

# URBAN20 2022 COMMUNIQUÉ

Jakarta, Indonesia

Throughout history, cities have proven to be socially and economically resilient and able to bounce back after major crises. This is particularly true in 2022, wherein hope lies in cities as engines of post-pandemic green and just recovery.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences compounded by the climate and energy crisis, growing global inequalities, geopolitical instability and the rise of disruptive technologies, are causing acute challenges in cities, especially in the Global South.

The vibrancy of our cities and their contributions to the achievement of social progress and economic development cannot be insulated from the adverse impact of increasing tensions and conflicts in many parts of the world. In this context, U20 cities reaffirm the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. ES-11/1 on Aggression against Ukraine adopted on 2 March 2022 and hereby urge the cessation of violence without delay to end the war. U20 cities are united in condemning all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights. We call for immediate peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine through political dialogue, negotiations, mediation and other peaceful means. In times of turbulence and duress, it is important for the U20 to press on with city diplomacy to strengthen a culture of peace, bolster unwavering support to humanitarian responses, foster local democracy, and cement respect of human rights and international law.

This is why U20 cities are committed to working together, building bridges and to finding common solutions grounded in a deep sense of unity and solidarity, including with all people and communities who are suffering from unfair harm, destruction and the loss of life. Cities have been and continue to be at the forefront of welcoming and hosting refugees, providing relief and assistance, and stand ready to contribute to a sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and green recovery.

Hence, it is important that cities, national governments and all urban stakeholders remain focused on delivering, collaboratively, our global goals: achieving the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, advancing the localization of the SDGs and the rapid implementation of the Paris Agreement. Through our close cooperation, we can achieve a just economic recovery that respects planetary boundaries, ends inequalities, the pandemic and addresses the climate crisis effectively. This is essential to improve international stability and security, which are cornerstone to the economic and social development and the vibrancy of our cities.

As U20 cities our objective is to strive for a more equitable, sustainable and resilient future, benefiting all, particularly under-represented and vulnerable communities and minorities. We know what it will take to make this vision a reality and that old strategies and concepts will not meet our hopes of economic prosperity, environmental stability and social justice. Instead, we need to collaboratively work towards providing quality and affordable local public services in big, small and intermediary cities across the globe, achieving gender equality and female empowerment, preparing citizens for the changing nature of work, and increasing cities' preparedness to welcome and capacity to care for refugees and migrants who have had to flee their homes. Finally, this future calls for decisive and science-based action to address the global climate crisis. For this we call on G20 governments to take immediate measures - and work with cities to deliver them - towards their Paris Agreement commitments and the objective of halving global emissions by 2030, and reaching net-zero no later than 2050.

Under the leadership of Jakarta and West Java, as the 2022 U20 co-chairs and the priority to "Recover together, recover stronger", we have exchanged best practices and discussed solutions

to achieve a sustainable economic and social recovery for all, including: productive and affordable housing, renewable energy transition, equal access to sustainable mobility, mental health and pandemic resilience, the future of work and the important role of culture as an engine of sustainable development.

We, the mayors and governors of the undersigned cities, gathered as the U20, commit to delivering a green, open, inclusive, just, and sustainable post-pandemic recovery where all people are empowered to participate equitably and decently in the green economy and live in open cities without fear of discrimination, war, or climate impacts, in the spirit of solidarity, world peace, and with respect to cultural heritage and diversity.

We appeal to the G20, meeting in Bali on November 15-16 2022, to promote world peace and global development and to work with cities towards a mutually desirable post-pandemic future by taking concrete action in three priority areas where public investment and direct funding for cities can have the greatest impact towards an inclusive economic recovery, addressing the climate crisis, fostering social cohesion and addressing inequality. Thus, we call on the G20 to:

### **Invest in health and housing as a cornerstone to an economic and social recovery for all**

1. **Health systems resilience:** Revamp health systems to enhance resilience to future pandemics and social and environmental crises through local public service provision, strengthened monitoring systems based on robust disaggregated data collection systems, collectively build stronger global health architecture and comprehensive domestic health protocols and respect privacy. Ensure equitable access for developing countries of critical biotechnology by enhancing cooperation on vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics; encouraging patent waivers for the production of COVID-19 vaccines and facilitating the voluntary sharing of technological knowhow.
2. **Mental health:** Substantially increasing public investments to raise awareness, combat stigma, and expand mental health treatment opportunities, particularly for youth, women, children, older persons and those in socioeconomically precarious circumstances or the chronically ill; and providing psychological support at public health facilities for all, affordable and free from discrimination of any kind.
3. **Social protection and cohesion:** Collaborate with cities to address structural inequalities and invest in social justice and territorial cohesion, acknowledging the role that intermediary cities can play in development. Include all citizens, irrespective of background, gender or socio-economic circumstance, in decision-making to ensure the provision of an inclusive and financially viable social safety net, built on a robust and just tax system that better supports the urban poor, young people, and those economic activities most impacted by the pandemic, improves access to food and sustainable food systems, promotes cultural life and heritage, and combats all forms of discrimination by ensuring equality in all its forms, including gender equality, racial and ethnics justice, by promoting the empowerment of women and girls, protecting under-represented and vulnerable communities, and dismantling longstanding structures that perpetuate discrimination, harassment, racism, and sexism.
4. **Sustainable and affordable housing:** Increase healthy, affordable, accessible and sustainable housing supplies in cities by recognizing the right to housing; bolstering public and private investment and blended financing models to enable innovative and inclusive mortgage and rental schemes, and expanding housing subsidy and incentive programs, particularly for

youth, potential homeowners, homebuilders, and the property industry. Ensure that energy and waste management systems support sustainable homes.

5. **Urban regeneration land use:** Encourage regulations that promote harmonious land use and facilitate more compact, integrated, mixed-use, and transit-oriented districts such as 15-minute cities, where most residents' daily needs are universally accessible by foot. Create and facilitate access to sustainable and open public spaces for recreation, contact with nature, exercise and social interaction for community members to improve collective mental health and wellbeing, including by developing green infrastructure with the livelihoods of citizens in mind putting them at the heart of public policy-making. Equal access to sustainable infrastructure as nature-based solutions plays a vital role for physical and mental public health, inter alia, by helping residents cope with urban stress factors.

### **Foster a sustainable energy transition and equal access to sustainable mobility**

1. **Fossil fuel phase-out:** Commit to the full and rapid global phase-out of fossil fuels, publish clear and binding Energy Transition Roadmaps in line with a 1.5°C trajectory and create enabling national frameworks to support and accelerate the renewable energy transition in urban settings towards the goal of halving global emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by 2050 at the latest. Commitments at the national level should be aligned to ensuring universal access to energy for all while supporting rapid, just and equitable coal, oil and gas phase-out at the local level; to transitioning as directly as possible to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and geothermal, among others, without creating negative social and ecological impacts; and to support the uptake of energy storage solutions such as batteries and green hydrogen to ensure stability of supply.
2. **Financing the renewable energy transition:** Drive multinational and national public investments to finance the energy transition at the local level and facilitate innovative and blended energy transition financing schemes that directly fund city-led initiatives, lean on cost-effective public-private partnerships to support a just transition and enable the early retirement of coal-fired power plants and the accelerated and scaled-up uptake of renewable energy, particularly at the municipal level and in the Global South.
3. **Reduce barriers:** Address the systemic, technological, and financial barriers and constraints of renewable energy and energy efficiency uptake for residential, commercial, and industrial users to help amplify demand for the energy transition, including by creating and implementing incentives and disincentives for stakeholders (industry, private, etc) to guarantee universal access.
4. **Undertake social campaigns to raise awareness and understanding** on the importance of transitioning to renewable energy sources as an effort to drive bottom up demand of renewables and awareness on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.
5. **Sustainable mobility:** Prioritize measures and investments that increase the share of urban journeys made by public transport, walking and cycling and reduce private car use as one of the main ways to improve public health, reduce inequalities, keep cities moving and their economies thriving. Ensure a just transition to zero emission public and private transport to accelerate energy transition and help phase out fossil fuels. Public transport must be safe, clean, reliable, inclusive and affordable and address the necessary requirements and the specific needs and concerns of women, children, aging, minority, marginalized and vulnerable communities, and those with mobility challenges.

## **Provide education and training on the future of work to give all people equitable access to the job market**

1. **Inclusive job opportunities:** Ensure that employment opportunities and policy are equitable and accessible to all across all sectors, particularly in the digital and creative economies, and low carbon technologies and renewable energy sector as key employment generators, as well as in culture and tourism taking into account the most vulnerable and under-represented workers. Prepare workers for the future by galvanizing partnership between government and employers and expanding opportunities for customized skilling and retraining as well as updating educational curriculum for future workers in a green and just economy. Ensure and enable lifelong learning. Redefine employment and increase accuracy in data for improved labor policy based on supply and demand of current and future jobs.
2. **Workers' holistic wellbeing:** Elevate the welfare of workers across all dimensions, considering the right to time by strengthening regulatory frameworks and bolstering collaboration with the private sector to uphold work-life balance, job security, fair wages and benefits, taking into account the future of work. Strive to ensure that the socio-economic recovery equally benefits and protects the rights of all workers including female, people of color, low-skilled and gig workers, including by reducing pay gaps, providing fair and livable wages and reinforcing unions' ability to organize and defend workers' interests. Ensure that the International Labour Organization's core labor standards are respected and implemented for all workers including subcontractors. Protect intellectual property rights for entrepreneurs, creators, and inventors to spur creativity in the economy.
3. **Sustainable jobs:** Bolster just and sustainable jobs through investment, workforce development, training and just transition policies to ensure the creation of inclusive and universally accessible jobs for those that need employment the most while lowering emissions and fostering circularity approaches, particularly in cities in the Global South, where persistent reliance on fossil fuels for energy remains. Debottleneck investments in renewable energy and create additional incentives with high sustainable job creation potential.
4. **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) productivity:** Unleash the potential of MSMEs as major employment generators by promoting linkages with large and exporting enterprises and local alliances, promoting community benefits and wealth building, enabling MSMEs to scale up participation in global value chains and e-commerce, and global trade, facilitating the digitalization of small and informal businesses and providing training opportunities for MSMEs.
5. **Digitalization and harnessing innovation:** Bridge the disparity of digital infrastructure and innovation between and within cities and countries, promote development of digital infrastructure, including affordable and high-speed digital connectivity for marginalized and rural communities and in intermediary cities. Encourage the voluntary sharing of technological know-how between countries, and promote digital skills and literacy for everyone. Adapt human rights to the digital age by fostering digital rights and access to data and raise awareness to combat disinformation. Nudge future AI innovations to assist rather than replace skilled tasks performed by human workers and reconfigure fiscal policy to protect and retrain workers to harness such labor-friendly innovations.

We, the mayors and governors of U20, stand ready to work hand in hand with G20 governments as we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis. We look forward to synergizing our vision and bolstering commitments to recover together and recover stronger, and to realize our shared vision of creating

green, just, equitable, and sustainable post-pandemic cities under the leadership of Indonesia's G20 presidency.