

SESSION 1.5 - SMART COMMUNITIES FOR RESILIENT AND INNOVATIVE CITIES

Invited speech - OPEN CITIES: TOWARDS A NEW GOVERNANCE OF CITIES AND TERRITORY

Over half of the world's population living in urban areas: it is necessary to rethink how we have to plan and govern cities in an innovative way. The adoption of the New Urban Agenda, result of the Third UN Conference on Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), offers a new vision on how to build, plan and manage cities in more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable ways. The use of technology offers enormous opportunities both for planning and control of the territory and for developing more incisive and inclusive governance mechanisms, increasing and improving the participation of citizens in the construction of more efficient and responsible cities. The scale and speed with which people access information and interact with each other are unprecedented and institutions must react to these new ways of exercising citizenship. Transparency and open governance are solid tools to make cities more efficient, cohesive and attractive. Citizens, administrations and development actors can help make cities better, especially for the most vulnerable ones.

Governments, at any level, must open up to the idea of governing with different schemes, together with citizens, civil society, and the private sector. This implies inclining towards an innovative and "open" governance of cities and territories since the challenges we face are too big to be tackled by every single actor and as we have always done so.

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