

Networking Event, 17/10, 4:30pm, in *Urban Future*, 'Urban Regeneration: an Opportunity for Climate-Friendly Urban Development?'

Join us for stimulating presentations and lively discussions on how to combine urban regeneration with low-carbon and climate-resilient development in cities. Views and experiences are shared between national and local government representatives from Chile, South Africa and Germany.

We are pleased to announce that **Ms. Paulina Saball**, Chilean Minister for Housing and Urban Development Chile will jointly open the event with **Ms. Maria Krautzberger**, President of the German Federal Environment Agency.

Chilean and German perspectives on urban regeneration will be presented by Mr. Aldo Ramaciotti, Ministerial Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Santiago Metropolitan Region, and Dr. Oliver Weigel, Head Of Urban Development Division, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

Questions around specific challenges, balancing different needs and how to secure sustainability will be answered by the international panel. Next to Mr. Ramaciotti, there will be three other participants:

- Germany: **Mr. Hilmar von Lojewski**, Councillor, Association of German Cities
- South Africa: **Mr. Sithole Mbanga**, Chief Executive Officer of the South African Cities Network
- Chile: **Mr. Sergio Galilea**, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Public Construction.

Background information:

Cities undergo continuous transformation. Not only do they grow and expand spatially but their existing structure and environment are subject to regeneration, reorganisation, upgrading, and retrofitting. However, such urban renewal policies, focusing for instance on the physical renewal of inner cities, have thus far insufficiently tackled the challenges of climate change. While cities account for merely 3 per cent of the Earth's land, they account for 60-80 per cent of global energy consumption and 75 per cent of carbon emissions, making them major contributors to climate change.

Beyond that, cities are severely threatened by climate change. They are confronted with a higher frequency of extreme weather events, droughts, water scarcity, as well as heightened heat island effects of dense urban landscapes, and coastal cities in particular are threatened by rising sea-levels and storm surges.

In urban areas, many buildings that will have to withstand such challenges in the coming decades are already built. It is therefore key to make existing structures low-carbon and less vulnerable. Given that urban revitalization and renewal is frequently on the agenda of policymakers and urban practitioners, such measures can be mainstreamed to be more climate-sensitive, building resilience and enabling significant mitigation actions in cities.

Moreover, rather than bearing costs for future emergencies and reconstruction incurred by extreme climatic events, proactive planning should be emphasised by investing today in resilience and adaptation. This requires a paradigm shift from urban territorial expansion to climate-compatible urban renewal, rehabilitation and renovation actions.

Given this context, climate-friendly urban development and resilience are key features of the New Urban Agenda, whose zero draft includes ecological and resilient cities as one of three key transformative commitments.

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Website: <https://goo.gl/nYnoFU>