



THE GENEVA UN CHARTER & A UN PERSPECTIVE

FROM GLOBAL PRINCIPLES TO LOCAL SOLUTIONS

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CHALLENGES

- Globalization
- Climate change
- Demographic change
- Economic crisis
- Growing gap between rich and poor
- Migration



GLOBAL AGREEMENTS

- **Agenda 2030 - SDG (UN) 2015**
- **Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing 2015**
- **Urban Agenda for the EU - 2016**
- **New Urban Agenda – HABITAT III 2016**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

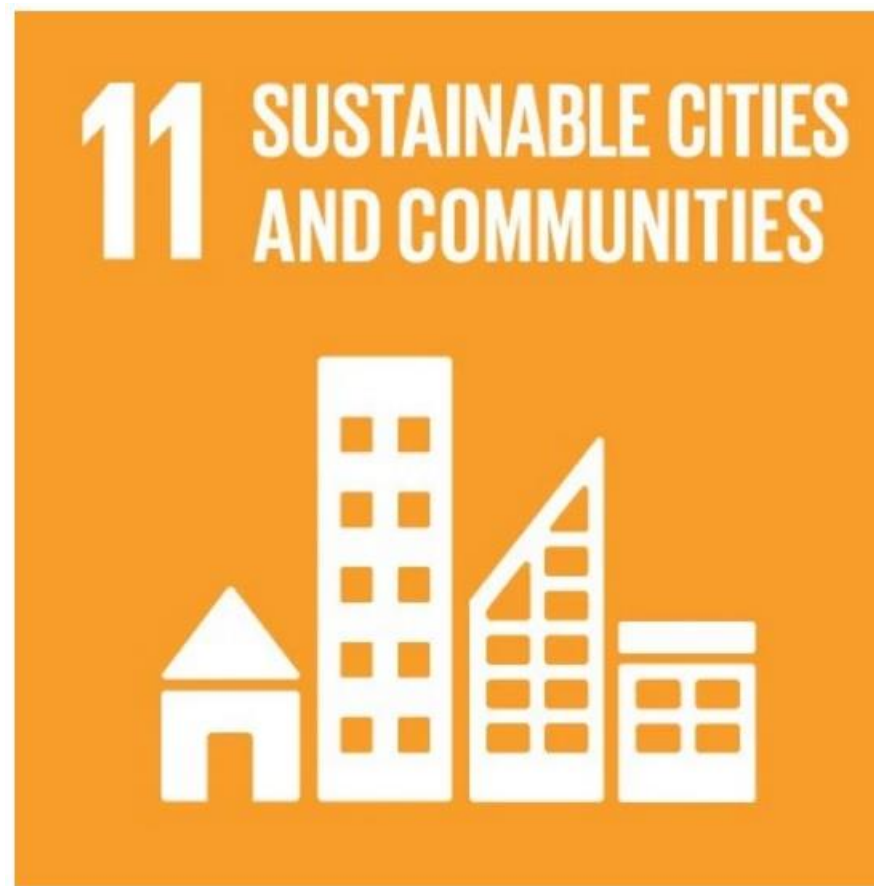


CITIES IN THE CENTRE OF INTEREST



Goal 11: Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

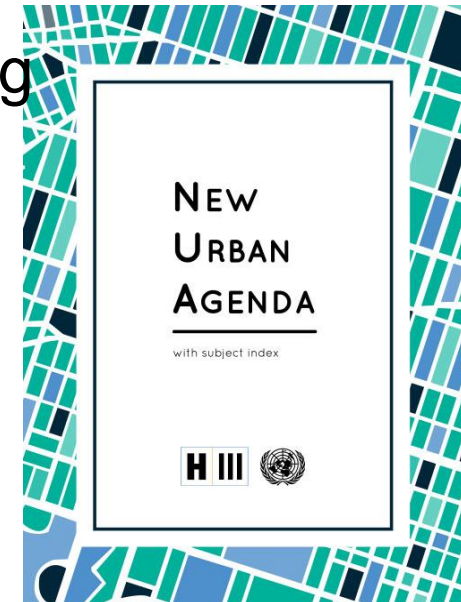
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals>



NEW URBAN AGENDA

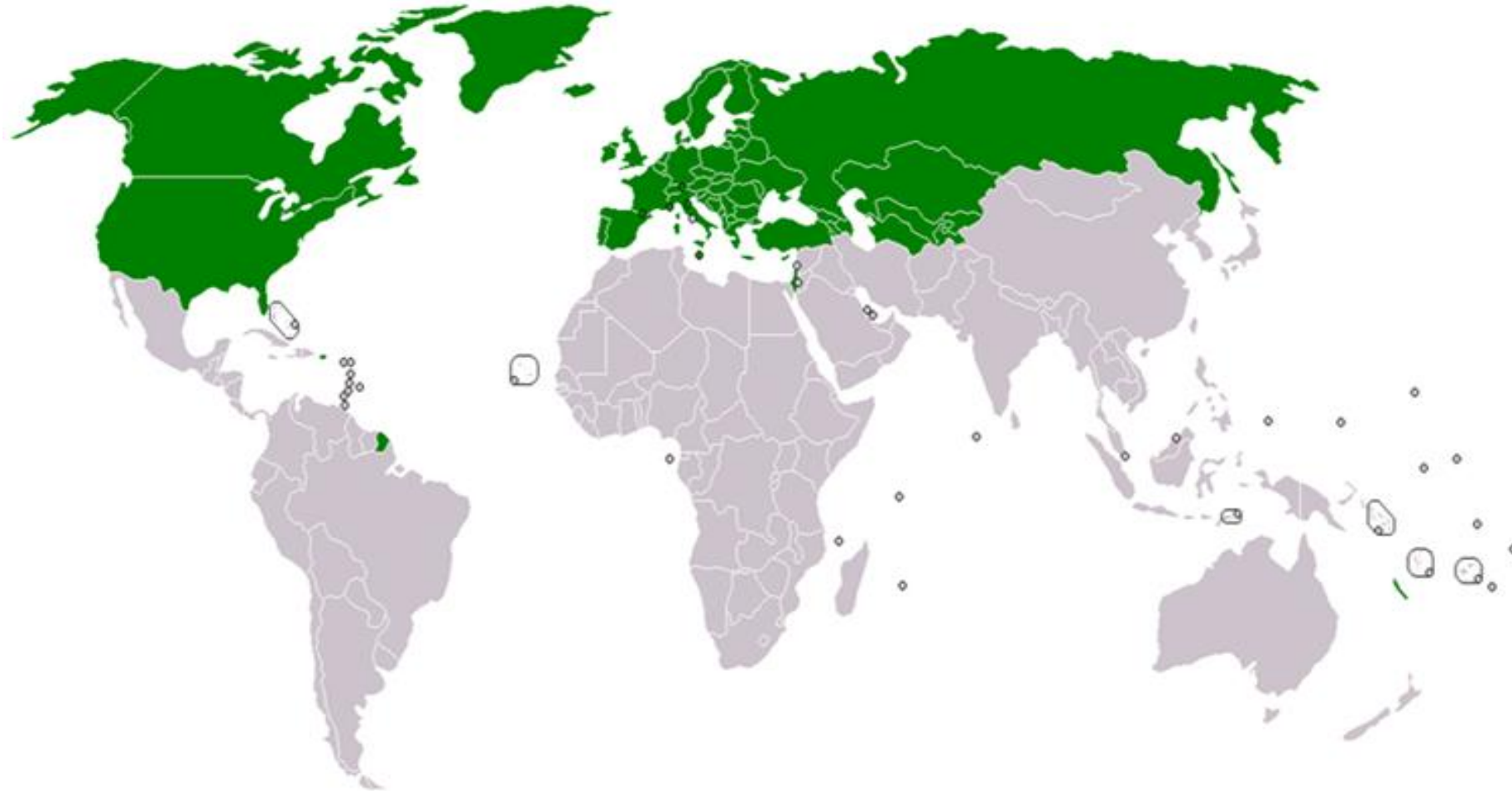
■ Cities

- ☐ engines of prosperity
- ☐ centres of cultural and social well-being
- ☐ inclusive and resilient
- ☐ respectful to environment
- ☐ able to cope with climate change
- ☐ providing affordable housing for all
- ☐ achieving SDGs



UNECE COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT (CUDHLM)

56 member States in Europe, Central Asia and North America





GENEVA UN CHARTER ON SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

Negotiated 2010 – 2014

Endorsed

at the 66th Session of the UNECE, April 2015

Main purpose

Ensure the access to decent, affordable
and healthy housing in the ECE region





FOUR PRINCIPLES





CHALLENGES IN THE EU AFFORDABILITY GAP

- **81.5 million Europeans ‘overburdened’ by housing costs.**
- **Housing costs - much heavier burden for the people under the poverty threshold (41%) than for people above the threshold (18,6 %).**
- **The lack of investment in affordable housing amounts to around 57 billion EUR per year.**
- **Increasingly difficult for those who enter the housing market (48% of young adults live with their parents).**

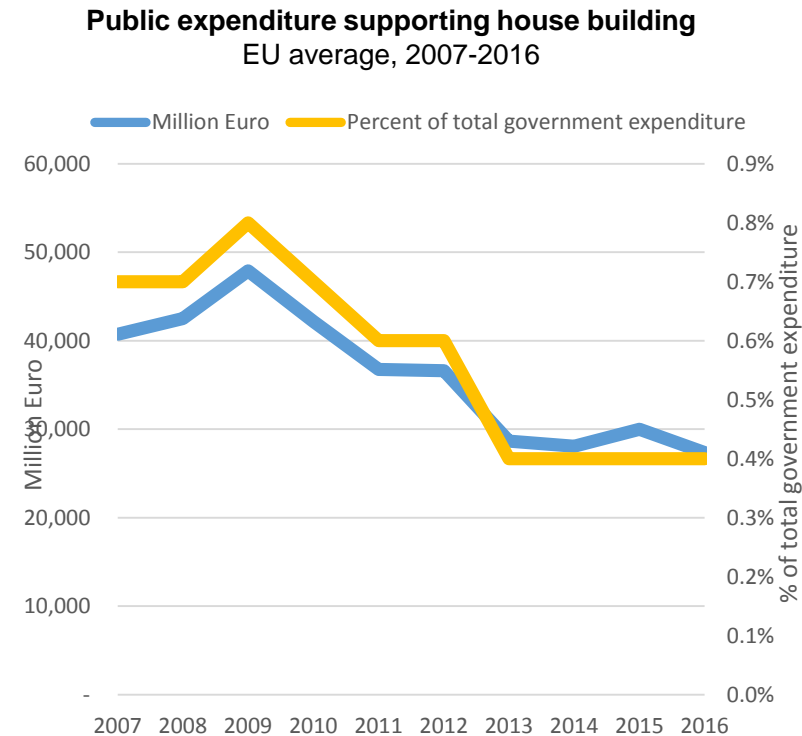
URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

- new form of **cooperation** between Member States, Cities, the EC and other stakeholders
- UAEU formalized in the **Pact of Amsterdam**
- **aim:** To give cities and regions a better position in European regulation and policy making
- three **goals:**
 - 1) Better regulation
 - 2) Better funding
 - 3) Better knowledge sharing
- delivery **mechanism:** Thematic Partnerships (eg Affordable Housing)

DECLINING PUBLIC INVESTMENT

- Over the last ten years, overall public expenditure on building homes across the EU has gone down from around 40bn Euro in 2007 to around 27bn Euro in 2016.
- Public investment into building affordable housing has not only decreased nominally but also in terms of overall government expenditure.

(Source: Eurostat, COFOG Database)



QUALITY, EFFICIENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

‘We need to support access to quality, energy-efficient affordable housing for all in Europe, supporting Member States to ensure functioning housing markets and adequate provision of social housing.’

(Source: European Commission (2019), Europe in May 2019: Preparing for a more united, stronger and more democratic Union in an increasingly uncertain world. European Commission's contribution to the informal EU27 leaders' meeting in Sibiu (Romania) on 9 May 2019)





SO, WE AGREED ON PRINCIPLES.....

BUT

- **It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them.**

Alfred Adler

- **It is human nature to think wisely and act foolishly.**

Anatole France



THANK YOU