



UN Major Group for **Children and Youth** the space for children and youth in the United Nations

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Intervention at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meeting for Habitat III
The Transformative Commitments for a Sustainable Urban Development
Right to the City and Cities for All
26th April 2016

Thank you chair for giving us the floor.

We would like to raise some points about the 'right to the city' in the context of this discussion and the specific guiding questions.

1. Why the Right to the City and Cities for all now?

In light of the current humanitarian crises, refugee and migrant crisis. We want to reiterate the fact that the rights to essential services in an urban context are not linked to any status of persons.

This does not come into play only during emergency situations, but is a universal norm. It is a contextual interpretation of the human right to a decent standard of living and other human rights.

2. What would be the key pillar to achieve more inclusive cities?

Answering this question, we would like to highlight what we view as missing in the conversation thus far.

Firstly, thanks to some member states here, the Right to the City in the context of providing the access to the basic social services has gained recognition.

It goes without saying that the city should be safe, livable, resilient, collective, diverse, and so on.

At the same time, however, we have to recognise that the Right to the City, as its core nature, includes the right for people to shape the city - the right to the city has to be the right to meaningfully define the city.

3. Where to start?

To actually make the notion of "the right to the city" implementable, we would like to elaborate and reinforce couple of points to enrich the conversation around.

1. In its vision, the NUA should prioritize a popular reclamation of the social institutions and public infrastructures of the city and transform them for universal access as a commons to ensure dignified realization and life.
2. In the thematic content the NUA should clearly articulate that accessibility of city's social and collective resources and value will be distributed to not only those who formerly live in the cities, but also to those who live in rural and peri-urban areas contributing to mitigate the negative environmental impacts.
3. In the implementation, follow up and review the agenda needs to Institute participatory planning and budgeting processes that formally incorporate the entire grouping of the MGoS (Major Groups and Other Stakeholders) through designated spots.
4. In the monitoring process, the modalities at all levels should clearly specify Meaningful engagement in defining and shaping the indicator based on the right to the city to achieve the sustainable city for all.