**Questions to solicit input for the 4 townhalls from the Aging Perspective**

1. Global Commons:

*This Town Hall will explore and think about local public services of the future and debate around the new essentials needed to transform the relationship between society and the global commons starting from the voices of the people.*

**Question**: What are the public services that older city residents would consider essential for their use for wellbeing, for sharing in the commons, and for navigating between system of public, private and non-private local government services?

**Discussion point**: One in five or one in six residents are likely to be older adults in urban environments. Older residents need reliable, safe, affordable and quality services for their wellbeing. (Examples: 1. Life supporting: shelter, security, water, sanitation; 2. Basic essentials: health care, social and support services, accessible environment, access to vital services such as groceries, pharmacies, doctors’ offices, etc.; 3. Quality of life, low or no pollution, green space for their wellbeing, accessible facilities. 4. Services for independence and autonomy: Lifelong learning opportunities, Recreation, Exercise locations, Counselling. Note that all these services are used by residents of all ages. Older residents not only consume services but contribute to life in the city. They have education, time and energy to provide volunteering and assistance to other residents as well as many work beyond retirement age. A citizen ombudsman and information service would be a way for everyday communication. Support of The World Health Organization’s Age-friendly Cities & Communities framework, designed by older persons to suit local conditions and needs, would be a useful tool to achieve better support.

1. Trust and Government.

*This Town Hall will cover how to reinvigorate trust between people and government. It will also cover how to repurpose public institutions to foster solidarity and ensure that they co-create with people on their everyday priorities while maintaining a global vision; are able to govern during emergencies and that they strengthen international co-operation.*

**Question**: What are the key elements that build trust in government among the diversity of older persons in a population and what are the negative elements that breakdown trust because these affect successful inclusion, solidarity and continuous public co-operation and input?

**Discussion point**: Trust is hard to build, especially once it is broken. Trust implies that older persons must be valued as much as other segments of the population. They may be the people who have lived longest in the city. Trust is broken when (1) promises to older people are not kept (2) when services for older people are unfairly resourced and delivered (3) when accountability is not transparent and fair across all sectors of the population. Trust is built when (1) Older people are consulted on all matters (not just for ageing issues). (2) When visions, plans and budgets are publically provided in relationship to outcomes (positive – greater engagement and participation, longevity, better health utilization. Negative- ageism, poverty, disadvantaged, illness or death rates). 3. Each year’s achievements must be shared and celebrated and failures (poor results, delays, incompletions) should be corrected with public input for the next year.

1. Caring Society

*This Town Hall will bring to light the main elements of a caring society, firstly going over the relationship between care and local public service provision. It will also cover the issue of human mobility and building communities that ensure all are cared for and protected. The issue of future work will also be key as changes in production and consumption are brought about.*

**Question:** Care services are paramount for older persons because they provide care, consume care and benefit from care. What are the key ways in which the housing, neighborhoods and cities can exemplify a caring society for older people?

**Discussion point**: Older persons should be considered a “keystone species” because they have an disproportionate impact on society and shape the lives of others and themselves through caring. They (mostly women) have provided care for their parents, their children and their spouses in addition to themselves. Besides, they have cared for neighbours and friends with visits, food and telephone calls. The commodification of care, the lack of standardized high-quality care, the affordability and accessibility of care have all made care a major issue for older persons. Older persons should be cared for as past and present carers, both mentally, physically and even socially. When care is needed, they should be provided with the care that they require in their homes, without having to lower their quality of life, by moving into a room shared with others in a care home. The need for care alone should never force older persons to give up the way of life enjoyed by others or their earlier selves. The provision of care services should not be a legitimate rationale for lowering the standards of housing and the lived environment. Local governments should have a “duty of care” objective or the responsibility for ensuring the adequate provision of care for all residents.

1. Climate and culture

*This Town Hall will cover the relationship between climate and culture and focus on the social side of the climate crisis. Issues such as climate justice, displacement and resilience will be covered in light of the Stockholm +50 process to achieve a healthy planet for the prosperity of all.*

**Question**: The relationship with environment and culture is built throughout life. Since around a fifth of urban populations are likely to be older persons, a sustainable development culture and climate mitigation is not possible without the involvement of older people. How can older people work cooperatively with local governments to ensure their and their communities’ well being?

**Discussion point**: Over sixty years and more of their lives, older persons have been considered perpetrators, victims, beneficiaries and also activists in the face of the existential threat of climate change. It is time to mobilize older persons to ensure a future for the species. It is important for local governments to consider older persons as repositories of traditional knowledge and practical experience, as change agents and partners, but they can only be helpful if they are provided with the information and the tools in accessible formats to enable them to work with local governments. Older persons can take personal action in their own lives (recycling, composting) but also can and do work as environmental activists with their peers and with other generations to build a culture of sustainable development. Nelson Mandela was able to activate people through the Elders Program and others succeeded through initiatives such as Greying Green.