

**Thematic Session
UN SDGs and Human Rights**

**What Makes a Sustainable City Possible?
Let Us Learn From Berlin's Movement
to Socialize Housings**

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These days, politics is steadily becoming a subject to market coercion, which is the problem. That is why we have to promptly cast the question. Cities of these days are contributing or able to do so to political innovation while guaranteeing fundamental human rights of residents? The current urban politics are allowing democratic community formation(mitgestalten) while planning alternative development and new practices? It is not easy to get positive answers to those questions. Amid aggravating inequality and polarization, certain types of urban politics could cause more pains on the minority. For instance, advance sale of apartment for the newly married couples forces the public to accept the politics that exclude some groups of people not allowed to be couple because of legal, social, and economic barriers as being 'normal'. In the urban politics, one apartment complex is divided into the part to be sold for the middle class and the one to be offered for the low-income class as a rental housing at a low cost. In that case, the latter would be put in a situation to live in an area where is noisy and not convenient in terms of accessibility. It could be said we are moving toward a trend that social and economic disparity is manifested into spatial disparity. So, we are just on the verge of extinction of cities as community.

In responding to the trend, Henri Legebvre emphasized a comprehensive function of cities in his book <Le droit à la ville>. He incorporated the rights to centrality into the main contents of the rights to city through the concept of 'city' or its space. "Urban lives presuppose encountering, bumping into differences, life styles coexisting within city, mutual recognition and acceptance of 'patterns'(including ideological and political confrontation)." " As long as ' something urban' becomes the place of encountering, ensures the priority of use values, and maintains its morphological basis and the real and sensual reality as a space containing a time of being enhanced in its status as the best fundamental goods, nothing is problem even if 'urban'(das städtische Gewebe) erodes rural areas and stifle something survived from farmers' lives. However, the current urban politics are putting all-out energy to close the venue of 'politics of encountering'. Under the pointless slogan , 'City, open to the world, more correctly open to the capital of the world' .

Urban residents who retreated from the 'square of encountering' immerse themselves in their own gated community and ownership housing, or own housing. Ownership separates mine from yours. Separating ends up with exclusion. Practicing exclusion could be completed with Zoning. It is the US model. Not only in financial sectors, but also in the area of space and urban structure, is the US model becoming a dominant paradigm. In order to respond to the trend, we have to figure out answers while imagining a new future. I hope the housing socialization movement waged in

Berlin could become an 'old future' for those who 'seek for an answer to the question' regarding the urban politics.

Berlin is a city that has never stopped fighting for the right to the centrality for city dwellers. Struggles in empty houses owned by speculators and on streets have directed toward the 'dictatorship' of ownership and bureaucratic urban development. Immigrant laborers from Turkey, the low-income residents, the youth in conflict with the old generation, and the poor elderly have joined the struggles and lived their lives by dominating the 'empty' space of the city. Simply put, they have created a free space for 'urban life.' However, things have changed since unification in 1990. The native are being forced out from the center of city. Physical oust would result in a situation where one is excluded from all levels of urban politics. That has become the background that the city dwellers come back with their sleeves up to win their 'rights to the centrality' back. In specific, they have engaged in housing socialization movement. This movement has succeeded to the fights of housing occupation that was in full swing since the 1970s. The housing occupation strikes in Berlin have vividly shown the implication as a movement for the centrality, the very essence of urban space, so-called, for sharing social wealth. Meanwhile, the systems of local politics in Berlin(protected neighboring area zone, pre-emptive selling rights) on the backdrop of the tradition of all struggles. Also, the housing socialization movement from the grass root could begin in order to make up for weakness and limitation of those initiatives.