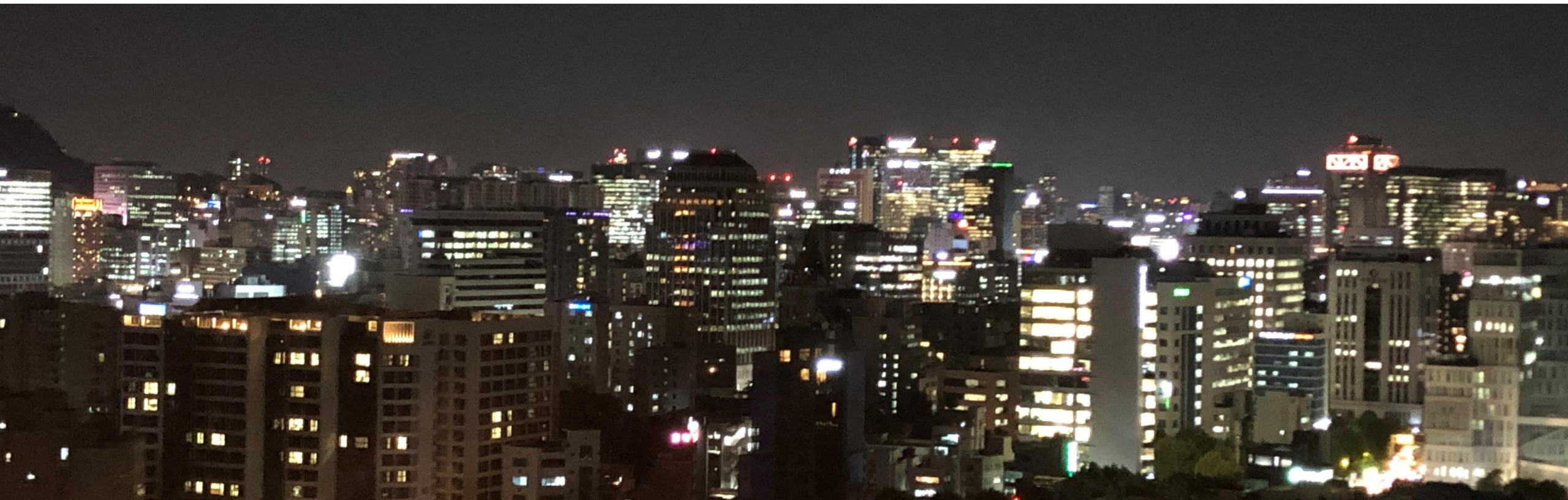


# Sustainable Urbanisation for All: Organisations of Persons with Disabilities at the Forefront



**Symposium of the City of Vienna - Sustainable Development Meets Cities, Vienna  
City hall, 21 October 2022**

# Urban trends and data

- Cities occupy just **3 per cent of the Earth's land** but generate about **80 percent of the global GDP** and account for **60 to 80 percent of energy consumption** and at least **70 percent of carbon dioxide emissions** (UN Habitat, 2020).
- **By 2050, 70% of the world's population** will live in urban areas while **60% of urban settlements** remain to be built (UN Habitat, 2020).
- **96% of urban growth** will occur in the less developed regions of East Asia, South Asia and Africa – where most informal settlements exist & areas at higher risk of climate disasters (UN Habitat, 2020).
- **1 billion people, or 15% of the world's population,** experience some form of disability and **80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries** with a lack of access to transportation and public spaces, digital infrastructure, to adequate housing, employment, health and education (WHO, 2011).

- **By 2050, over 2 billion persons with disabilities and older persons** will be living in urban communities thus increasing the need for inclusive and accessible infrastructure and services (UCLG, 2011).
- **20% of the poorest people living in developing countries have a disability.** Disability is both a cause and consequence of poverty and access to services in urban areas can contribute to ending the cycle (WHO, 2011).
- **Over 90% of COVID-19 cases are in urban areas** where persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons from lower socioeconomic status backgrounds are among those hardest hit by the pandemic – indicating sustained barriers and discrimination.
- **By 2050, It is estimated there will be at least 200 million people displaced** by climatic events (UN University, 2015) of whom at least 30 million are likely to be persons with disabilities seeking refuge and opportunities in cities.



# TOP 10 challenges

1. **Participation** of persons with disabilities and older persons
2. **Indicators** to measure and monitor inclusion and accessibility
3. **Inter-agency coordination** at the local and national level
4. **Common understanding** of accessibility and universal design
5. **Adequate knowledge**, training and tools
6. **Inclusive and participatory budgets** and financing mechanisms
7. Generation of **inclusive disaggregated data**
8. Provisions for safe and **accessible public spaces and services**
9. Initiatives to **fight stigma and negative attitudes**
10. Supporting local government leadership and **translating commitment to inclusion and accessibility into actions**



**CITIES FOR ALL**

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON INCLUSIVE  
AND ACCESSIBLE CITIES

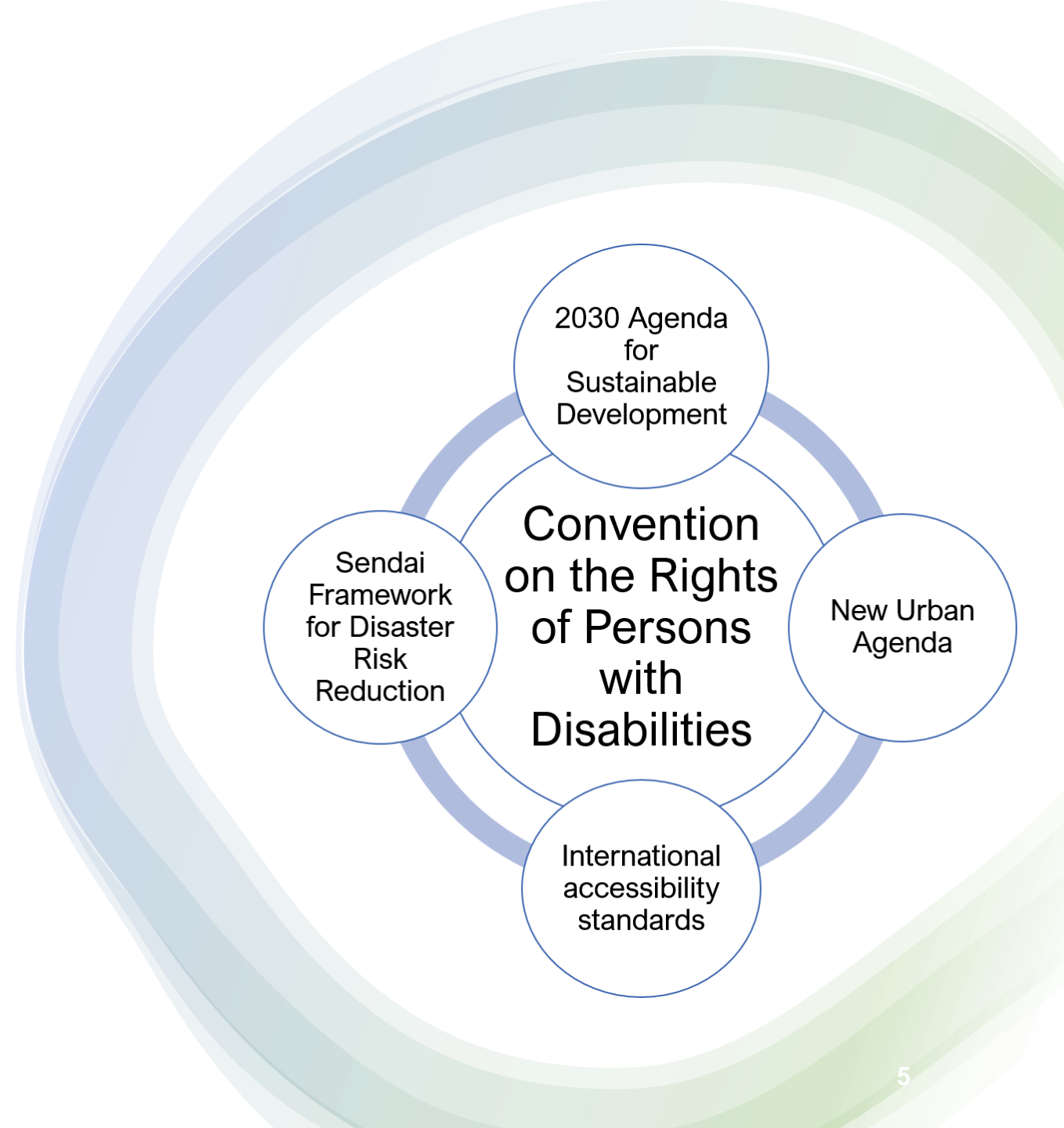
## **UCLG Policy Paper on Inclusive and Accessible Cities**

easy read



# What we do

- WBU's Global Program for Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development – engagement started in 2019.
- Goal to ensure accelerated engagement of WBU and OPD partners to influence the implementation of New Urban Agenda including programs, policies and frameworks in line with CRPD.
- **Enabling objectives:**
  - Strengthened capacities, leadership and advocacy
  - Tools and resources
  - Engagement with key mainstream urban development stakeholders



# World Urban Forums

- Premier global conferences on sustainable urbanisation
- WBU coordinated official disability caucuses and supported meaningful participation across forum programmes
- Provided guidance on how to make the forums accessible
- WUF11 set a new level of accessibility for an urban forum – outcome declaration reaffirmed recognition to accessibility as a solution and transformative action addressing many of the challenges of urbanisation



# The Journal of Public Space

- Delivering on commitment with City Space Architecture at WUF 11.
- Aims to evidence progress and learnings to make public spaces inclusive and accessible – in line with SDG11, CRPD and New Urban Agenda.
- 18 articles, case studies, viewpoints from cities and local governments, academia, institutes, OPDs, NGOs
- Launched across WUF11



accessibility  
= **GO!**  
A Guide to Action



Delivering on 7 accessibility commitments

# Translating policy into actions



- Co-developed by WBU & CBM in partnership with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Aligns with CRPD and is framed around accessibility as a pre-requisite for inclusion for all people with disabilities
- Uses a whole of organisation approach that looks at 7 commitments within a 3-step process
- 7 Commitments: Workplaces and premises, information & communications, procurement, capacity development, programs and services, meetings & events, inclusive employment
- Promotes meaningful partnerships with OPDs
- Can help any type of organisation progressively deliver against disability inclusion and accessibility commitments and policies while being accountable to the disability movement



# Key learnings

- 1. Accessibility is a right, precondition, and enabler for all other rights**
- 2. Engagement and participation of OPDs and other groups at all levels and phases of city planning, design and governance**
- 3. Accessibility is holistic and starts with each one of us in our daily practice**

# Useful links

- [WBU Global Programme on inclusive and accessible urban development](#)
- [Accessibility GO! A Guide to Action](#)
- [Vol 7 No 2 \(2022\): Universally Accessible Public Spaces for All | The Journal of Public Space \(journalpublicspace.org\)](#)

## How to reach out?

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