



LIVING THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

**Summary of the work of The French
Partnership for Cities and Territories
XI World Urban Forum**

2021 - 2022

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"Transforming cities for a better urban future."



Editorial

"Transforming our cities for a better urban future"

We, members of the French delegation, have come together at the Katowice World Urban Forum in Poland to share the summary of how to implement our collective commitments based on the New Urban Agenda, set to foster the development of sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities, territories and communities that won't leave anyone aside, and will respect our planetary boundaries.

As the main theme of the Katowice World Urban Forum, "*transforming our cities for a better urban future*" invites us to think about prospective approaches.

Five years after the UN-Habitat III Summit, reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and conventions held on climate and biodiversity keep on increasingly warning us about climate change and biodiversity loss.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, public health was put on the agenda for the first time at an international scale. This crisis deeply transformed human interactions and accelerated some transitions. It greatly changed our relation work, education and basic services.

Very recently, in Europe, the war in Ukraine triggered big refugee migrations, a lot of human suffering, city destruction, and radical transformations of energy and food supply systems around the world.

With the world faced with so many uncertainties, the resilience of our communities and territories is being challenged and the situation should make us question our future.

For this 11th World Urban Forum, the French Partnership for Cities and Territories (PFVT) decided to collect prospective brainstorming to envision a world for 2050 where our commitments to implement the World Urban Agenda will be successfully achieved, and to discuss tools and measures that we need today already to start leading the transformation toward carbon-free, fair and enjoyable cities.

While the Urban Forum is set to take place in Europe during the last few days of the French Presidency of the European Union, we truly believe that European urban policies can inspire and lead the implementation of the New World Urban Agenda, a document that defends our people-centered values of freedom, inclusion and democracy.

Hubert Julien-Laferrrière, président du Partenariat français pour la ville et les territoires





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Introduction

French actors preparing for the World Urban Forum

Throughout the year 2021, more than 150 members of the French Partnership for Cities and Territories (PFVT) gathered within about 12 thematic working groups to co-create a collective contribution to the World Urban Forum. Each group was headed by members of PFVT and included actors from different fields.

A prospective and collective process

Each of the 12 groups brainstormed on prospective visions using a common 3 step methodology:

- During a first groupwork meeting, the group's participants were asked to define the transition challenges related to their topic and applying for the 2050 horizon;
- During a second session, each group had to formulate a prospective vision of the world of 2050
- During the last session, each group had to come up with examples of policies, actions and other instruments to be used in the upcoming 10 years to achieve the environmental, social, economic, political transformation needed to give shape to a "desirable future".

Reporting: thematic booklets

The booklets produced by the 11 groups are available in printed format, in French and English, and in digital format on the PFVT website : <https://ti-myurl.com/5n6kxnjy>

Four other booklets were produced aside, also for PFVT:

- A booklet on urban project management after the COVID-19 crisis
- A booklet crossing French and African perspectives, which came out of a series of webinars
- A report of the congress that took place on sustainable urban development on February 1st, 2022 in the context of the French Presidency of the European Union, organized by PFVT, by the Ministry of the Ecological Transition and by the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion
- A report of the congress that took place on inclusive digital cities on February 2nd 2022 in Strasbourg to contribute to UN-Habitat's "People-focused smart cities" flagship program, and in the context of the French Presidency of the European Union. The congress was organized by the French network of urban planning agencies (FNAU), the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the French Greater East Region.

We wish to thank very warmly all the members of the French Partnership for Cities and Territories who got together to make this collective work happen, with special acknowledgements to the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Ecological Transition and the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and of Relations with Local Authorities for their constant support.

Focus

The French Partnership for Cities and Territories (PFVT) is a collaborative platform and a think tank which has been bringing together all kinds of French actors for more than 10 years - people working for State institutions, local authorities, companies, NGOs, experts, researchers, networks. Together they contribute to international debates, especially in connection with the World Urban Agenda and various world urban forums. PFVT is headed by Hubert Julien-Laferrrière, an elected Depute for the Rhône department. The French network of urban planning agencies is in charge of coordinating the platform.



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DRAWING A VISION OF THE WORLD FOR 2050

French actors who gathered throughout 2021 within the various PFVT workgroups to do this prospective work all share the same vision. If we managed to reach the objectives set by the World Urban Agenda, the Paris agreement on climate change and the European Urban Agenda, we would witness the emergence of a very different kind of world than the one we know – a world that would strongly focus on social justice and environmental justice. This collective vision relies on some lines of convergence.

1. New types of alliances between living ecosystems and human beings

- Redefining the place of humans in the biosphere based on more balanced power dynamics that respect planetary boundaries.
- Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Relying on nature-based solutions to fight and attenuate the effects of climate change and preserve biodiversity: guarantee carbon capture, protect and use land ecological and nutritious functionalities, grow vegetation to keep cities fresher.

2. Health as a key component of territorial policies

- Promoting urban planning that serves health in many ways.
- Limiting pollution, disturbances and

stress.

- Ensuring access to healthy and local food relying on local food supply chains.
- Encouraging people to exercise, especially with active transportation modes.
- Organizing health services so they can suit everyone's needs.
- Fighting social, generational or gender exclusion and supporting social cohesion as a vector of self-achievement and of mental and social well-being.

3. Advocate for reasoned land and energy use

- Thinking about reasoned land and energy use when organizing land management, reclaiming, recycling, reversibility, and urban planning and development.
- Structuring a circular economy in all sectors: from digital technologies to urban development.
- Making sure that the growth of digitalization goes hand in hand with reasoned land and energy use and with alternative options that keep human contact possible.

4. A just place for high tech to combine with low tech

- Questioning technology as a corollary of reasoned land and energy use,

so we can define a right place for it and so technical solutions can suit various usages, local contexts and means.

5. Connected territorial proximity

- Using short distances as a variable to develop cities and territories, to allow easy access to basic functionalities: work, education, services, culture.
- Connecting cities and territories so they can function as digital islands, to enable remote access to services, goods and exchanges.

6. Time regained

- Respecting natural cycles, biodiversity's temporality, farming cycles' temporality.
- Organizing urban planning projects and project management with room left for experimentation, implementation and appropriation, because urban projects are made of multiple dimensions and may imply to be thought out on the long run.

7. Wishes for new kinds of sovereignty

- Having food sovereignty rely on local production and interrogating global production chains, because those are fragile and responsible for important carbon emissions.
- Implementing digital sovereignty by ensuring safe digital systems with safe monitoring, especially to protect personal data.

8. Urban and territorial development thought as environmental and social contracts

- Promoting "boundaries" as a key word and idea to draw visions for 2050: planetary physical boundaries (or environmental ceiling) and social boundaries (or acceptability ceiling).

9. Learn how to deal with uncertainties...

- Including the ideas of unpredictability and hybridity to the management process of territorial policies
- Fostering creative processes in urban planning projects.
- Asserting the right to experimentation.

10. ... but build a long term vision that relies on collective imaginaries

- Transforming individual and collective imaginaries to transform urban futures.



FOCUS ON THE WORLD OF 2050 AS ENVISIONED BY OUR WORKGROUPS

Biodiversity in 2050

Three main perspectives to consider when thinking about biodiversity:

- Nature for nature
- Nature for culture
- Nature for society

These are red threads to follow to include biodiversity to future scenarios. Healthy biodiversity and its ecosystemic services are essential to the well-being of humankind. We need them to make our cities more resilient during and after the pandemic. They're at the heart of our recovery (excerpt of the Edinburg declaration).

Alimentation in 2050

There is no perfect "food and farming recipe" as such but we're getting more and more familiar with some of the ingredients.

- Production: protect food gardens and farmlands, diversify productions.
- Transformation: in the kitchen, choose for fair food products that include the costs of social and environmental externalities of productions.
- Consumption: at the table, eat while being aware that food doesn't only have to do with fulfilling a basic need or with simply enjoying, it is an ancestral and futuristic process that defines and conditions how heritages are passed onto the future.

Health in 2050

Health should be a prominent aspect that defines urban policies.

Cities developed based on health priorities can help fight the negative externalities triggered by urban environments and help decrease social and gender inequalities. Cities and local authorities are the most suited scales in this regard, meaning they should support health - provided they get the right means to do so.

Affordable housing in 2050

Affordable housing is defined its hybridity: hybrid shapes, hybrid construction, hybrid financial accessibility. As such it should be adapted to the needs and the socio-economic situations of its inhabitants. For affordable housing to be adapted, practice and usage diagnosis will be run on each project to guarantee a good adequation between a living unit and the needs and ways of life of its inhabitants. The greater variety of housing typologies which will result from this adaptation process will support social diversity.

Mobility in 2050

Mobility' 5th age doesn't have a name yet but its main characteristics are emerging: decarbonation, digital solution, reasoned urban and suburban density, diversity and proximity, active transportation modes, network structuration with and around heavy transport, limited dependency to individual vehicles, diversification of the offer and the demand.

Informal cities in 2050

Strategic urban planning is there to guarantee democracy and to ensure equal development, to achieve the successful development of sustainable cities. In this perspective, the goals are to: limit disparities between neighborhoods; provide cities and towns with land registration documents and make data available to all; make sure that civil society gets organized and is involved with city governance.

Digital world in 2050

The vision of a more participate and contributive city implies to consider inhabitants' working time, split between their "official" job and their contribution to community service work. This means that goods will now be designed and conceived to be shared, even private goods. To support the idea of contributive cities, we will need to arrange for digital infrastructure to function locally while keeping them connected globally. We will also need to rely on technologies that have proved efficient, offer free access and enable open data. Lastly, digital tools shouldn't replace in person interactions. They're only meant to enable other kinds of interactions.

Women and cities in 2050

We need to create laws that promote equality between men and women and ensure their good application to support more inclusive and egalitarian societies. But such laws aren't enough. Two main paths to achieve this goal: ensuring perfect political equality between men and women in city governance processes; developing multi-level training and education programs to get women out of invisibility and grant them access to all city usages.

Creative cities in 2050

Cities are first and foremost "experienced imaginaries", to which each subjectivity gives a specific interpretation in relation to others. Here, the processual approach replaces the predictive approach, to give inhabitants the means to manage their relation to their urban space-time. The idea of a city's "un-definition" comes against determinism: we shouldn't want to equip urban projects with goals set up front but instead let citizens participate to shape the purpose of such projects based on universal parameters that everyone can make their own. This of course requires for citizens to be able to activate their imagination and their capacity to experiment.

Cross-border cooperation in 2050

In world made of constant inter-relations, some of our key resources have been



rarefying. To preserve, manage and value these resources in the best way, the EU's member states will adopt context-specific models to deal with key resources at a supra-national level, especially for food, energy, environment and health resources. Public policies will have to adapt to the specific situations experienced in cross-border areas.

Resilience - the life of Lea, a kid in 2050

In the world of 2050, Lea will be living a happy life where resources and land will be used responsibly. She and her parents will not have experienced this recent change as a constraint or a sacrifice because this change will have directly improved their alimentation and their quality of life. Resilience and planetary boundaries will be the new reference points to set public policies and school programs, to set public and private accounting, and for financial institutions.

Lea leads a life that all kids could be leading as early as 2030 provided we keep on raising awareness and provided this growing level of awareness is fostered by public policies needed to implement transitions.



ACTION TOOLS TO SET PATHWAYS

The workgroups of the French Partnership for Cities and Territories put out collective recommendations promoting actions and instruments to start using now and to be implemented in the upcoming 10 years to achieve for the world we want for 2050.

1. Shared management of natural and cultural resources and of common goods

The notion of “common goods” appears as the most suited one to aim for responsible use of resources: natural resources like biodiversity, food resources, resources relating to basic services, digital data of general interest and data relating to all cultural and social heritage of cities and territories.

2. Strengthen fundamental rights

Legal frameworks that guarantee people's fundamental rights are needed to transform our systems – with matters such as gender equality in political representation, right to health, right to healthy food, the right to decent and affordable housing and right to technology access.

3. Pedagogy and training

L'éducation et la formation sont nécessaires dès l'enfance et tout au long de la vie – sur les thèmes de l'égalité femmes-hommes, de l'écologie, de l'alimentation, de la ville, du numérique – afin de construire des citoyens éclairés, dotés de libre arbitre.

4. Participatory governance

Organizing governance is essential to operate transitions. Firstly, we should want to make local authorities more independent and grant them more action means so they can rely on the ecosystems of actors that suit their local contexts; then, we should want to implement urban project management with multi-level and multi-actor governance frameworks, to ensure adaptive contractualization.

5. Transforming economic, fiscal and accountancy models

Some actions to be led in the economic and social fields:

- Generalize the use of fiscal and accountancy systems that include environmental goals and take negative externalities into account both in the public and the private sectors.
- Diversify funding models by making traditional models and solidary funding systems more hybrid, to enable local funding.
- Value the economic potential of informal neighborhoods and support the adaptation of funding tools to lead to their transformation.

6. Europe close to citizens and supportive

Europe is strongly expected to be a facilitator, to be more readable and to become more involved with territorial and urban policies, especially through the implementation of the Urban Agenda – for Europe to be closer to citizens and more democratic.





THE SUSTAINABLE TERRITORY OF 2050: AN INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT AND CREATIVE PLACE THAT USES ENERGY AND LAND RESPONSIBLY

"The Manifesto" was created by representatives of states, local authorities and companies and by experts as part of the "France Ville Durable" program. It was set to organize a strategy building a common pathway toward sustainable cities. It relies on four foundations.

Responsible use of energy and land

Territories that use land and energy responsibly function and build their prosperity based on respecting planetary boundaries. Such territories have a precise public awareness of their direct greenhouse emission and of their carbon footprint. They apply big scale policies to limit emissions using monitoring instruments to keep populations and all involved parties informed. Such territories limit and end urban spread and reclaim fertile grounds. Their territorial urban planning projects rely on ecosystemic services that nature can provide, on biodiversity protection, and on preserving great water cycles. Such territories prioritize the rehabilitation of existing buildings and of infrastructure and they support projects and processes that aim to build cities upon existing cities, before developing new urban extensions. They limit mobility needs with territorial development policies that bring employment, hobby and housing closer, and they rely on urban, suburban and rural complementarities. They engage their population with pedagogic and participatory processes to transform consumption behaviors and practices.

Inclusion

Inclusive territories fight against all kinds of social and spatial segregation using neighborhoods, places or events as sources of social cohesion, to protect the most fragile populations and support social diversity. They guarantee access to basic services, and they make sure life is enjoyable for everyone regardless of age, gender, income, handicap situation, ethnic origin or religion. Such territories guarantee fundamental rights, security and individual freedom. They are participatory; all inhabitants can take action and are enabled to be informed and to

understand and tackle the great challenges that come with the social and environmental transitions. Both women and men take part to diagnosis processes, to policy development and policy assessment, and both take part to shaping the decisions that directly impact them - decisions which they can decide to initiate themselves. Such territories are democratic and they implement local public regulation to serve the interest of most people, by get all institutional, economic, citizen and academic parties involved.

Creativity

Creative territories rely on multidimensional innovation (social, cultural, organizational, governance models and processes) in sciences, the arts or culture, to strengthen social cohesion and support pedagogy, and to foster human progress and change locally. Creative territories use their economic actors to redirect their activities and plan the reorientation of jobs and competences towards solutions that tackle transition challenges and create new sustainable jobs that can't be relocated – such as ecosystemic services and short supply chains fostering circularity. Creative territories are flexible and attractive. They support solidarity economies. They help companies that are aware of their social and environmental responsibilities and contribute to transforming economic and governance models. The digital strategy of sustainable territories relies on using technologies responsibly, to optimize both public and private urban services and to guarantee that resources are effectively preserved. Such digital strategies aim for responsible use of the energy and land needed for digital supplies and networks, and they want to ensure a positive global environmental footprint of the solutions they implement. Creative territories also protect citizens' personal data.

Resilience

Actors of resilient territories have an acute awareness of their territorial vulnerabilities and of the current and future states of their environmental, healthy, economic, social, organization and infrastructure resources. Actors therefore make projects and governance evolve accordingly. Territories can function independently from major crisis because they function in a more holistic way, and their civil society is trained to anticipate, face and recover from crisis. Chronic stress decreases, and so does it impact on ecosystems. Adaptation to climate change is seen as equally important as attenuating the effects of climate change. Projects and policies now systematically include both dimensions – adaptation and attenuation. Resilient territories promote prevention and safety. They protect inhabitants and ecosystems, they know how to innovate and cooperate, they prioritize solutions that can answer basic needs under any circumstances.



Conclusion

Inhabit Europe and the world of tomorrow

Europe closer to citizens

The citizen consultation on the future of Europe that ended in the Spring of 2022 showed how attached consulted citizens were to accelerating the ecological and energetic transition, making the EU more social, and setting up a right to health for all, which would also improve education. It also showed how attached they are to the EU being more readable and democratic.

Europe closer to territories

In 2020, Europe adopted the new Leipzig Charter to foster the transition toward more sustainable urban development. The charter insists on “common goods” as means to improve life quality and social cohesion and to target fairer, greener and more productive European cities. Multi-level governance and integrative processes are also tools to use to implement the Charter.

Europe to be greener and more connected

In the EU's strategy, the commitments taken as part of the European Green Deal to fight the effects of climate change are strongly related to the digital transformation commitments framed by the European Digital Compass. Helping cities and territories accelerate these transitions is also the goal of the European Commission's “100 climate-neutral and smart cities” program.

Co-creating the European Urban Agenda

The European Agenda drawing from the Pact of Amsterdam supported the creation of cooperation groups to involve cities, member states, services of the Commission and other actors in an equal way, for them to work together and find innovative solutions to key problems. Following, the Ljubljana Agreement insists on the important role of small and mid-size cities and includes new topics such as alimentation.

The European Urban Agenda as a spearhead to implement to World Urban Agenda

If made to rely on democracy, inclusion and multi-level governance, the European Urban Agenda and the urban and territorial policies that cities, territories and member states decide to lead, can inspire more concrete and collaborative ways to implement the New World Urban Agenda.

International cooperation and international solidarity to achieve the goals of the New Urban Agenda

Our world is currently undergoing a lot of crisis – climate, health, war – and most global energy and food fluxes are changing. Implementing the World Urban Agenda thus calls for multilateral, horizontal and multi-actors cooperation and implies to activate the tools and solidarities that can make transitions happen in a way that suits each and all territories, in all their diversity.



Started in 2011, the **French partnership for cities and territories (PFVT – Partenariat Français pour la Ville et les Territoires)** is a platform meant for the exchange and valorization of the French urban actor's expertise at the international level. It is a multi-actor partnership headed by Hubert JulienLaferrière, Member of Parliament, supported by the Ministry of Europe and of foreign affairs, the Ministry of territorial cohesion, the Ministry of the ecologic and fair transition, and the Ministry of culture. It brings together close to 200 organizations representing the diversity of the French expertise, contributing to the construction of a shared French vision based on a capitalization of exchanges and of innovative and sustainable experiences.
<https://www.pfvt.fr/>

Food



International and cross-border cooperation



Informal City



Affordable housing



Mobilities



Digital technologies



Resilience



Health



Cities and Biodiversity



Creative city



Women and city

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