

HOLISTIC VISIONS: SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Wednesday, 18 May 2022
4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Also broadcasted through the
AHA Forum virtual platform.
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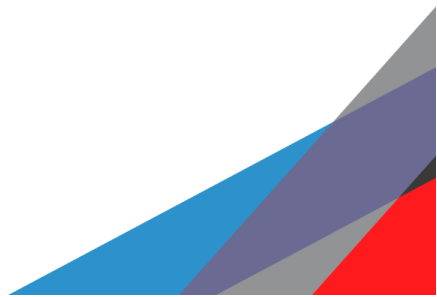
Key words: social justice, social sustainability,
segregation, diversity, population growth, family
structure, pandemic and health; unoccupied
housing; right to housing, gender, youth, children,
women.

The UIA 2022 International Forum “Affordable Housing Activation: Removing Barriers” accelerates previous discussions on access to housing and provides an action-oriented declaration as an outcome of the Forum to be held in Madrid, Spain from 18 to 20 May 2022. The Forum is organized by the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Superior Council of Colleges of Architects of Spain (CSCAE).

The Forum’s main objective is to contribute to improving access to decent and adequate housing throughout the world, through the generation of global networks and alliances that promote shared knowledge. The AHA Forum identified six barriers to affordable and adequate housing: mismatches (housing needs, demand and supply), financing, policies & regulations, promotion & production, ownership & tenure, and urban design. The session on social sustainability serves to bring issues of social sustainability into all the above mentioned “barriers” in order to overcome them. In recent years, the social dimension has become one of the most prominent components of affordable and sustainable development in delivering quality of life for communities.

If the housing supply is sufficient, it can also act as a viable alternative to slum formation and informal land and housing developments. Accordingly, enabling the housing sector to function properly will directly impact urban sustainability and social equity. However, most poor communities lack adequate shelter as do most informal settlements. There is a multitude of potential measures to help alleviate these issues, for instance providing water and sanitation facilities for informal settlements, finding temporary housing for homeless populations, or preventing evictions through local, regional, or national bans. Many states increased or established new social transfers to households to help them cover rent, mortgage, and other survival costs, or banned utility shut offs to prevent energy poverty and ensure continued access to basic services.

In addition, in order to reduce costs through economies of scale, dwellings are developed with repetitive, anonymous designs, with limited capacities for adaptation and cultural appropriation. These designs can eventually lead to dynamics of marginalization and social exclusion of their inhabitants.



HOLISTIC VISION:

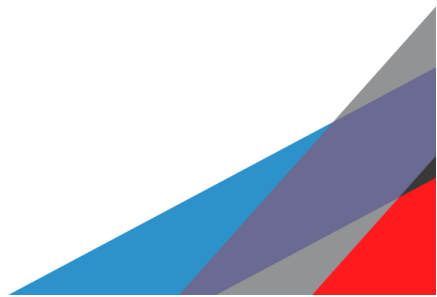
Experts on the subject will discuss how it is possible to strengthen communities and coordinate with the private sector and other stakeholders to employ social sustainability in their housing projects and programmes. At the same time, projects where fostering inclusion and identity, creating integrated, dynamic, healthy, and productive urban environments will be examined. Speakers have diverse backgrounds, from national and local governments, the United Nations and other international organizations, foundations, academia, and private sector – all are experienced in promoting social sustainability in the housing projects in regions across the globe.

Objective of the session

Propose three priority actions to accelerate the crossing of the six barriers with respect to social sustainability.

Guiding Questions

- What are the primary challenges in prioritizing social sustainability in large housing projects?
- How do we address inclusivity and accessibility to serve the needs of communities, in particular those most vulnerable?
- Who is responsible? What are the roles that different sections/levels of government should play in promoting and working on social sustainability?
- Who needs to be at the table, and how do we ensure all voices are heard?
- What should be the role of architects in the call for affordable housing activation?



Agenda of the session

- 4 p.m. Opening intervention of the Chair's session.
Luis Fernández-Galiano, Professor, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, ETSAM
- 4:15 p.m. Intervention (online) by the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing,
Balakrishnan Rajagopal
- 4:25 p.m. Initial proposal of priority actions to face the barrier by each speaker:
- *Fatou Dieye*, Expert Consultant/Advisor in Affordable Housing, Green Industrialization and Sustainable Urbanization in Africa
 - *Camila Jordan*, Executive director, TETO Brazil
 - *Pascual Ignacio Navarro*, Secretary of State for the European Union
 - *Balakrishnan Rajagopal*, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing
 - *Inés Sánchez de Madariaga*, director Cátedra UNESCO de Género, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
 - *Alfonso Vegara*, Founder, Fundación Metropoli
 - *Juan Verde*, government, and corporate strategist
- 5:00 p.m. Reactions from the Chair/speakers to the introductory remarks and first round of guiding questions to focus the discussion on specific proposals.
- 5:15 p.m. Presentation of the first case: UN Studio
Ben van Berkel
- 5:30 p.m. Reflections on the case presented and second round of guiding questions
- 5:45 p.m. Presentation of the second case: EUROPAN
Didier Rebois and Manuel Blanco-Lage
- 6:00 p.m. Reflections on the case presented and third round of guiding questions
- 6:15 p.m. Wrap-up and summary of priority actions proposed for the AHA Forum Madrid Declaration
- 6:30 p.m. End of the session

Biographies of invited chair and speakers

Luis Fernández-Galiano, Professor, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, ETSAM, Doctor of Architecture and Professor of Projects at the School of Architecture of the Polytechnic University of Madrid. Director of the magazines AV/Arquitectura Viva since 1985 and member of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando and the Real Academia de Doctores. Between 1993 and 2006 he was in charge of the weekly architecture page of the newspaper El País, where he currently collaborates in the Opinion section. International Fellow at RIBA, Cullinan Professor at Rice University, Franke Fellow at Yale University, visiting researcher at the Getty Center in Los Angeles and visiting critic at Harvard and Princeton, as well as at the Berlage Institute. He has directed courses at the Menéndez Pelayo and Complutense Universities and also at the international architecture congresses 'More for Less' (2010) and 'The Common' (2012). President of the jury at the 9th Venice Architecture Biennale, expert, jury of the European Mies van der Rohe Award and of numerous international competitions in Europe, America and Asia, including those of the National Library of Mexico, the National Art Museum of China and the National Library of Israel, in the latter case as president. Curator of the exhibitions El espacio privado, Eurasia Extrema (in Tokyo and Madrid), Bucky Fuller & Spaceship Earth and Jean Prouvé: fabricated beauty (the latter two with Norman Foster), as well as Spain mon amour (at the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale and in Madrid) and The Architect is Present.

Fatou Dieye, Affordable Housing Specialist based in Rwanda, specialized in the design, policy and supply chain mechanics necessary for building Sub-Saharan Africa's next generation of green and inclusive cities. She was previously the Managing Director of Skat Consulting's offices in Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo, responsible for the implementation of the Swiss Cooperation's construction industry transformation program for Africa's Great Lakes Region. The program facilitates the construction industry's shift to environment-friendly production of durable building materials for the mass supply of affordable urban houses. During her tenure, the program successfully piloted Rwanda's first participatory unplanned settlement upgrading project. Prior to joining Skat, Fatou was team leader for the Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Development Unit at the City of Kigali's Office of Urban Planning and Construction and an urban designer for the New York City Department of City Planning. Fatou holds degrees in architecture, urban planning, and sustainability management from Princeton and Columbia Universities and a certificate in International Housing Finance from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Camila Jordan, Executive director, TETO Brazil. The through-line of Camila's work has been advocating for and working towards systems change at different levels in the urban environment, both with individuals in underserved areas and policy analysis and research in Brazil and New York City. During her time in NYC she worked in setting up a Technology Innovation Lab for government officials in the housing sector. Later, she kickstarted the Basement Conversion Pilot Program in East NY, Brooklyn with Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation. As the Program Director she coordinated with NYC's Housing Department, four partner organizations, and while also leading the team servicing homeowners on the ground. Back in Brazil now, Camila is the current Executive Director for TETO, a latinamerican NGO present in 19 countries, that works towards extreme poverty and emergency housing relief. Her challenge is to penetrate a 30-year-old model with innovation and steward the organization to think and act towards long term systemic change in local and national Housing and Economic Policy. Camila holds a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Nova University in

Portugal and a Master's in Public Administration, where she focused on Housing and Urban Policy, from Columbia University.

Pascual Ignacio Navarro holds a degree in Law from the University of Murcia and a diploma in International Public Law from the University of Paris I Sorbonne and in International Relations from the London School of Economics, and has been a member of the diplomatic corps since 1987. He has served in the Spanish Embassies in Damascus, Copenhagen and Brasilia. He has been Area Chief for Aliens and Asylum, Deputy Director General for Cooperation in Central America and Deputy Director General for Terrorism Affairs. He has been Counselor in the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union, Director of the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for the European Union, Ambassador of Spain to the Czech Republic and Advisor for Institutional Affairs of the European Union. Most recently, he was Director General of Internal Market and other Community Policies at the Secretary of State for the European Union.

Balakrishnan Rajagopal, assumed his function as UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, on 1 May 2020. He is Professor of Law and Development at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). A lawyer by training, he is an expert on many areas of human rights, including economic, social, and cultural rights, the UN system, and the human rights challenges posed by development activities. He is the founder of the Displacement Research and Action Network at MIT which leads research and engagement with communities, NGOs, and local and national authorities. He has conducted over 20 years of research on social movements and human rights advocacy around the world focusing on land and property rights, evictions and displacement. Rajagopal has a law degree from University of Madras, India, a master's degree in law from the American University as well as an interdisciplinary doctorate in law from Harvard Law School. Rajagopal served as a human rights advisor to the World Commission on Dams and has advised numerous governments and UN agencies on human rights issues. During the 1990s he worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia where he was responsible for human rights monitoring, investigation, education and advocacy, and provided support to national authorities in law drafting. He has published numerous scholarly articles, and book chapters and is the author/editor of three books.

Inés Sánchez de Madariaga, Director of the UNESCO Gender Chair at the Polytechnic University of Madrid and Chair of the Gender Advisory Group to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. A former Fulbright scholar, she has been a visiting professor at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Columbia University in New York, London School of Economics, Bauhaus School of Architecture. She has been a member of the European Commission's Helsinki Group on Women and Science and co-director of the Gendered Innovations project at Stanford University. She has directed fifty research projects funded by: European Commission, National R&D&I Plan, multilateral development banks, and other public and private organizations. She has been Director of the Women and Science Unit in the Secretary of State for R&D&I, Advisor to the Minister of Housing, Advisor to the Minister of Science and Innovation, Deputy Director General of Architecture, member of the Board of Directors of the Public Rental Company. Author of around a hundred articles in professional journals and a dozen books, two of which are international references: *Engendering Cities*, Routledge, and *Fair Shared Cities*, Ashgate. Trustee of Plan International, member of the advisory board of the Spanish Sustainable Development Network and the scientific committee of the Women for Africa Foundation, Vice-President of the General Assembly of Partners of UN-Habitat.

Alfonso Vegara is an architect, economist, and sociologist. He has served as Professor of Urban Planning at the School of Architecture in Madrid, as well as at the University of Navarra and as Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and advisor in the Department of Urban Planning at the Zurich Polytechnic ETH. He has been president of the International Association of Town Planners. His ideas have been disseminated through more than 30 books and international conferences and his projects have been awarded by the United Nations, the European Union, and other international organizations. On three occasions he has been awarded the European Prize for Urbanism for his work in Euskal Hiria and the design of the eco-city of Sarriguren (Navarra). For approximately 15 years he has been an advisor to the Government of Singapore, as well as to several cities around the world such as Yokohama, Mexico City, Bilbao, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Sao Paulo, Casablanca, Moscow and Medellin. He is also the founder and honorary president of the Metropolis Foundation, an international center of excellence dedicated to research, design and innovation in cities around the world and working at the intersection between technology and territory.

Juan Verde, Government and Corporate Strategist, is a recognized international strategist for the private and public sector. As a professional, he designs innovative solutions to attract foreign investment, accelerate economic development, establish strategic alliances and specializes in sustainable economy. In the political arena, he has worked with some of the world's most important personalities such as former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore, the late Senator Ted Kennedy and former Secretary of State John Kerry. At the government level, he has worked with the governments of Lithuania, Gibraltar and the United States, as well as numerous governors and mayors in Latin America. At the corporate level, he has advised several prestigious companies such as Google, Cisco, SAS, Banco Santander in the United States... In addition, he has collaborated with institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, Harvard University and the World Bank. During President Obama's administration, Juan Verde served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia in the Department of Commerce of the United States Government. As a White House appointee, he led the department's efforts to address trade policy and market access issues facing U.S. companies. Additionally, he was responsible for developing policies and programs to foster economic and trade relations with 52 countries in this region.

Case studies

Ben van Berkel studied architecture at the Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam and at the Architectural Association in London, receiving the AA Diploma with Honours in 1987. In 1988 he founded the Van Berkel & Bos Architectuurbureau with the Caroline Bos, extending their theoretical and writing projects to the practice of architecture. In 1998 Ben van Berkel co-founded UNStudio (United Net). He has lectured and taught at many architectural schools around the world. Currently he holds the Kenzo Tange Visiting Professor's Chair at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. In 2018 he founded UNSense, an Arch Tech company based in Amsterdam that designs and integrates human-centric tech solutions for the built environment.

Didier Rebois is an architect and urban planner. He is the Secretary General of Europan, a European program of urban-architectural competitions for young professionals. As such, he coordinates the various national competitions and the ensuing production processes. He leads the scientific committee; he is responsible for publications and European events that bring

together award-winning teams, site representatives and experts. He is a researcher at Gerphau, Urban Architecture Philosophy research laboratory. He has participated in several research and scientific publications. He was Project Manager at the Institute for the City on the Move (IVM), where he developed several research programs in collaboration with international experts on cities and mobility.

Manuel Blanco-Lage is a Doctor of Architecture and is currently facing his second term as director of the ETSAM. Professor of Architectural Composition at the Higher Technical School of Architecture of Madrid of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, he teaches Analysis of Architecture and Analysis of the Image of the City. He has also been director of the Madrid Higher Fashion Design Center from 2013 to 2017 and is currently its CEO. In addition, he directs the Research Group and the doctoral program “Architecture, Design, Fashion & Society”. He was the first director of the National Museum of Architecture and Urbanism of Spain, 2007. In 2006 he was Curator of the Spanish Pavilion, X Biennale di Architettura di Venezia with Spain [f] Nosotras, las Ciudades. He has also been the winner of the Museography contest of the Royal Collections Museum, is in charge of the project of the two exhibition halls. In addition, he has been a patron of the Madrid Designers Association Foundation DIMAD and a member of ICAM International Confederation of Architectural Museums. Director I International Congress of Archives of Architecture.

