The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on all aspects of daily life. From individual health and safety measures, to the changing nature of work, life today looks a lot different than a few months ago. The pandemic has caused tremendous uncertainty and triggered a need to rethink how we live and interact with public spaces.

**Theme and Discussion**

Discussion on the implications of COVID-19 on life in cities as well as short term and long-term responses to the pandemic undertaken by governments around the world. Invited experts shared dire need to invest in the provisioning of basic facilities, rethinking housing designs and public open spaces by reorganizing governments, leverage technology to reach out to the most vulnerable and communicate real time information.

**Key Learnings**

1. Need to revisit the apartment building design and co-living, especially in social housing.
2. Spatial Mapping to identify vulnerable population and developing outreach strategies to provide emergency aid and record population that may need long term help.

- Inequitable Effects of the Pandemic
- Need for confinement has impacted the poor in disproportional ways, especially women and children. Small unit housing makes confinement/isolation impossible.

- **Identified Risk Areas during the discussion**

- Health Response
  - Local Governments can adapt the 3 axes of management
    1. Crisis Management – form a strategic policy working group to oversee sectoral responses;
    2. Ensure maintenance and operations of all areas of governance on a daily basis;

- Organisational Capacity and Quality of Public Service Delivery
  - Agile Reorganization within context of COVID-19 Buenos Aires, Milan
  - Singapore’s Readiness and Response Plan

- Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience
  - How do we channel rebuilding efforts towards achieving more resilient and inclusive outcomes?

- Increased Technology Use
  - Develop web-based portals and applications for all coronavirus updates and guidance.

- Risk Management and Emergency Response
  - Government’s reorganizing in the face of the pandemic and using deploying technology to tackle the pandemic. But what are its implications going forward?

- Urban Resilience activities can be built by providing linkages around different systems, as investments made in a particular field has the potential to address multiple problems faced in other fields.

- How do we channel rebuilding efforts towards achieving more resilient and inclusive outcomes?

**Excerpts**

“**Our next crisis might not be about lungs, so we need to rethink at the fundamentals of governance. We need to work with people and not for the people; we need to go back to social leg of governance.”**

- Chris Blache

“**We need to take a systems approach and identify the weaknesses of the system to respond to such crisis.”**

“**We need to tap into people’s imagination because people have seen a different reality now.”**

- Amit Prothi