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program, 100 Resilient Cities, and the National Disaster Resilience Competition, he has worked directly with at-risk communities, regional and municipal government agencies, and numerous other stakeholders in developing integrated resilience strategies that go beyond the basics of community planning. He holds a Master of Urban Planning from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service.

SCHELLEKENS, SASKIA

 @UNYouthEnvoy

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Ms. Schellekens provides strategic and policy advice to the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in support of his mandate to strengthen the UN's programmes on youth at all levels. She leads and coordinates the efforts of the Envoy's Office to ensure youth issues are reflected in the outcomes of UN intergovernmental processes and their follow up and review, including the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Financing for Development. She provides guidance on the implementation of the Envoy's work plan and the continued advancement of the World Programme of Action for Youth. Prior to this, Ms. Schellekens was a member of the lead author team at UNFPA, which led the 20-year global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. At UNFPA, she also held the position of Special Assistant to the Director, Technical Division, acting Special Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director (Programme), and that of Technical Specialist on Adolescent and Youth issues. Ms. Schellekens holds a Master of Science in Advanced Development Studies from the Radboud University in Nijmegen and a Master of Arts in Organizational Anthropology from the Free University, Amsterdam, both in the Netherlands.

SHARP, DEEN

 @deensharp

Doctoral candidate at the City University of New York

Mr. Sharp is a doctoral candidate in Earth and Environmental Science, specialized in geography, and an international consultant who has worked for a number of UN agencies. He was co-editor of *Beyond the Square: Urbanism and the Arab uprisings* and has worked extensively on urban geography in the Middle East. Previously, he was a freelance journalist and consultant based in Lebanon. His research focuses on the geography of the Arab world and his current project concerns the corporation and urban space in post-war Beirut. He has written for a number of publications, including, *Jadaliyya*, *Portal 9*, the *Arab Studies Journal* and *The Guardian*.

SORKIN, MICHAEL

 @terreformUR

President of Terreform

Professor Sorkin is an architect and urbanist whose practice spans design, criticism, and pedagogy. Since 2000, he has been Distinguished Professor of Architecture and Director of the Graduate Program in Urban Design at City College of New York. He is the architecture critic for *The Nation*, contributing editor at *Architectural Record*, and author or editor of twenty books. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the recipient of the 2013 Cooper-Hewitt National Design Mind Award, and is a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow. He is also Principal of Michael Sorkin Studio, an international design practice that works in close collaboration with Terreform.

SPECKER, LEONTINE

Programme Specialist, UNDP

Ms. Specker has worked for as a UNDP as a livelihoods and reintegration programme specialist for over 6 years. Prior to that, she worked for the Conflict Research Unit of the Netherlands Institute for International Relations (Clingendael). Ms. Specker has predominantly worked on livelihoods and displacement related programming in both disaster and conflict affected contexts. She holds an M.A. in International Relation and Human Rights from Auckland University and an LL.M. in International Public Law from Leiden University.

SPOERRI, PHILIP

 @ICRC

Permanent Observer of the ICRC to the United Nations in New York

Mr. Spoerri has a Ph.D. in law from Bielefeld University and has also studied at the Universities of Göttingen, Geneva and Munich. Before commencing as a delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the beginning of 1994, he worked as a criminal defense lawyer in Munich. Mr. Spoerri began his career with the ICRC in 1994. Following a first mission in Israel and the Occupied Territories, he continued with assignments in Kuwait and in Yemen (1996), as Protection Coordinator in Afghanistan (1998) and Head of Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1999-2000). In Geneva, he headed the service of legal advisers to ICRC Operations. He then returned to Afghanistan as the Head of Delegation (2004 to 2006). He was appointed Director for International Law and Cooperation for the ICRC in 2006 and was reappointed for another four years in 2010. He was a member of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent from 2006 to 2014. On November 1st 2014, Mr. Spoerri took office as the Permanent Observer of the ICRC to the United Nations in New York.

STENER, MAY-ELIN

 @NorwayUN

Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN

Ambassador May-Elin Stener took up her appointment as DPR of Norway to the United Nations in New York in August 2014. Prior the New York posting, she was based at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo, where she worked in The Department for UN, Peace and Humanitarian Assistance as Director of the Section for Humanitarian Affairs. From 2007–2011 Ambassador Stener was Minister Counselor and Deputy Head at the Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, with an emphasis on political work. She has also been posted to the Norwegian Mission to the International Organizations in Geneva, where she worked on disarmament issues. She holds a law degree from the University of Oslo, and has been with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1995. Ambassador Stener was born in 1969 and has one daughter.

SUCUOGLU, GIZEM

 @gizmous

Senior Program Manager at New York University's Center on International Cooperation (CIC)

Ms. Sucuoglu's area of expertise lies in the field of peacebuilding, conflict prevention, urban policy, international and regional organizations, Turkey, the Balkans, Middle East and South Asia. Prior to joining Center on International Cooperation (CIC), she worked at the United Nations, on the 2015 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. She has held past positions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, and Afghanistan as a career diplomat in the Turkish Foreign Service. Ms. Sucuoglu holds a Ph.D. from the University of Kent at Canterbury.

