



To Department for
Green Diplomacy
and Climate

Brussels, 14 October 2024,

Resilient Urban Futures: Consultations

Humanity & Inclusion, an independent and impartial aid organisation working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster, working alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations since more than 40 years in about 60 countries, welcomes the consultation process about the Danish Support for C40 Cities - for “Resilient Urban Futures: Strengthened climate resilience for Global South cities to the impacts of coastal & urban flooding, droughts and extreme heat, while promoting nature-based solutions”.

We recognize the importance of resilience, a multidimensional concept defined as the ‘ability to anticipate, avoid, plan for, cope with, recover from and adapt to (climate related) shocks and stresses’ based on (and contributing to) empower and inclusion of marginalized populations.

We appreciate the efforts for reaching “equitable and inclusive high-impact adaptation actions” and for “improving equitable and inclusive urban climate resilience”. The programme's approach to prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable populations is essential. Indeed, inclusion and equity are crucial values that should be operationalized in order to tackle the disproportionate impacts among marginalized communities.

Yet, we would welcome more specific and explicit details about the most vulnerable populations referenced in the programme, as to guide partners’ actions and effectively promote social inclusion based on concrete examples of vulnerability and risk drivers.

For instance, we note that persons with disabilities, are not explicitly mentioned. Persons with disabilities make up 16% of the world population (1.3 billion people), and they are over-represented in low and lower middle-income countries (80% live in the Global South). This population group is disproportionately impacted by the negative effects of climate change, including but not limited to climate-related disasters. They tend to be the poorest in their community and face multiple inclusion and accessibility barriers hindering the realization of their rights. Therefore, they tend to have reduced coping and adaptative capacities in the face of climate change. They face more difficulties to access warning information ahead of climate disasters and to take protective measures. They are routinely overlooked in decision

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processes that affect them, such as Disaster Risk Management plans and local adaptation plans.

Experience has proven that if not explicitly mentioned and promoted in donor programme strategies, disability inclusion is often overlooked by implementing partners. Therefore, we recommend including a specific reference to this group, along with other groups disproportionately at risk based on gender, age and other factors. Local climate governance and planning should take into consideration different type of barriers that persons with disabilities meet in the built environment to access services, including health information and services, green and blue spaces.

Namely, Nature Based Solutions, a pillar in this call, offer a crucial opportunity to promote disability-inclusion when they are built according to universal design principles. They may also promote climate and health co-benefits for all.

Considering the impact of climate-related disasters and slow-onset changes that impact the urban systems (including food systems, transportation, living conditions, employment opportunities) that results in mortality, morbidity, avoidable impairments, and inequities.

We call to integrate the Planetary Health framework, an evidence-based emerging approach in climate and health policies and programs, into cities interventions to address upstream factors like social and environmental determinants of health.

Strengthening urban resilience means promoting environmental and health co-benefits for all. Therefore, we call to consider disability-inclusion in a planetary health approach as a requirement when seeking for climate adaptation programs.

Kind regards,

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