

Special Session [Right to the City]

Citizen-led Collective Action for Climate Justice

Oct 12, 2022 (Wed) 9:30-11:30

Organizer: Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C)

Background

While climate crisis has been widely recognized as one of the greatest challenges currently faced by humankind, the social justice dimensions of climate action and the strategies developed to achieve them have remained relatively underexplored. Furthermore, talks of climate action have typically placed on a heavy emphasis on government action, while in reality, there have been numerous citizen-led initiatives to advocate climate justice.

Right to the City — understood as a collective right that highlights the territorial integrity and interdependence of all internationally recognized civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, as regulated in international human rights treaties — has been an alternative and fruitful framework with which to respond to some of the most pressing challenges of our time: social injustice, inequality, exclusion, dispossession, spatial segregation, discrimination of all kinds, destruction and privatization of the commons and environmental degradation. The framework also fully aligns with the notions of Climate and Environmental justice and can provide a reference framework to guide equitable climate action and to jointly create practical agendas to mitigate climate change.

The session seeks to explore the conceptual framework of right to the city in the context of climate justice through the presentation of the thematic paper compiled by the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) - “Right to the City: A Road for Climate Justice” and highlight experiences and case studies of citizen-led efforts to reclaim their right to a sustainable urban future across multiple sectors i.e., informality, gender equality, food sovereignty.



Objectives

1. To explore the role of the Right to the City as a framework of collective action for cities facing climate crisis and advocating for climate justice.
2. To exchange experiences and build knowledge on right to the city practices in the climate justice context through case studies of citizen-led efforts across multiple sectors, such as informality, gender equality, food sovereignty.

Main agenda

1. Introducing Right to the City as a conceptual framework of collective action in climate justice
2. Incorporating perspectives and participation of marginalized groups i.e., informal communities in climate actions
3. Ensuring gender equity in climate actions
4. Community-led food sovereignty movements as a manifestation of climate justice

