

**Invitation and draft agenda**  
**Reviewing the State of Safety in Cities:  
Partnerships and Solutions for Localized Implementation**  
*Maison de la Paix and Palais de Nations*  
**Geneva, 26-28 June 2017**

Crime, violence, and social exclusion are three of the most important problems for contemporary cities, given the trends of rapid urbanization and continuous increase of global inequalities and marginalization. This strategic landscape requires new solutions for city leaders that combine and cut across knowledge and best practice, and strengthen partnerships for sustainable development and safe inclusive urbanization.

The constant quest of urban leaders to find solutions is now paralleled by a new international consensus to prioritize safe and inclusive cities. The international community has endorsed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). The implementation of these global agendas will depend on “localization”, implying that solutions should be implemented as close as possible to the specific settings they are intended to affect. Building on the call for leadership at the city level to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the NUA by United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), the conference will bring together operational actors that can contribute to the reduction of crime, violence, and social exclusion by 2030.

The conference *Reviewing the State of Safety in Cities: Partnerships and Solutions for Localized Implementation* has the overall aim of matching knowledge and experience about “what works” with identified needs to foster safe and inclusive cities. The Conference specifically focuses on the situation of state of safety in small and medium cities and has been structured to elaborate a working agenda for inter-sessional processes in preparation of the next biannual conference in June 2019. Key questions of this Conference include: How to reduce crime, violence and insecurity in cities? How to scale and replicate what works? How to build cross-cutting partnerships to co-produce safe and inclusive cities? What are new resource mobilization models to finance and scale effective programmes, initiatives and policies? What monitoring mechanisms are necessary to track progress?

The event is the first of a biennial conference series in Geneva and is part of UN-Habitat’s Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Safety. These activities aim to facilitate stronger partnerships – including through the establishment of a Geneva Cities Forum – between local and national governments, international organizations, academia and other relevant stakeholders to ensure commitment to sustainable development and urbanization over the next 15 years. For more information see <http://www.gpplatform.ch/pb-city>.

**Organizers**



**Members of the Core Group**



## DRAFT AGENDA

Preliminary consultations as part of the organization of the conference “Reviewing the State of Safety in Cities” (Geneva 26-28 June 2017) have shown interest by a variety of institutions to lead specific work streams in the period 2017-2019 – also understood as “inter-sessional processes” between the Geneva conferences in June 2017 and June 2019. In order to advance these work streams, the conference blocked time for working groups that will be agenda-setting opportunities for interested parties to identify goals, milestones and deliverables for a two-year inter-sessional process.

The overall idea is that working groups are co-chaired by at least two individuals (senior expert level) and stimulate exchange on city-level issues between New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and other policy capitals. Results of this process will be presented in the second biannual conference in 2019. The Working Groups are also intended to generate synergies between city-level programming and strategies of bi-lateral or multi-lateral development agencies.

Preliminary suggestions for working group topics include:

1. Consensus building in cities at the end of war and violence: Exploring the nexus of humanitarian action, peace mediation, and peacebuilding (e.g. ICRC, DPA, GPP)
2. Safety and security at the municipal level: Addressing crime, corruption and governance (e.g. DCAF, Global Initiative, UN-Habitat SCP, Interpeace)
3. Financing urban safety and security: Towards sustainability (e.g. SDC, IADB, and other regional development banks)
4. Monitoring: Making observatories work (e.g. Small Arms Survey)

### Monday, 26 June 2017

Maison de la Paix

Target group: Senior expert level

8:30	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and introduction
9:15 – 10:00	<b>Review the state of safety in cities</b> Keynote speeches and discussion
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Focus on consensus building</b> (kick-off presentation followed by a moderated discussion with all participants)
11.00 – 11.30	Break
11:30 – 12:30	<b>Focus on financing and sustainability</b> Town hall discussion (kick-off presentation followed by a moderated discussion with all participants)
12.30 – 12.45	<b>Explanations on working groups</b>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Working groups</b>

15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:30	<b>Working groups</b>
18:00 – 20:00	Evening event

<b>Tuesday, 27 June 2017</b> Maison de la Paix
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Target group: Senior expert level

9:00 – 10:00	<b>Focus on safety and security</b> Town hall discussion (kick-off presentation followed by a moderated discussion with all participants)
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Focus on monitoring</b> Town hall discussion (kick-off presentation followed by a moderated discussion with all participants)
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11.30 – 12:30	<b>Focus on cross-cutting issues</b>
11:00 – 12:30	
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	<b>Working groups</b>
15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 18:00	<b>Working group reports: Aims, milestones and deliverables 2017-2019</b>

<b>Wednesday, 28 June 2017</b> Palais des Nations
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Target group: Exchange between senior expert level and representatives of UN Member States and International Organizations

9:00	<b>Pick-up the badges at the Pregny Gate</b>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Welcome</b>
10:30 – 12:30	<b>High-level panel on reviewing the state of safety in cities</b>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Horizon scan on “safety and security in cities”</b>
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Towards a “Geneva Cities Forum”</b>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Closing</b>