



Global Compact
Cities Programme



URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS

Ethical Cities: Locking in Liveability

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Urban Thinkers Campus - Lead Organisers

The UN Global Compact - Cities Programme is the urban arm of the United Nations Global Compact - the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. The Cities Programme works with cities, regions and partners to progress social equity and justice, environmental sustainability and good governance in the urban environment.

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. It serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

RMIT is a global university of technology, design and enterprise and one of Australia's original tertiary institutions. The University enjoys an international reputation for excellence in professional and vocational education and outcome-oriented research.

Introduction

Cities that fail to build ethical futures, social inclusion and citizen engagement become less attractive, less sustainable and more vulnerable to the negative effects of shocks and mega-trends over time. On the other hand cities that purposefully work towards just, sustainable and well-governed futures – ones that create shared value for all its dwellers, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized – will be more resilient and successful.

The "Ethical Cities: Locking in Liveability" Urban Thinkers Campus was co-organized by the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme and World Vision International to place a distinct emphasis on the ethical city as an urgent objective in the New Urban Agenda. Hosted at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, the Campus focused on the principles, policies and action planning aimed at bringing ethics and values to the forefront of city planning, urban governance and sustainable urban development.

It explored the notion of the ethical city through three core themes: (1) Ethical Urban Development, (2) Resilience and (3) Inclusion and Right to the City. Ethical cities are environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable, and utilize transparent, accountable, respectful, democratic, and inclusive mechanisms of engagement. This Urban Thinkers Campus proposes that **The City We Need is Ethical and Just.**



Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia, calling upon leaders to promote equity and liveability for all urban dwellers, especially the most vulnerable.

Participants and Partners

The first Australian Urban Thinkers Campus brought together over 250 participants representing eight constituent groups: (1) local and sub-national authorities, (2) media, (3) grass-roots organizations, (4) research and academia, (5) business and industries, (6) professionals, (7) civil society organisations, and (8) children and youth.



Over 250 participants representing eight constituent groups and 21 countries attended the first Australian Urban Thinkers Campus.

Speakers included the Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne (Australia), the Mayor of Rotorua Lakes Council (New Zealand), and leaders from UN-Habitat, World Vision Australia, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, 100 Resilient Cities - Resilient Melbourne, Habitat for Humanity Australia, Centre for Multicultural Youth, AMES Australia, Brotherhood of St Laurence, ANZ Bank and The Conversation.

A total of 21 countries were represented:

Australia
Bangladesh
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Denmark
Finland
Iceland
India
Ireland

Italy
Mexico
Namibia
New Zealand
South Africa
South Korea
Sri Lanka
The Netherlands
United Kingdom
United States of America

Key Outcomes

Cities are the result of a complex interplay of places, people and power, which in turn shapes and is shaped by technologies, resources and socio-cultural phenomena. Given the practical realities that cities face, we need ethical frameworks to guide city governance and sustainable urban development, and to enhance the livelihoods for all urban dwellers, particularly the most vulnerable.

All ethical city strategies should explicitly articulate how they will advance the following:

- **Resilience:** Build social capital, preparedness, confidence, skills, infrastructure and capacity for all citizens to engage and be sustained, in response to both sudden shocks and longer-term changes.
- **Inclusion and the Right to the City:** Promote social and economic inclusion, where vulnerable groups, including children and youth, are considered as key contributors to the city's sustainable development.
- **Ethical Urban Development:** Demonstrate accountability, multi-sectoral engagement, leadership of ideas and by example, innovation, mutual respect, care, social justice, sustainability and reflexive governance.

The Resilience Urban Thinkers Session highlighted climate resilience as a critical determinant of a safe city, reinforcing the need for community-led policy and project development to address climate change rather than relying solely on local government. Participants agreed that capacity development activities should be directed at enhancing systemic thinking at the community level, as well as the ability of local government to co-design, implement and monitor policies and projects with their communities. The participants recognised the importance of including indigenous knowledge into resilience planning.

The Inclusion and the Right to the City Session explored how vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees of all ages, face challenges in accessing their rights and entitlements to services and livelihood opportunities in the city. Specifically, children and youth often feel excluded from economic, political and social life. Participants agreed that cities need to promote the genuine inclusion and participation of the most vulnerable within city governance and development processes. They highlighted the critical roles that government, civil society, research institutions and businesses play in fostering social inclusion and economic integration pathways that create shared value for all urban dwellers.

The Ethical Urban Development Session highlighted the importance of recognising biases and divergent interests of various city stakeholders and how they work to shape urban development. Participants agreed that the key to success when embracing an ethical framework for urban development is to ensure more effective civic engagement, particularly during the planning to implementation stages for local and citywide projects. Participants considered the achievement of continuous and ongoing participation between stakeholders as a crucial factor underpinning ethical urban development. They emphasised the importance of open and transparent governance and respect for the rule of law.

Based on these discussions, the Campus proposes the additional principle: **The city we need is ethical and just.** It promotes free and open access to information, transparency and accountability in government, and active and inclusive community engagement. It advocates and monitors ethical behaviour at all levels and across difference sectors in the city.



Martin Bean, RMIT Vice Chancellor and President highlighting the need for a moral compass to guide cities towards just, sustainable and well-governed futures.

Key Recommendations

This Campus proposes the following recommendations to achieve the ethical and just city we need. The Campus recommended that adoption of an ethical framework by cities would guide development, enhance resilience, and promote inclusion and the right to the city for all.

- 1. The City We Need is Ethical and Just**
An ethical approach to urban development requires the promotion of open, accountable and transparent governance, which relies upon the application of the rule of law and the administration of justice. The availability of measureable data is essential and as such emphasis is placed on the promotion of good, open and transparent data. Cities need to support vulnerable groups of all ages and backgrounds to be well informed about their rights, and on where they can seek support from local services and regulatory bodies. Better outcomes around all aspects of city development are envisaged in instances where engaged and enlightened leadership exists based on ethical urban values.
- 2. Diversity is key to success**
The city we need has multiple and evolving identities and senses of place. The social, cultural and economic benefits of diversity should be recognized at all levels of the city and promoted citywide. It is important to recognise the multicultural nature of most modern cities and also the value of contemporary indigenous knowledge, culture and perspectives within a knowledge economy.
- 3. Resilience lies at the core of what constitutes a safe city**
There was a clear consensus that notions of resilience, risk exposure and vulnerability should be embedded as core elements of a safe city. It is essential for cities to develop a culture of safety, to include the costs of externalities in decision-making, and to enhance community skills and capacities to lead this process in terms of policy development and project implementation.
- 4. An economically vibrant urban economy is entrepreneurial and ethical**
An ethical city puts measures in place to alter the current form of urban development through ethical investment flows and clear business cases (including consideration of the public good) that incentivize social entrepreneurship and innovation capable of delivering ethical outcomes. This can be supported by appropriate reforms to the taxation systems and regulatory regimes. The corporate sector should also recognise the economic benefit of shared value creation that advances social progress (see Urban Solutions – Given the Chance), as well as the business value in ethical procurement, supply chains and production.
- 5. Urban connectivity and mobility are basic needs**
The importance of digital connectivity and urban mobility is essential to city development. Digital connectivity can reduce the need for mobility and transform the way we work, play, interact, participate and govern. This may require that we recognise the changing nature of work and embrace new technologies and technological-cultural change. Well-planned cities also rely on local governments and policymakers to better understand population growth trends, spatial settlement patterns, and labour markets to make urban planning decisions that are more adaptive to the needs of all dwellers, especially vulnerable groups. This includes adaptive planning, inclusionary zoning and sustainable urban mobility plans.
- 6. Respect and Access to Natural Resources and Landscapes**
It is essential that natural resources and landscapes in the city are protected and accessible. Urban ecological services should be recognised and prioritised for the role they play in sustaining urban health, environmental protection, aesthetics and liveability. Urban parks, gardens, green corridors and the broader built environment should be designed and maintained in such a way that protects, and where possible restores, local flora, fauna and biodiversity.
- 7. Authentic and Continuous Stakeholder Engagement**
It is essential to promote cross-sectorial engagement around the vision for the city and its implementation, engaging all levels of the city and its residents. This may require, when an

ethical lens is applied, placing the common-good over individual interests and prioritising the long-term perspective over short-termism. It will involve negotiating potential outcomes between various interest groups based on recognised shared values, and fostering engaged and enlightened leadership. It may also require a willingness to experiment and innovate in settings for stakeholder engagement, which includes the most vulnerable and marginalised.



Participants discussing how cities can build urban resilience through social capital and capacity building of communities.

Key Actors

Participants identified the following key actors and proposed actions to advance the notion of an ethical and just city:

Local Government:

- Recognise and promote the social, cultural and economic benefits of diversity, and ensure the built environment is reflective of the needs of all vulnerable groups (inclusionary zoning, affordable housing and public transport, safe and accessible public space).
- Ensure information is highly accessible to all urban dwellers, especially marginalized groups including children and youth, who are able to engage and fully participate in local and city decision-making processes.
- Promote place-based decision-making, integrated planning involving all key stakeholders, and develop local partnerships.
- Adopt more entrepreneurial, less risk averse and innovative approaches to deliver current and future needs of local communities.
- Initiate pilot projects around participatory democracy and participatory budgeting.



Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne explains how public participation is at the centre of an ethical city.

Research Institutions:

- Share multidisciplinary evidence-based ideas to support the development of urban solutions and policy reform aimed at the social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- Support re-qualification pathways that enable the transferability of qualifications and skills of marginalised job seekers, such as migrants and refugees, to enable dignified access to the local job market.

Businesses:

- Promote the economic benefit of shared value creation with partners and throughout the corporate sector, transforming untargeted corporate social responsibility initiatives into inclusion programmes targeting vulnerable groups.
- Create and promote an inclusive and culturally diverse workplace, removing any communication and cultural barriers in job recruitment and selection processes.
- Commit to corporate social responsibility across all business sectors and provide funding for

relevant activities.

- Collaborate with the local government and other key stakeholders, recognising a shared responsibility to the city's liveability for all its citizens.

Civil Society:

- Advocate for increased transparency, accountability and community participation and consultation in governance processes including budget allocation and monitoring, and investments into urban infrastructure.
- Determine and advocate for the unmet needs and priorities of the community, especially those of the most vulnerable and marginalised.
- Ensure that care and support are provided to those who are not adequately supported by government services, and advocate for greater service delivery and diligence from government departments.

Children and Youth:

- Children and youth should be encouraged and able to actively engage in local to citywide decision-making processes, and be recognised as both knowledge experts and change agents in the development of their communities and cities.
- Be active participants in defining an ethical and just city and monitoring the city's progress towards improved liveability.

Media:

- Act as a watchdog to protect public interest against unethical behaviour at the local, city and national level.
- Raise public awareness on the importance of ethical leadership, governance, resilience and inclusion to sustainable urban development.



John Watson, Cities Editor with The Conversation, explores the role of modern media in an ethical city.

Matrix of Linkages

Applying an ethical framework to *The City We Need*, the following changes were proposed via the Urban Thinkers Sessions in terms of a new principle, revised ordering and wording of existing principles.

Principle (revised)	Suggested Additional Narrative
<p>(1) The city we need is ethical and just. It promotes free and open access to information, transparency in government, and active and inclusive community engagement. It advocates and monitors ethical behaviour at all levels and across different sectors in the city. It places emphasis upon the rule of law and the administration of justice.</p>	
<p>(2) The city we need is socially inclusive. It provides choice and opportunity for all people to participate in social, economic, cultural and civic expressions. It eliminates all physical, spatial, and sociological forms of segregation and exclusion, and promotes accessibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City governments should establish plans and governance structures to promote social inclusion.
<p>(3) The city we need is affordable and equitable. Communities proactively participate in planning, design and decision-making around the provision of infrastructure, housing, and basic services for all, inclusive of low-income and vulnerable groups. Public services are designed, planned and monitored together with the communities they serve and consciously include the changing needs of women, youth, people with disabilities, and vulnerable populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The city invests in a comprehensive housing programme, specifically addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, to promote and guarantee land tenure security for all. - Local authorities partner with businesses to achieve a local planning vision and equitable outcomes around infrastructure, housing and basic services.
<p>(4) The city we need is a healthy city. The city's parks and gardens are havens of peace and tranquility and harbor local flora and fauna and biodiversity. It promotes city greening planning and integrated water cycle management. Public and environmental health and wellbeing underpins the equitable operation of the city, through an accessible and responsive health system and a proactive focus on wellness, healthy and active lifestyles. All entities providing public services (health, water, energy, transport, housing) work together with the citizens to achieve this goal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The city proactively manages air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. - The local authorities create and maintain community spaces that encourage active lifestyles of people from all ages. - Cities promote policies and investments that advance health care services supplied by the state.
<p>(5) The city we need is economically vibrant and inclusive. It encourages and fosters local commercial and non-commercial economic development which includes social and environmental considerations, from domestic family production to the smallest entrepreneur and to the largest corporations. It provides a one-stop shop for streamlined licensing and other administrative services. It recognizes and protects the specific needs of the informal sector of the economy in its economic development policies and strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The city promotes a knowledge economy and recognises the economic advantages of cultural diversity. - It values the importance of creativity, innovation and corporate social responsibility in business. - Measures are in place to facilitate cross-agency collaboration around policies, programmes and projects. - Local authorities adopt a more entrepreneurial and innovative approach to meeting community needs. - All levels of government work with business to encourage ethical investments in the city. - Measures should be implemented in every city to ensure transparency of political funding. - The local authorities should encourage and support community activism, particularly in local politics in order to enhance participatory democracy.
<p>(6) The city we need is a safe city. The city is welcoming night and day, inviting groups of all ages to use the streets, parks, and transport without fear. Public officials - the police, the fire department,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The city promotes safety in all types of spaces – public, semi-public and private – for community and individual well-being. - The city is resilient and identifies, manages and

<p>and health, welfare, transit, and environmental services - and neighbourhood residents and community groups communicate frequently. The community is empowered and well informed to identify and address safety concerns at the community and neighbourhood levels. Resilience is at the core of ensuring the safe city by recognizing risks and vulnerabilities.</p>	<p>mitigates risks and vulnerabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public spaces and streetscapes are designed and promoted with safety in mind. - Cities put measures in place to foster a change of attitude to alcohol, drugs and violence in the city.
<p>(7) The city we need is a regenerative city. It is designed to be resilient by being energy efficient, low-carbon, and increasingly reliant on renewable energy sources. It replenishes the resources it consumes and recycles and reuses waste. It uses water, land, and energy in a coordinated manner and in harmony with its surrounding hinterland in support of urban and peri-urban agriculture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It promotes ethical consumerism such as pre-cycling to minimize waste and ethical sourcing from local markets. - It is self-sufficient, absorbs growth, reuses resources and promotes a “do no harm” or precautionary principle. It challenges the status quo at each decision-making opportunity. - The city has a shared, inclusive, aspirational document/plan, which has been developed by all stakeholders that exists outside the cycles of government.
<p>(8) The city we need has multiple and evolving identities and-senses of place. It recognises and celebrates diverse culture as key to human dignity, social cohesion and to sustainability and as a means to unlock the potential of all citizens. It strengthens the bonds between city and its surrounding hinterland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It celebrates multiculturalism and promotes contemporary indigenous knowledge, culture and perspectives. - The city puts in place measures to diversify political representation in local councils by gender, race, ethnicity, etc. - The identity of the city can be enhanced and encouraged through cultural events and activities.
<p>(9) The city we need is connected, well-planned, walkable and transit-friendly. Learning and work opportunities are within walking or biking distance, or within a few transit stops, from homes. Shopping for daily necessities is within walking distance of residential buildings and located near transit stops. Open space for recreation is near schools, work, and home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are multi-modal forms of public transport that are reliable, responsive, affordable and accessible for people with additional needs. - The inner core of the city should be well-planned and highly walkable. - Urban planning is used to foster cultural transformation whereby more people shift away from private cars to public transport, cycling and walking, and - The city ensures transit networks and local learning facilities are well located.
<p>(10) The city we need is managed at the metropolitan level. It coordinates sectoral policies and actions (economy, mobility, biodiversity, energy, water, and waste) guided by sustainable, strategic and comprehensive local and national urban frameworks, monitored by an independent party. It recognizes the principle of subsidiarity where the appropriately affected communities are engaged and empowered to develop solutions for the common good and governed by a holistic view of the issues being considered. Communities and neighbourhoods are participants in metropolitan decision-making and are able to hold city authorities accountable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A city’s biggest resource is its citizens. This should be recognised in policies, programmes and projects. - It is crucial that measures are implemented to enhance cooperation and coordination between governments at all levels. - There is a need to focus on long-term community resilience through accountability measures. Therefore it is recommended that government policy should be ethical and underpinned by recognition of greater community benefit or greater good. - Local resources should be mobilized around sustainable development and it is important to recognize the scope for a sharing economy.



Participants interpreting and proposing changes to each *The City We Need* principle from an ethical perspective.

Outstanding Issues

When promoting the importance of *The City We Need* principles, it is crucial to recognise that there are a number of significant barriers that would need to be overcome to achieve an ethical and just city.

First, change on the scale required is long-term. Although the New Urban Agenda has a 20-year time horizon, it would be crucial to encourage cities to include intermediate milestones. To some extent, this will be influenced by the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Second, existing power structures need to be taken into consideration because calls for equity tend to challenge those with most power and resources. Finally, concerns were expressed by Campus participants regarding the question of “who to include and how” or more specifically who is exactly the “we” that is referred to when talking about vulnerabilities.

A “*The City We Need*” principle that proved to be contentious was the suggestion that cities should be managed at the metropolitan level. It is important to keep in mind the need for subsidiarity which implies that “social problems should be dealt with at the most immediate (or local) level consistent with their solution.”

It is critical to take into consideration locational differences and traditional methods and approaches rather than pushing the goal of metropolitan level urban management. The consideration of this principle by the participants raised a number of questions such as: What is the best way to promote coordination between adjacent cities, how are decisions made, what are the funding implications, especially when resources are limited, and what does a metropolitan approach mean for citizen participation and political representation?

At the same time, we see increasing evidence of the internationally connected nature of cities (through alliances, coalitions and other arrangements). It is important to take these new forms of city-to-city collaboration into account.



Michael Nolan, Chair, UN Global Compact – Cities Programme highlighting the importance of the Urban Thinkers Campus and The New Urban Agenda.

Annex 1: Summary of Each Session

Plenary Session

Moderator: **Michael Nolan (Chair - UN Global Compact - Cities Programme)**

Welcome to Country: **Uncle Colin Hunter (Wurundjeri Tribe Council Elder)**



Uncle Colin Hunter, Elder of the Wurundjeri Tribe Council welcomes participants to country.

Martin Bean (RMIT University Vice Chancellor and President)

Martin suggested that we “need a moral compass to help us navigate these changes especially around issues like climate change, resilience, economic vibrancy, social equity and inclusion.” He stated that “we have to confront big questions like what kind of energy system do we need for our cities? What is the future of work in the city? How will we get around in urban areas in the future?”

Ralph Horne (Director of the UN Global Compact – Cities Programme and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation at RMIT University)

Ralph argued that the Ethical City is a principled concept. There is no blueprint. Every city is different and must create its own future. It was proposed that each city should be encouraged to develop a ‘*local compact*’ - namely, a unique, locally-made set of guiding signposts for each city, that apply directly to that city’s people and circumstances.

Tim Costello (CEO of World Vision Australia)

Tim challenged the audience to understand that when addressing the question of the ethical city it is important to consider the nature of power and politics: “*Who has power? Who gets what they want? Who misses out?*”

The ethical city needs to address the fabric of society. For instance, within the framework of the secular market place how do we allow all voices to be equitably heard? The city can be symbolic of freedom and opportunity. It can also be an indicator of cultural bankruptcy, especially in instances of something like urban sprawl. The ethical city is about community – about finding a place to belong. At the heart of ethical concerns right now is growing inequality and this is something we need to, as a community, address.

Urban Thinker Session Part 1 – *The City We Need Debate*

This session was moderated by Michael Poustie of World Vision International.

Douglas Ragan (UN Habitat) outlined the work of UN-Habitat in youth empowerment and livelihoods programmes, with a particular emphasis on social inclusion and active youth participation in urban governance. He raised concerns about how it may be possible to achieve impactful change on the ground in our cities.

Steve Chadwick (Mayor, Rotorua Lakes Council, New Zealand), emphasized the role of local councils in shaping and transforming the local community. She highlighted the importance of encouraging conversation on how to use resources and on how to reinvigorate the local economy based on its strengths (e.g. tourism). She articulated that it is not just about change in the local community, but also in the local council, who can adapt by re-structuring internal governance and portfolios to match new priorities. Through sharing her experiences in New Zealand, Steve highlighted the possibilities for social inclusion and collaboration with local indigenous communities, and reflected that ethical decisions are not the easy or convenient decisions but that they are the right decisions.

Toby Kent (Chief Resilience Officer, Melbourne City Council) spoke to the role and drivers of the private sector in ethical urban decision-making. He reminded the audience that businesses are a collection of people and they reflect the values and concerns of the societies from which they come. Private companies thrive and benefit from a healthy economy, and it is therefore in their interests to encourage and foster sustainable economic development.

Martin Thomas (CEO, Habitat for Humanity Australia) spoke about how in many major cities in the developing world a key issue, for ethical development and livelihoods, is that of land tenure. In terms of how to manage slums he stated that we need local knowledge, community led initiatives supported by NGOs and we need to equip local government with the knowledge to effectively address these issues.

John Watson (Cities Editor, *The Conversation*) highlighted the fractured and instantaneous nature of the media and audience in the 21st century. This changing culture in the area of media use translates into an increased difficulty in advancing stories of ethics or research. John highlighted partnerships with local government as offering greater potential for meaningful dialogue with the public through local media forms, as opposed to national authorities who tend to focus on communication as propaganda.

Plenary Session (continued)

Immediately following lunch, there was video presentation by Cezar Busatto, Chief Resilience Officer with the City of Porto Alegre, Brazil. He explained his perspective of the ethical city and talked in terms of local solidarity governance, with particular emphasis on participatory budgeting.

This was followed by a speech from Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne. He asserted that ethical discussions in public decision-making need to be founded in accurate data and targeted programmes. He explained that he sees ethical urbanism as being represented by the notion that cities are for people, they are shaped by people and their decisions. What this suggests, however, is that it is important to bring people together in order to make decisions. This is the context in which local governments engage with the community and people through conversation. The local council has a unique opportunity to engage citizens, stakeholders and experts. There is the potential to challenge big problems through local councils.

Urban Thinkers Sessions Part II and Closing Plenary

Campus participants divided into three groups to discuss (1) Resilience, (2) Inclusion and Rights to the City and (3) Ethical Urban Development. Each group followed a slightly different approach to the organization of their work and reported back a set of recommendations to the final plenary session.



Participants in the resilience Urban Thinkers Session developing their recommendations.

Urban Thinkers Session: Resilience

Facilitators: Michael Nolan (UN Global Compact – Cities Programme), Liz Johnstone (AECOM), Toby Kent and Maree Grenfell (Resilient Melbourne)

Background: The ethical city uses trust at a community level as currency to create community cohesion, interdependence and empowerment to act and respond positively to shocks and stresses. Community resilience shines through when disasters occur but the trust and connections that underpin this resilience are formed over time at the neighbourhood level during ‘peace’ times when shocks are not occurring. Resilience is incorporated in the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals #11 – ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’, yet the application of resilience could be applied across many of these goals.



Liz Johnstone (Associate Director – Sustainability, AECOM) from the Resilience Urban Thinkers Session reports back to the plenary with the key recommendations.

Outline of the Session: This session addressed the following questions. What are the ingredients to accelerate the application of innovative programmes and projects that enhance community resilience at the neighbourhood level? What recipes have been applied in other cities such as members of the Global Compact Cities Programme and the 100 Resilient Cities programme pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation?

Emerging Issues:

- With respect to the principle challenges facing cities in relation to resilience, the discussions focused on the potential for national and local policy reforms, and the influence that the global principles as embodied in the New Urban Agenda could have.
- There is considerable merit in better elaborating best practices and approaches to the pursuit of community, neighbourhood, municipal and metropolitan resilience particularly when seeking to promote urban solutions.
- In terms of partnership, there was recognition of the need to develop a stakeholder matrix outlining roles and responsibilities, as well as calls to action to each partner to help create the “ethical city we need.”

Recommendations:

- There is a need to prepare for a changing climate in the future. As such, it is recommended that climate resilience be included in The Safe City principle.
- The emphasis should be on fostering community-led policy and project development around urban resilience. To ensure success in this area it is important to develop local community skills in relation to (a) systemic thinking, (b) co-design of projects and policies between communities, local government, business and civil society, and (c) approaches to multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration. Measures should be implemented to identify needs and leadership opportunities related to local resilience at the neighbourhood level.
- There is a need for greater inclusion of indigenous knowledge and people in policies and project development related to urban resilience. As such it is recommended that indigenous people, art, history, culture and story-telling be celebrated and taught in an urban context.

Urban Thinkers Session: Inclusion and Right to the City

Presenters: Douglas Ragan (UN-Habitat), John van Kooy (Brotherhood of St Lawrence), Ramesh Kumar (AMES Australia), Danielle Curry (ANZ Bank), Carmel Guerra OAM (Centre for Multicultural Youth).

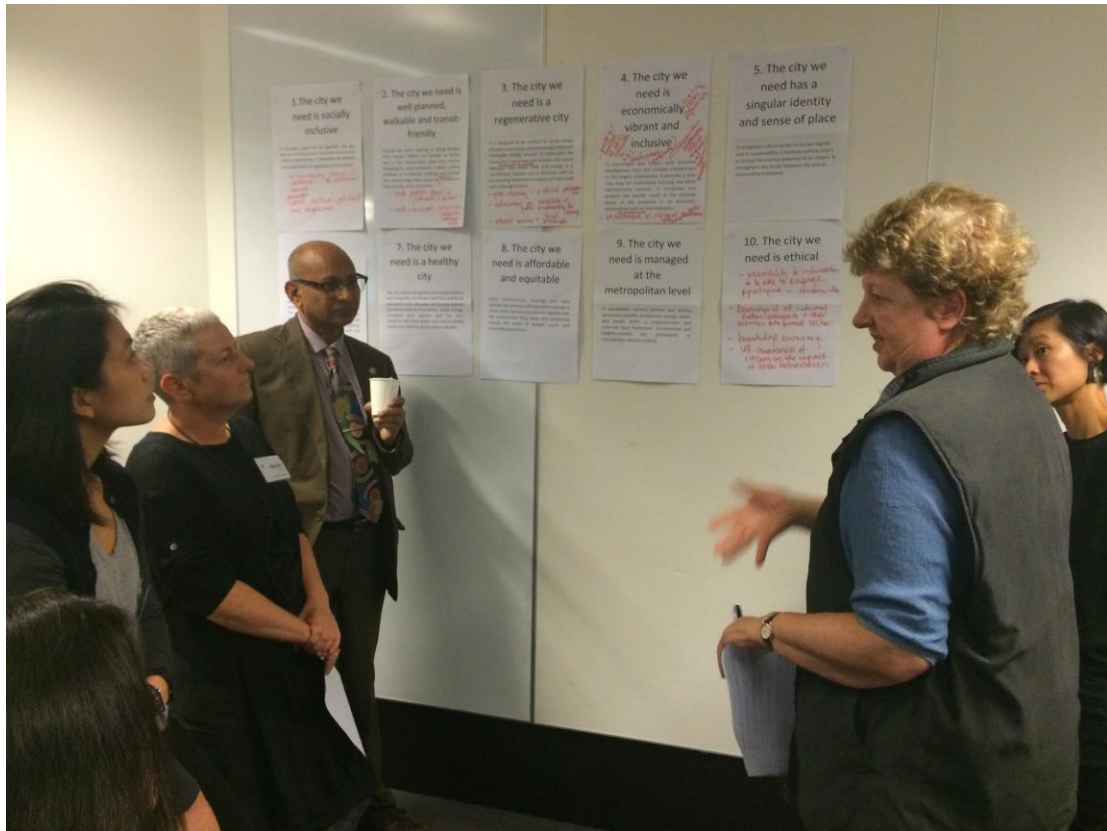
Moderator: Annabel Hart, World Vision Australia

Background: An ethical city is one which is socially and economically inclusive, where everyone has the right to the city, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Migrants and refugees arrive in cities with significant human capital and the potential to contribute to the social, economic and cultural fabric of host communities. Migration can energise labour markets and generate new demand for goods and services, while also contributing to innovation that fuels sustainable urban development. Yet, migration is often poorly managed, resulting in exclusion.

Outline of the session: Recognising the growing scale and complexity of international migration, this session explored trends, challenges, and the role of city stakeholders in shaping social inclusion and economic integration pathways that are essential to the well-being and prosperity of migrant children, youth and families.

Emerging issues:

- Cultural diversity is not synonymous with social inclusion: Many newly arrived migrants and refugees of all ages face challenges in accessing their rights and entitlements to urban services and opportunities, which impact their ability to fully participate in urban life. Barriers often include lack of access to information and communications, support services and language and cultural differences.
- Children and youth feel isolated and overlooked: In a new culture and society, young people can experience a range of challenges – managing family, cultural and social norms and responsibilities - while simultaneously trying to establish their own identity and sense of place. Exclusion from economic, political and social life can result in disillusionment and further inequality.
- Accessing employment and business opportunities is a significant challenge: Job recruitment and selection processes often exclude newly arrived migrants and refugees, particularly when skills, qualifications, and experience gained in their home country fail to be formally recognised. Often migrant and refugee youth have lower levels of workforce participation rates compared to their local counterparts.



Participants in the Inclusion and Right to the City Urban Thinkers Session discuss *The City We Need* principles.

Recommendations:

As city populations grow, urban and social planning must consider policies, programmes and services that promote inclusion and participation of all city dwellers. Recommendations that emerged from this workshop included:

- **Adaptive planning and inclusionary zoning:** Local governments and policymakers need to better understand migration trends, spatial settlement patterns and labour markets to make urban planning decisions that are more adaptive to migrants' needs, for example, inclusionary zoning close to migrants' places of work, and provision of inclusive, safe and accessible public spaces.
- **Promote shared value creation in corporate sector:** Shared value seeks for both commercial value (profits) while also addressing and meeting the needs of the community. It goes beyond traditional approaches of corporate social responsibility. The "Given the Chance initiative", an employment pathway programme for refugees launched by ANZ Bank and the Brotherhood of St Laurence, is one example of engaging the scale and innovation of businesses to advance social progress, while also creating measurable business value (see Urban Solutions).
- **Public education on civil and workers' rights:** Education is an essential part of successful integration for migrant and refugees of all ages. Education is critical in assisting vulnerable groups to be productive and active members of society. Inclusive cities need to support vulnerable groups to be well-informed about their civil and workers' rights, and introduced to associated support services and regulatory bodies.

Urban Thinkers Session: Ethical Urban Development

Discussants: Steve Chadwick (Mayor, Rotorua Lakes Council), Austin Ley (City of Melbourne), Robyn Waters (The International Real Estate Federation)

Facilitators: John Fein (Swinburne Leadership Institute, Ralph Horne and Brendan Barrett (UN Global Compact – Cities Programme)

Background: Ethical urban development is a meta concept under which many other themes can be placed – sustainable city, healthy city, inclusive city, and so on. The emphasis when considering urban

development related decisions from this point of view is on what is “right, fair, just or good.” Consideration of ethical urban development requires a change in thinking. The question this session addressed was how ethical principles can help communities tackle the complex issues facing our cities?

Outline of the Session: In this session, the participants began with an activity designed to introduce them to the nine *The City We Need* Principles, and to rank them in terms of their significance. The participants were then divided into nine groups – one for each principle. They were asked to analyze a single principle and to revise the principle if necessary. They then addressed the strength and opportunities in relation to this principle in their cities and listed five things that would have to change by 2036 (the 20 year timeline of the New Urban Agenda) for urban development to progress in their city to reflect the very best of this principle. Next they identified the tasks that would be required for four key stakeholders: local/city councils, federal and state governments, business leaders and citizens and community groups.



John Fein and Ralph Horne facilitate the session on ethical urban development.

Emerging issues:

- An ethical approach to urban development can best be promoted through recognition of the biases and divergent perspectives (including acknowledgement of contemporary indigenous culture) surrounding the current patterns of development in our cities. At the same time, emphasis needs to be placed on open, transparent and accountable government as well as on access to good, open data that facilitates evaluation and monitoring.
- Ethical urban development relies on ethical investment flows and solid business cases, as well as on supportive tax reforms and regulatory regimes. Ultimately, there is a need to prioritize the “common-good” over individual interests as well as adopting a long-term perspective.
- Multiple stakeholders can come together to reinforce an ethical approach if the negotiation between various interest groups recognizes shared value (including non-monetary returns) in the potential outcomes. It is essential that a continuity of participation between stakeholders becomes the norm.
- To ensure success it will be necessary to incentivize social enterprises and innovations that deliver ethical outcomes and to foster engaged and enlightened leadership based on ethical, urban values.
- In terms of what can be done better, there was consensus on the need to listen to various fora in the city (not just traditional media), to engage with communities, cultural institutions and community organisations, and to embrace new technologies and technological-cultural

change.

Recommendations:

- The modern city is multicultural and diverse. In this context, it is important to recognize dominant and outdated biases that potentially undermine diversity and that ignore the divergent interests of various stakeholders in the city. An ethical approach to urban development requires that these biases are made visible and addressed through dialogue and negotiation.
- The media landscape surrounding our cities has been transformed in recent decades through the advent of digital including social media. This implies that all urban stakeholders need to comprehend this change and at the same time work to enhance their communication skills, while embracing the opportunities that arise from new media.
- The notion of ethical urban development is a high level concept that could prove challenging when translating into action on the ground in cities. In this context, engagement with all stakeholders in a continuous and concerted manner would be essential in ensuring the effective delivery from vision into action.
- Ethical urban development needs to be underpinned by open, transparent governance and respect for the rule of law.
- There are concerns that much of the contemporary communication around governmental and corporate activities has a tendency to take the form of marketing rather than substance. This tendency needs to be recognized and addressed while at the same time ensuring continuous dialogue between stakeholders on *The City We Need*.
- Ethical urban development will fail to materialize without a strong business case that places emphasis on the public good.

Annex 2: The Campus Programme

See PDF Attached.

Annex 3: Briefing Paper – Towards the Ethical City

See PDF Attached

Annex 4: Complete List of Participants

See PDF Attached.

Annex 5: Urban Solutions

An extensive number of potential urban solutions were discussed during this Urban Thinkers Campus. Some examples are shared below as indicative of the richness of the conversations that took place. In addition, a more detailed urban solution is attached to this document from the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and its implementing partner ANZ Bank. The other examples here would be further elaborated in due course.

Given the chance: Employment pathways for refugees and asylum seekers

For many recent migrants, especially refugees and asylum seekers, inclusion into urban centres in Australia is challenging. Multiple barriers to social and economic participation exist, including language and cultural differences, and employer recruitment practices which screen out migrants on the basis of unrecognised skills, qualifications, and experience. These barriers can lead to extended periods of unemployment, inequality and exclusion for recent migrants. Meaningful economic participation through sustained employment is central to the liveability experienced by migrant groups. Responses are required that engage employers, and enable marginalised job seekers to overcome barriers and integrate into Australian economic life.

‘Given the Chance’ is a corporate paid work placement program that provides refugees and asylum seekers in Australia with the skills and experience to help them gain entry into the workforce. The programme enables marginalised job seekers to gain entry to the economy of their city through professional employment opportunities.

For more details on this solution see attached document. This urban solution is being scaled up by The Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ Bank across Australia.

Promotion of deliberative development models in the city

The vast majority of property development is speculative and this has significant shortcomings, particularly in terms of appetite for innovation and lack of connection between the developer and the ultimate user. Speculative property development is focused exclusively on profit maximisation. The experience of the end user and any other externalities are only relevant where the market prices them in. Split incentives mean that generally developers’ interests are not aligned with end user, as well as with broader social or environmental interests. A variety of alternative procurement models have been established around the world that address one or more of the shortcomings of purely speculative property development. Often these models are developed in a way that is specific to the circumstances of the country/city, which has meant to date they have not been easily transferred/replicated. This noted, amended to account for local legal, regulatory and financial parameters, many of these models have the potential for broad scale adoption in other cities and countries.

To facilitate this, there is an important role for government. Further investigation of the nature of government involvement in the establishment of successful deliberative development models seen internationally will provide insights into how these models can best be transferred, and the best role for government to play. This could be through planning regulation, utilising of government land assets, coordination between other levels of government etc.

This urban solution is being explored by Hip V. Hype Consultants, Maddocks Lawyers, Social Enterprise Finance Australia and the City of Melbourne.

Acknowledge and plan for the changing nature of work in the city

The current model of employment concentration in a central business district is breaking down and one of the key challenges is to decentralize jobs around the city. While this does tie into the notion that the city we need should be walkable, it takes it further by emphasizing the potential to take advantage of Internet connectivity to promote working from home. There were even suggestions that internet connectivity should be free so as to speed up this rapid transition in where work is located in the city. This is a proposal that has been put forward for consideration to the City of Melbourne as they work to develop a new Future Melbourne plan.

Plan away from the car

In general, our cities have been built to accommodate the car. It was proposed that we look to a new phase of city planning where we move away from the reliance on the car as a primary means of transportation. This could be achieved through a “car last, pedestrians first” policy. This proposal

echoes the comments made by the Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Robert Doyle, who stated that he was unaware of any modern city that is planning to encourage more cars to come into the city centre. The types of measures that can speed this transition include removing on-street parking, reducing road construction or turning existing roads into green spaces and bike lanes. Likewise, it would make sense to increase development densities in proportion to public transport usage. Following the October 2015 local elections, the new council members in Oslo have introduced a proposal to ban cars from the city centre.

Capture redundant spaces

There is a recognition amongst the Melbourne Urban Thinkers Campus participants that there is significant redundancy in our cities and in how the local economy functions. A key solution therefore is to promote policies that identify and make use of this redundancy in terms of goods, products, services and so on. A primary objective would be to facilitate the sharing of resources within the city and in order to achieve this it was recognized that an informed citizenry is key. To take this forward, it is essential to prioritize the spaces for interaction so as to foster start-ups and innovation hubs in a local knowledge economy. This was described as the formation of a circular economy based on sharing and local exchange, and can find form by embedding crowd funding into physical spaces. Ultimately this is part of the shift towards a new form of local economy in our cities. Again this is a proposal that has been made by citizens groups to the City of Melbourne as part of their consultations around the Future Melbourne plan under the banner of the “shared economy.”