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ABSTRACT

As a result of the global trend of rapid urbanization, contemporary cities are facing many increasingly complex issues, such as sprawled peripheries and the destruction of natural resources, urban decay and gentrification, informal settlements and difficult access to basic services, deserted city centers and segregated gated communities. These challenges are further increased by the growing problem of climate change and the need to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into city planning and development. These issues are addressed in the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), officially known as 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. These are an intergovernmental set of aspiration goals with (no less than) 169 targets. The goals are contained in paragraph 54 United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015. (source: UN-Habitat).

In half a century, twice as many people will live in cities as do now. The city will then truly be the motor of the global economy. What does this urban **Next Economy** have in store for us? No one can predict what the future will hold, but one thing is certain: more of the same is no longer a viable option. Climate change, global urbanization, emerging new technologies, increasing migration, and growing inequality urgently demand real solutions. We have to rethink the way in which we live, work, and learn, and where and how we consume and produce. We will have to redesign the balance between system and individual, between rich and poor, between young and old, between sustainability and growth. How should we design and govern our cities? (source: IABR – 2016 – The Next Economy).

Both the **Sustainable Development Goals** and the **Next Economy** have a big and sometimes unexpected influence on our cities, how we daily uses the systems and infrastructures of the cities and how we daily use public spaces in our cities. Also will have an effect on how we plan, design and transform our cities into **Next Cities**: the city of the future: the healthy and socially inclusive city, the productive and highly flexible city, the sustainable green city and the city in which public spaces once again take center stage.