



# Roadmap 2022

We stand at the cusp of a rare opportunity to reinvent how our cities operate as the urban agenda focuses on recovery. The virus has changed humanity, society and the planet. Back to the old normal is not an option.

We all have to draw lessons and invest in a different future where we seriously address how we shift our economic order, which is materially expansive, socially divisive and environmentally hostile. To be successful, cities will need to be empowered to act.

## TOWARDS NEW POST-COVID CITIES

### Recovery, transition, renewal

#### 1. Renewing our health policies

Health is top priority. The whole burden of the health crisis was put on doctors, nurses, hospitals and intensive care units. We will have to highlight a strong first line, where prevention and care meet, focused on interdisciplinary neighbourhood health provision, with special attention to elderly and vulnerable people, as part of integrated welfare policies and social inclusion. Mayors will have to design health policies combining prevention and cure, medicine and coaching, local cohesion and social access.

#### 2. An effective green deal

The pandemic is part of our fractured relationship with nature. We have to increase our efforts against global warming. To build resilience, we will have to focus more on an all-inclusive eco-systemic transition by reducing our ecological footprint, defending biodiversity and at the same time offering clean air, drinkable water, good food and more green and blue public spaces in our living areas. Mayors will have to translate global policies and objectives into transversal local transition plans.

#### 3. A new economic regime

By focusing on health and a sustainable transition the economic recovery is not just a “return to normal”. The crisis will be deep and lasting. Rebuilding the economy must include bottom-up policies, focusing on existing local resources and based on an economy whose foundation is recycling and circular thinking, where everyone can play a part in urban development plans. To be successful, the recovery plan should build a constructive coalition between the forces of the market, public initiatives and services, the commons, as well as the voluntary sector. The new urban economies will be more sustainable and more socially inclusive. Mayors will have to determine the local ecosystem in which the new economy is included in the urban vision.

#### 4. An inclusive social policy

The health crisis has put a great burden on the most vulnerable amongst us. Social exclusion, poverty and unemployment are likely to increase. An urban exodus of middle classes and increased distance work will alter labour markets and commercial opportunities. Traditional programmes of social relief will need more resources and attention and attention. New approaches will need to be invented driven by new forms of solidarity and redistribution in civil society and extended social networks. Mayors will have to build on local resources to complement redistribution policies with voluntary local solidarity.

## 5. Imagining the future

To renew health, green, economic and social policies will need all of us to strengthen our moral fibre, energy and motivation. We must reset urban life to recreate social proximity and overcome the distancing and automatisisation after Covid. Education, culture and media play an important role here. They are not just a “sector”, they are a vital catalyst to remobilize the population in this collective reinvention project. The necessary transformation is in itself a cultural project as it is about values, choices, mindset, attitudes, behaviour, hearts, minds, and skills. An all-inclusive powerful cultural mobilisation is needed that recognizes diversity, equal rights, and fights racism, sexism and colonialism. Mayors will have to design urban cultural and artistic policies as central leverage in mobilising citizens for optimistic recovery.

## 6. Boosting democracy

The post-Covid era has to reinforce democratic rights and practices. Without an open democracy, based on human and inclusive rights and respect for the state of law, it will be impossible to get the necessary support for recovery plans. Opening democracy to participation, co-creation and co-production, at the right scale, from the neighbourhood to the metropolis, will be a precondition for a swift transition and recovery policies. Cities will need a post-Covid transition from top-down, administrative government to a more horizontal, co-productive governance system including many forms of transversal collaboration. Mayors are pivotal engineers to open up political representation to co-productive city making.

## 7. Data sovereignty and the smart

The tech behemoths are in danger of controlling us rather than us as citizens controlling them. We have little control over our personal data and so lose our sovereignty as citizens. We also do not have say about how algorithms and AI are defined and constructed. The data-driven smart city needs to refocus on enabling us to become smarter citizens. New regulatory structures are vital to ensuring our independence and the independence of cities. Mayors are locally responsible to safeguard human rights, privacy, transparency and control mechanisms.

## 8. Interdependence and empowerment

Cities are not separate territories, they are nodes in networks, in a space of flows and interaction. Cities are not independent, but interdependent. The burden of recovery, transition and renewal will be on cities, which need to be empowered to act. This needs to be recognized at both the nation-state level, as well as within international organisations and global institutions. A new global multilateral power structure has to be designed as promised by the UN75 general assembly. Cities absolutely need to be recognised as equal partners in designing global policies. Mayors need to speak up to their national governments, international networks, and platforms to push for structural steps to be taken.

## 9. Rewriting processes and procedures

New times require new mechanisms to foster the public interest, such as using municipalities' power of procurement to bend the market to common good objectives. The post-Covid city also needs new measures of success as GDP is an inadequate measure and one of these is the 'social progress index'. Mayors are best positioned to judge the quality of integrated programs beyond bureaucratic ruling and corrupted practices.

## 10. Mayors for the future

A new world needs new forms of leadership. The new normal has to be creatively invented and put in place with the support of civil society and the consent of the population. Mayors are pivotal in aggregating all their cities positive energies so as to lead them through recovery, transition and renewal. Urban social cohesion involves producing a common destiny by mobilising a future project with appropriate good governance and leadership. It is not based on single identities or history. If cities are central in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, then mayors should get the means and the competences to fulfil that task. That project is a mission for the Global Parliament of Mayors.

## Multilateral governance

A sense of urgency is needed. The Covid-pandemic has shaken systems, traditions, institutions, procedures and common sense. Recovery cannot just be "back to normal". The future is now. Many planetary challenges have to be dealt with. The burden of recovery, transition and renewal will be on cities who need to be empowered to act. This needs to be recognized at both the nation-state level, as well as within international organisations and global institutions. A new global multilateral power structure has to be designed. Let us take up the mission!

*The Roadmap 2022 has been established by the Annual General Meeting 2021 of the Global Parliament of Mayors.*