



## United Nations Activity Report

The [68th United Nations Civil Society Conference](#) “Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities” was held 26-28 August 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States. The conference offered civil society organizations the opportunity to put a global perspective on a specific issue. This year’s focus was on [Sustainable Development Goal #11](#) — Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

### Report Submitted by Dania Al-Itani, Sigma United Nations Youth Representative

The conference focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #11, “to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030.” However, the sessions and workshops explored the interlinkages among all 17 SDGs, including critical issues relating to gender.

The conference featured plenary sessions, interactive thematic sessions, [non-governmental organization](#)—sponsored workshops, exhibits, and a youth hub. As one of two Sigma United Nations youth representatives, I served on the youth sub-committee and helped plan the conference. I had the opportunity to interact with my peers, experts, and other stakeholders on pressing global challenges, giving an important focus on sustainable development. Youth truly do bring passion, innovation, and unique perspectives to the United Nations. As for next steps, I hope that the connections I made at the conference will serve to catalyze and build even more partnerships in furtherance of Sigma’s missions and the SDGs.

According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, “Well-planned and managed cities can steer us towards inclusive growth and serve as modes of harmony among diverse people.” This conference was important for Sigma members because we had the opportunity to discuss solutions to the global challenges we face. Nurses should work both within the nursing profession and with other advocate organizations to create inclusive communities that promote high-quality, efficient, and safe healthcare practices. We should also support environments that embrace inclusive strategies for nursing care of individuals of all ages and from all populations. In everything we do, the 17 SDGs should serve as a blueprint for partnerships, advocacy, and actions and as a compass to ensure that no one is left behind.