



# MEDIA forCITIES

Narratives on housing,  
social environments,  
and public space in times  
of polycrisis

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**5th FORUM ON HOUSING,  
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN**  
31 July 2023, Bogotá, Colombia  
From 4:15 pm to 5:30 pm

The growing concentration of the world's population in urban areas makes urban and territorial development one of the most pressing and transformative priorities. The COVID-19 outbreak exacerbated existing challenges and revealed serious inequities in Latin America and the Caribbean, accentuating the vulnerability and precariousness of settlements and housing in communities. The pandemic further deepened the existing poverty, inequality, unemployment, and informality in the region, in addition to other crises such as migration, climate change, natural disasters, and political and social instability.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the second most disaster-prone region in the world, facing the increasing effects of climate change. If relevant measures are not taken, the World Bank estimates that up to 5.8 million people could fall into extreme poverty because of climate change. By 2050, more than 17 million people could be forced to leave their homes to escape climate-related disasters such as hurricanes, droughts, fires, and floods.

Despite the challenges, the pandemic also provided an opportunity to redefine the way societies develop. It also demonstrated the vital role of cities and territories in the fight for equitable and sustainable recovery. Cities offer opportunities to improve access to resources and services, as well as options in the social, economic, cultural, and environmental spheres.

In a moment of climate and social emergency, housing and the way people live and relate to their environment become an even more urgent and relevant topic. In this sense, the media can contribute to disseminating information about sustainable solutions that reduce the carbon footprint of buildings and promote the construction of more energy-efficient buildings. In addition to creating more resilient communities adapted to climate change, they can give a voice to the most vulnerable people and draw attention to inequalities in access to housing and basic services. Likewise, the media can contribute to generating narratives that foster social inclusion and community cohesion, highlighting the importance of citizen participation

in decision-making about urban planning and the creation of inclusive and accessible public spaces.

It is essential to consider that the media are not mere observers but also play an active role in creating discourses and narratives around housing and the social environment. Therefore, an ethical commitment is necessary to ensure that the narratives created and disseminated are fair, accurate, and equitable.

In light of this reality, and within the framework of the 5th Regional Housing and Habitat Forum 2023 and the Media for Cities campaign, the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub

(UHPH) platform and OnCities2030, through the Urban Journalism Institute, are organizing a public debate with influential representatives of the media on the following topic “Narratives on housing, social environments, and public space in times of polycrisis.”

The 5th Forum on Housing, Latin America & the Caribbean is taking place in Bogotá, Colombia, from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and represents a unique space to share and exchange experiences on urban issues in the region. The Media for Cities debate will be held on the first day of the Forum, Monday, 31 July 2023, as a parallel session from 4:15 pm to 5:30 pm.

## PROGRAMME

- 4:15 p.m.      **Introduction**  
*UHPH or Habitat for Humanity Representative*  
*Ana B. Moreno, president of OnCities2030 and Director of the Urban Journalism Institute*
- 4:20 p.m.      **Narratives on housing, social environments, and public space in times of polycrisis**  
  
**Conversation between:**  
  
*Jessica Bridger, architect and journalist, Switzerland*  
*Claudia Palacios, journalist, Noticiero CM&, Colombia*  
*Margot Loizillon, Chief editor, France 24 Español*  
*Juan Pablo Murcia Fraile, editor, Radio Caracol, Colombia*
- 4:50 p.m.      **Participation of two representatives from local governments**  
  
*Patricio Vallespín López, Regional Governor of Los Lagos, Chile*  
*Nadya Milena Rangel, Secretary of Habitat, Mayor’s Office of Bogotá, Colombia*
- 5:05 p.m.      **Debate between speakers and questions from the audience**
- 5:30 p.m.      **End of the session**

## ORGANIZED BY

the Urban Journalism Institute, an initiative of OnCities2030, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (UHPH) platform.

The Urban Journalism Institute (UJI) is a platform that promotes urban journalism to influence current media discussions about cities as a tool for sustainable development. The UJI's goal is to advocate for urban journalism among the media, academia, professionals, and citizens, which in turn will facilitate a better understanding of sustainable urban development. The Institute also provides training and capacity-building for journalists, professionals, and media officials from local authorities and institutions.

The UJI is a flagship initiative of OnCities2030, an international non-profit partnership working to accelerate sustainable development, climate action, and resilience in cities and territories. To achieve this, the partnership facilitates the generation of long-term strategies and promotes collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders. It also acts as a catalyst, bringing together other non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of civil society working towards the sustainable and inclusive development of their communities and territories.

# MEDIA forCITIES

*Media for Cities* is a global campaign that aims to bring urban journalism and city-related topics to the forefront of newsrooms worldwide. It promotes the research and development of the most effective urban policies and strategies within the media sector. It also seeks to enhance the presence of media in dialogues on sustainable urban development. In this way, *Media for Cities* aims to inform and strengthen sustainable urban development strategies by placing the topic at the centre of attention in networked working meetings and public debates with influential representatives from the media, international organizations, and local authorities. The campaign also forms partnership agreements with media outlets worldwide to increase coverage of sustainable urban development issues. The *Media for Cities* campaign is supported by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).



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