

Leveraging Partnerships to Strengthen Cities' Resilience through Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Adaptive Governance

Monday, January 26, 2026 | 1:15–2:45 p.m. (EST)

ECOSOC Partnership Forum | Virtual via Zoom

- **Format:** Virtual panel presentation/guided discussion + audience Q&A.
- **Registration:** Register [here](#)

This webinar is hosted by the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies at New York University's Center on International Cooperation in partnership with International IDEA and the Peace in Our Cities Network.

Background and Objectives

As the world [rapidly urbanizes](#), cities have become the primary arenas where the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda are either realized or fall short. The intersection of SDG11 (cities) and SDG16 (peaceful, just and inclusive societies) highlights that fostering inclusive, safe and resilient cities not only requires infrastructure, but accountable institutions, networks and governance structures inherently focused on peace, justice, inclusion and equitable access. Strengthening governance and financing at municipal levels is critical to enabling local actors to (re)build trust with their communities and effectively respond to today's challenges, from housing and digital inclusion to environmental crimes and climate resilience.

With four years remaining, multi-sector and multilevel partnerships are needed to accelerate progress on the SDGs. By bringing together diverse actors and practitioners, these partnerships can foster trust, build shared purpose, and deliver results while leveraging comparative advantages, resources, and links between local, national and global levels. Specifically, focusing the partnership on the city level, and combining it with local financing as development financing (as highlighted during FFD4), is a powerful approach that can bypass bottlenecks and produce and sustain results at the speed required.

Grounded in evidence-based policymaking, multilevel governance, and networked multilateralism, this virtual side-event will showcase real-time, concrete examples and good practices. It will highlight partnerships that have strengthened cities' capacity to meet the needs and expectations of their residents through inclusive, adaptive and democratic processes.

Agenda

Opening Remarks

- [Annika Silva-Leander](#), Head of America and Permanent Observer, International IDEA

Panelists

- [David Jackson](#), Non-Resident Fellow, Center on International Cooperation
- [Mario Picon](#), Senior Program Director, Governance Action Hub, Results for Development
- [Sya Hedge](#), Staff Attorney, National Homelessness Law Center
- [Jairo Garcia](#), Secretary of Security, Cali, Colombia
- [Dr. Odette Uwizeye](#), Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women in Local Government Network and Chairperson of the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities

Moderator

- [Margaret Williams](#), Associate Director, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

About Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is a cross-regional and member state-led, multi-stakeholder coalition committed to advancing action on peace, justice, equality and inclusive institutions through the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond (SDG16+). It is convened by 46 governments, works with over 100 partners across civil society, the United Nations (UN), and regional and international organizations, and is hosted by the Center on International Cooperation at New York University.

About International IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports democracy worldwide. It works with local communities, democracy practitioners and partner organizations all over the world through policy-relevant knowledge, capacity development, advocacy, and the convening of dialogues. It has a global reach with offices in 20 countries, with its headquarters located in Stockholm, Sweden. For 30 years, International IDEA has honoured its mandate to promote and advance democracy globally.

About the Peace in Our Cities Network

Peace in Our Cities is a diverse network driven by its members' needs to address severe violence. We partner with cities and organizations around the world to achieve one bold, unifying goal - reducing violence by half by 2030. Cities that are safe, just, and peaceful for all are possible with sustained commitment, and many solutions and approaches to significantly reduce severe violence already exist and can be shared. PiOC understands that cities are best positioned to understand their own needs; we exist to support them. Today, the network has expanded to more than 30 cities and dozens of city-based civil society organizations.

About the NYU Center on International Cooperation

The Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University (NYU) is a think tank and research center that, for over two decades, has been a leader in applied policy, connecting politics, security, justice, development, and humanitarian issues. Our mission is to inform and strengthen collaborative approaches and/or collaboration among national governments, international organizations, and the wider policy community to build trust, prevent and respond to crises—and advance peace, justice, and inclusion at all levels. Learn more on [our website](#) and @nyuCIC on social media.