Climate change is the greatest global health threat and opportunity. Strategic spatial planning offers an integrated place-based approach towards a shared long-term vision, collaboration, strategic actions and investments.

Health is more than an outcome of strategic urban planning. Health is also an input that makes strategic urban planning more successful, by using health impact assessments, health data and collaborating with communities.

Incorporating underrepresented groups’ daily experiences, such as those of children and women, into urban planning promotes liveability in cities and healthier environments and lifestyles for all.

Many health benefits lie outside the health sector. Metropolitan governance promotes human and planetary health by bringing together different actors, using an integrated approach and mainstreaming health throughout the planning process.

Global South and North cities have to innovate and leverage resources to steer urban transformation in a direction that promotes health for people and the planet. Political leadership is key to bringing about change.