

Round table (2) on Quality of Life and Social Inclusion

Quality of life is a wide concept that includes measures related to wealth and employment and has a broad range of contexts including built environment, health care, politics, education, recreation and social being. Quality of life is defined in different ways by institutions, for some organizations, poverty is defined as low quality of life, where poverty is defined as a lack of basic needs as food, shelter, water, energy, shelter, clean environment, freedom, education, health and employment. Social quality of life is the extent to which citizens are able to participate in social and economic life of their communities. To do so, people need to remain socially included, to rejoin leisure, friendship and work communities. Social quality refers to the concepts of social inclusion and also socio-economic security, social cohesion and empowerment. Transcending poverty and deprivation, social inclusion as both a process and an outcome entails the removal of barriers to access to goods, services and opportunities as well as the improvement of wellbeing and self-fulfillment.

Whereas equity in its primarily economic dimension is driven by 'macro' and national policies, most interventions in favor of social inclusion take place at the Local level. The past few decades have witnessed a notable surge in economic growth, but one which has been accompanied by an equally daunting degree of inequity under various forms, with wider income gaps and deepening poverty in many cities across the world. In this sense, inequity reveals a differentiation in the manner in which resources are allocated and facilities and services accessed. The main driver of inequity often tends to be differential access to employment as well as to public goods and services. Therefore, urban authorities have a major role to play when it comes to making shared prosperity a reality within their jurisdictions.

During this discussion, the following themes could be tackled for a better understanding of the topic:

- Cost of living affordability
- Environment sustainability
- Human rights and civic engagement
- Gender, youth and minorities
- Access to amenities and sustainable mobility
- Waste management
- Equitable access to energy and water and sanitation
- Urban safety and security
- Streets and Public spaces

To register to this roundtable, please fill in the registration form until: 22nd of November 2014.