

# URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN SOCIALIST AND POST-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC: LESSONS LEARNED

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Opening remark for ICCCASU Networking Event at WUF11 (2022-06-28)

**Rong Yang**

Inter-regional Advisor  
Regional Programmes Division, UN-Habitat



**Dear Guest, Professors, Participants, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon, and good morning and good evening to our participants online.

As the most closer cooperation partner of ICCCASU, our UN-Habitat team welcome all participants come to WUF11, you may be from the central/Local government, from Academia and research institutions, from Societies or NGOs. wherever you are onsite or online, welcome you to join today's networking event.

Today's event at WUF11 is the One of the series of activities of ICCCASU (as mentioned by my colleague Claude), which is focusing on the knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices and lessons learn, and exploring the effective solutions for sustainable urban development. The organizer selected an interesting and meaningful theme, *Urban Transformation In Socialist And Post-Socialist Countries In Response To The Pandemic: Lessons Learned*, for today's dialogue and exchange.

Over the last more than two years of COVID pandemic, today, we are still facing the challenge in many places of the World. Wherever it is in the Socialist and Post-Socialist countries; This is also our common challenge for recovery of Social-Economic development, as well as our common challenge for the implementation of SDG and NUA.

We all know, cities are the frontier to fight with pandemic of COVID, Cities are also the most important and key place for accelerating the social-economic recovery and development in the period of post-pandemic. The cities either in Socialist or in the post-Socialist country, standing at the new point of post-pandemic, they must have the same goals that are dedicated to finding the effective approach, solutions and measurement to tackle the Post-pandemic challenge, such as how to rethink urban space/land planning; how to promote inclusive plan and development for the cities, how to make cities and communities more resilient, how to tackle poverty, strengthen social protection, how to invest sustainable urban infrastructure and reduces disaster risk, and how to mitigate and adapt climate change, in the meantime, we also need to think that Cities are engines of dynamism and innovation, and help us overcome development deficits, etc. All of these aspects are related to sustainable urban development.

Perhaps there will be very diversity of solutions, measurement, best practices and lessons-learn either in Socialist or in the post-Socialist country. But I think that all of us have the common goals that is how to realize the Sustainable Development Goals in Cities around world. This needs the actual actions taken by all stakeholders. I believe that today's dialogue and debate will benefit for all participant, benefit for Cities finding the way forward to tackling the challenge they are facing. I also believe that with respect to the sustainable urban development, ICCCASU will continue its contribution to the implementation of SDG and NUA.

Wish all participants have an active exchange and discussion.

Wish a successful networking event today. Thank you!