



HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE FOR OPEN AND INCLUSIVE CITIES

Key words

Citizen Inclusion; Efficiency and Better Delivery; Innovation in Public Management; Multi-level dialogue; Right to the City; Transparency and Open Government; Trust in Public Sector

Objectives of the session

This session aims to:

- Provide experiences and best practices of the participant institutions to showcase how they are using innovative tools and instruments to find new ways in urban governance.
- Debate and discuss new ideas and trends that can promote more inclusive and open cities.
- Identify problems and solutions in the process of implementing open government policies.
- Explore ways in which national, local and regional governments, civil society, practitioners and academics are collaborating to achieve the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Unpack the concept of innovative governance to relate it to the Right to the City strategic approach.
- Gather a coalition of interested partners towards the development of urban governance monitoring strategy/ tool.

Introduction of the topic

Cities and towns across the world are changing. Every day, decision makers across the globe are faced with new challenges on how to improve the lives of the people living in cities and how to make all citizens profit from the benefits that urban life can bring in terms of equality, access to services, economic development and social progress. Urbanization is changing developing countries, in particular, and very often at a very fast pace. As a result, local institutions often lack the necessary capacities and tools to address this rapid physical growth and the changing society.



The New Urban Agenda recognizes that urban life and transformations involve building a balanced and collaborative institutional system, open decision-making, managing complexity and respecting diversity. For this, it is essential to find new ways of governance that allow this diversity to become an advantage in terms of creativity and contribution to the common good that is the city. Openness and inclusivity make cities more liveable, inclusive and productive.

Innovation in governance is therefore a must in the times we live in. It directly refers to 'effective implementation' of the New Urban Agenda and to establish a supportive framework (paragraphs 85 to 92). This implies an informed and effective system of multi-level governance, open to continuous learning, and with a focus on capacity-building for all spheres of government. It also requires the far-reaching participation of all relevant actors in decision-making, with special attention given to vulnerable groups.

But, how can the different stakeholders effectively innovate and work together to improve the lives and opportunities of all their citizens?

This session will explore options, new ideas and new challenges that governments, civil society, urban actors and private sector are experiencing in different parts of the world. It will look at the dimensions of innovative governance as an unprecedented opportunity to renew our urban governance models, placing the social contract and the reduction of inequalities in our cities at the heart of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Guiding questions

Q1: What are the main impacts resulting from lack of citizen trust for your municipality/ or-- how does lack of citizen trust impact your government?

Q2: What are the main issues at the national government level affecting the good governance of cities? What are the main issues at the sub-national/local level?

Q3: What can be done to increase the trust of the citizens in the management of cities and towns?

Q4: What are local governments doing to improve civic engagement?

Q5: What are the main challenges or urban solutions of using technology to increase participation and openness?