

**12/13** April 2018

# **VIENNA** CONFERENCE

**Promoting access to adequate, affordable and decent housing for all through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing**

**Day 1**

**Vienna International Center  
Wagramer Str. 5 | 1220 Vienna  
Conference Room C-C4**

**Day 2**

**Vienna City Hall  
Entrance: Lichtenfelsgasse 2  
1010 Vienna**

## **CONFERENCE THEME**

While cities are powerful engines of economic development, the rapid growth of the urban population resulted in enormous challenges. Ageing and drastic increase in the international migration flows in the UNECE region brought changes in demand and more pressure on infrastructure and social services. Moreover, increased urban expansion has drastically reduced the land available for other uses. Climate change and natural disasters have caused vast economic and social losses and strengthened the need for cities to be resilient. These and other factors in the context of the post-financial crisis amplify the challenges related to the limited access to affordable, adequate and healthy housing and basic infrastructure for all.

### **Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing**

Under the umbrella of the intergovernmental UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, member States exchange experiences and best practices in order to address these complex challenges in their respective countries. In 2014, the Committee agreed on the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. The Charter is a non-legally binding document that aims to support member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all through effective policies and actions at all levels, supported by international cooperation.

### **Conference objectives**

The international conference will discuss the progress of achieving access to affordable and decent housing for all through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing by national governments, local authorities and relevant stakeholders. The Conference will also include presentation of best practices of the implementation of these agreements at national, local and international levels.

On the second conference day a public presentation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing will be organised as one of the events under the umbrella of the International Housing Exhibition "IBA\_Vienna: New Social Housing". A special focus of the event will be on the impacts of the "Sharing Economy" – how online platforms for private touristic renting change the housing market in cities.

## PROGRAMME Day 1 | 12 April 2018

- 10.00 Optional: participation in study tour to Aspern Seestadt (Europe's largest urban development project)**  
Start from Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz behind Vienna City Hall (international delegates will be picked up at the conference hotel), transfer by bus provided by the organisers
- 12.30 Lunch break at Aspern IQ (Technology center in Aspern Seestadt)**
- 13.15 Transfer from Aspern Seestadt to the Vienna International Center**  
Transfer by bus provided by the organisers
- 13.30 Registration at VIC, Welcome Coffee**  
in parallel: press briefing starting at 14.00
- 14.30 Conference Opening**  
**Introduction by the moderator**  
**Elena Szolgayova**, Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and Director General, DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport and Construction
- Opening**  
**Andrey Vasilyev**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE  
**Michael Ludwig**, Executive City Councillor for Housing, Housing Construction and Urban Renewal, Vienna
- 15.00 Welcome address**  
**Wolfgang Förster**, Chair of the Expert Group for the development of the Geneva UN Charter for Sustainable Housing
- 15.15 Implementing the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing at international and regional level**  
**Gulnara Roll**, Head of UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit  
**Mark Draek**, Industrial Development Officer, Department of Energy, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- Questions & answers**
- 15.45 Implementing the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing at national level**  
**Daniela Grabmüllerova**, Head of International Department, Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic  
**Ernst Hauri**, Director, Federal Office for Housing, Switzerland  
**Serhii Komnatnyi**, Head of State Fund for the Youth Housing under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine  
**Alena Rakava**, Advisor, Ministry of Architecture and Construction, Belarus  
**Cédric Van Styvendael**, President of Housing Europe, Member of the Executive Committee of L'Union Sociale pour l'Habitat, France
- Questions & answers**

**17.00 Adoption of Message by participants of the Vienna Conference on Sustainable Housing on access to adequate, affordable and decent housing for all**

**17.15 Conclusions by the moderator**

**17.30 End of the session**

**19.30 Evening reception**

by invitation of SOZIALBAU AG (limited-profit housing association)  
International delegates picked up at the conference hotels at 19.00.

## **PROGRAMME Day 2 | 13 April 2018**

**10.00 Official opening at Vienna City Hall**

**Kurt Stürzenbecher**, Vienna City Council, Chair of the Committee on Housing, Housing Construction and Urban Renewal

### **Moderation**

**Brian M. Evans**, Head of Urbanism, Mackintosh School of Architecture, The Glasgow School of Art, UK; and Coordinator, Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Housing in Glasgow

### **Keynote speech**

**Sasha Tsenkova**, Professor for Planning, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

### **Questions and answers**

**10.45 Ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing for all**

### **Presentations**

**Elena Szolgayova**, Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

**Wolfgang Förster**, Chair of the Expert Group for the development of the Charter of the Geneva UN Charter for Sustainable Housing and Coordinator International Building Exhibition "IBA\_Wien 2022"

**11.15 Panel discussion**

**Susanne Bauer**, City of Vienna, Wiener Wohnen Kundenservice, Chair of Eurocities Working Group "Housing"

**Domenica Carrero**, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

**Sorcha Edwards**, Secretary General at Housing Europe

**Kat Grimsley**, Director, MS in Real Estate Development, School of Business, George Mason University

**György Sumegy**, Habitat for Humanity, Hungary

**Steffen Wetzstein**, Senior Research Fellow, Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, Germany; and Coordinator, Joint Working Group on "Policy and Research", European Network for Housing Research (ENHR)

**12.15** **Lunch break**

**13.15** **Video clip on the International Building Exhibition IBA\_Wien  
“New Social Housing”**

**13.20** **Sharing Economy – How online platforms for private touristic renting  
change the housing market in cities**

**Moderation**

**Johannes Lutter**, Urban Innovation Vienna

**Keynote speech**

**Brooks Rainwater**, Senior Executive & Director, Center for City Solutions,  
Washington DC

**Questions and answers**

**14.00** **Getting the grip: Local approaches to come to terms with Airbnb & Co**

**Stephan von Dassel**, City Councillor for Social Affairs, District Office  
„Mitte von Berlin“

**Klemens Himpele**, City of Vienna, Department for Economic Affairs,  
Labour and Statistics

**Nanette Schippers**, Project Manager, StartUpAmsterdam,  
City of Amsterdam (tbc)

**14.45** **Panel debate**

**15.15** **Conclusions**

**Elena Szolgayova**, Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land  
Management

**Wolfgang Förster**, Chair of the Expert Group for the Charter

**15.30** **End of the conference**

## CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

The Conference is organised jointly by the City of Vienna and the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, including its Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) with the support of UIV (Urban Innovation Vienna) and PUSH (Partners for Urbanism and Sustainable Housing).

## CONFERENCE VENUES

### Day 1, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Vienna International Center, Wagramer Str. 5, 1220 Vienna  
Conference Room C-C4

### Day 2, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Vienna City Hall, Great Hall/Festsaal  
Entrance: Lichtenfelsgasse 2, 1010 Vienna

## CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

English, German, and Russian (simultaneous translation)

## PARTICIPATION & REGISTRATION

Participation in the International Conference is open to governments, cities and cities' associations representatives, international, local and regional organizations, private sector, academia, NGOs and individual experts belonging to UNECE member State, who wishes to contribute to the work. Participation in the conference is free of charge, but no fellowships will be granted. For your registration please complete the [online registration form](#) 31 March 2018.

## CONTACT

**For more information,  
please contact:**

**At the UNECE in Geneva**

**Ms. Gulnara Roll**

Head of Housing and Land  
Management Unit  
[roll@un.org](mailto:roll@un.org)

**In Vienna**

**Mr. Wolfgang Förster**

Coordinator IBA Wien International  
Building Exhibition  
[wolfgang.foerster@wien.gv.at](mailto:wolfgang.foerster@wien.gv.at)

**Mr. Johannes Lutter**

Urban Innovation Vienna  
[lutter@urbaninnovation.at](mailto:lutter@urbaninnovation.at)  
Tel. +43-1-4000-84283

## CONFERENCE HOTELS

Please be aware of the fact that April is peak season for conferences in Vienna and hotel capacities might be limited. Participants are free to book a hotel of their choice. At the following hotels, both in walking distance to the metro and the City Hall, conference participants will be picked up for study tour and evening reception and special discounts are granted. (Please mention "UNECE" when booking your room.)

### **Hotel Mercure Josefshof Wien am Rathaus \*\*\*\***

Josefsgasse 4, 1080 Wien <https://www.josefshof.com/>

### **Hotel Zipser \*\*\***

Lange G. 49, 1080 Wien <http://hotel-vienna.travel/>

## VISA

We would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa to enter Austria. The visa must be requested at least four (4) weeks before the date of beginning of the meeting and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Austria in your country. If there is no such office in your country, kindly avail of the visa services from the embassy or consulate that is closest to the country of your departure. To obtain visa invitation, please contact Mr. Johannes Lutter at [lutter@urbaninnovation.at](mailto:lutter@urbaninnovation.at).