



Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
Nairobi, 5–9 June 2023

High Level Dialogue on Special Theme of the second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises

7th June 2023, 10:00-18:00 EAT, CR 2

Registrations: Please follow the link to [Register](#).

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly will be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the session is “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises.” As the governance body of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and premier legislative mechanism where the community of member states deliberates on issues of sustainable urbanization and human settlements, the United Nations Habitat Assembly convenes every four years. Key policy areas to be considered at the Assembly in 2023 relate to housing, climate action, crisis recovery, localisation and finance in urban contexts.

The High-Level Dialogue is intended to facilitate high-level engagement between Member States, key stakeholders, and various other actors on the theme of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The Theme of the Assembly offers an opportunity to examine the role of enhanced multilateralism in furthering key policy priorities and associated enablers for sustainable

urbanization¹. It is premised on the opportunity inherent in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as a road map for attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crisis. It reiterates that local action and sustainable urbanization are indispensable for global progress, whether to address inequalities, combat climate change or advance peace and security. Connecting the multilateral system to local action can enhance ownership, effective implementation and sustainability of policies at the national and global levels and is thus urgent.

Objective

The objective of the High-Level Dialogue is to offer a platform for Member States and key stakeholders to deliberate on substantive policy priorities to advance sustainable urbanization globally, leveraging multilateralism and multilevel governance as strategic accelerators.

Specifically, the Dialogue will:

- Consider the critical role of multilateral cooperation in addressing key opportunities and challenges in the pursuit of a better urban future;
- Share experiences on high impact urban policies and practices that can enable transformative shifts towards sustainable urbanization; and
- Identify specific opportunities for partnership and collaboration to advance sustainable urbanization through multi-level, multi-actor, multi-sector interventions.

Scope

The Dialogue has a global scope and considers sustainable urbanization in its multidimensional nature. The event considers strategic priorities and opportunities from local to global levels, while also highlighting specific priority entry points to advance sustainable urbanization including housing, climate and crises. It is informed by recent UN-Habitat contributions to global urban policy and related subnational aspects in multilateral cooperation. The scope also extends to discussing key enablers such as finance, digital transformation and governance to advance sustainable urbanization.

Expected outcomes

- Resetting policy directions to inform multilateral cooperation to advance sustainable urbanization
- Strategic inputs and guidance to inform the work of UN-Habitat in promoting multilateral responses to sustainable urbanization and NUA implementation
- Renewed commitment to accelerate multilateral cooperation in response to opportunities and challenges of housing, climate action, crisis recovery, localization and finance in urban contexts.

¹ Theme paper: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/03/k2304593e - hsp-ha.2-7 - advance - 28-3-23.pdf>

Dialogue format and structure

The dialogue format will be based on moderated panels with high level speakers expected to engage in an interactive discussion among themselves, and with the audience.

The dialogue will start with an introductory segment including welcome remarks by the President of the Assembly and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. There will be two keynote addresses, in the morning by a respected academic and in the afternoon by a leading Mayor, and four panel discussions as described below.

- **High-level Panel 1: The big challenges of our time** (65-75 minutes)
The dialogue will include a high-level panel with ministerial-level speakers on three of the key themes of the special theme report – housing, climate and crisis.
Minister statements (5-minute remarks each) followed by a moderated Q&A among Ministers and with the Assembly participants (30 minutes).

- **Panel 2: The Key-enablers driving the SDGs in the time of crisis** (70-75 minutes)
The second panel will focus on key enablers such as data, financing, digital transformation and territorial approaches. A moderated panel discussion between national governments and international institutions on the key enablers such as data, financing, digital transformation, territorial approaches etc.
Panel discussion (30 minutes) followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants (30 minutes).

- **Panel 3: Multi-level Governance and SDG Localization** (70-75 minutes)
A third panel will cover multilevel governance and Sustainable Development Goal localization, which will involve national and subnational governments and stakeholders, potentially also bringing in voices from the United Nations resident coordinator system. A moderated panel discussion between national and sub-national governments and stakeholders on the topic of multi-level governance and SDG localization. It could potentially also bring in voices from the UN Resident Coordinators.
Panel discussion (30 minutes) followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants (30minutes).

- **Panel 4: Closing Panel Key Takeaways and Directions for the Summit of the Future** (75 minutes)
A closing fourth panel will synthesize the key take-away messages of the dialogue through a moderated panel discussion between the UN-Habitat Executive Director and key influencers shaping the Summit of the Future in 2024. *Key takeaways by each panelist (35 minutes) followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants (30 minutes)*

For further information please contact **Manka Bajaj**: manka.bajaj@un.org

Ms. Selma Lucille Kerroux +33 663 430738

Ms. Ivy Jepkemboi +254 722687259

Ms. Gouri L +254 745049459

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE
7TH June Wednesday 2023
10:00-18:00, CR 2

Time	Sessions	Speakers
MORNING SESSION [INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE] 10:00 - 13:00		
INTRODUCTORY SEGMENT 10:00 - 10:20		
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome by UN-Habitat Chief of Urban Practices Branch	Dr. Shipra Narang Suri
1 min	(Transition)	
10:06 - 10:09	Opening remarks by President of UN-Habitat Assembly	Hon. Román Meyer Falcón, Minister of Urban and Territorial Development, Mexico
1 min	(Transition)	
10:10 - 10:20	Opening statement by Executive Director of UN-Habitat	Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
First Keynote 10:20 - 10:37		
10:20 - 10:37	First Keynote Address by distinguished academic	Prof. Mariana Mazzucato, University College London
High Level Panel 1: The Big Challenges of Our Time 10:37 - 11:45		
10:37 - 10:40	Welcome Panel 1	Mr. Laban Cliff Onserio
10:40 - 10:45	Statement by Minister: People's Republic of China	Hon. Ni Hong, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, The People's Republic of China
10:45 - 10:50	Statement by Minister: Republic of Colombia	Hon. Catalina Velasco Campuzano, Minister for Housing, City and Territory, The Republic of Colombia
10:50 - 10:55	Statement by Minister: Republic of Malawi	Hon. Richard Chimwendo Banda, Minister for Local Government, Unity, and Culture Republic of Malawi
10:55 - 11:00	Statement by Minister: Republic of Poland	Hon. Małgorzata Jarosińska- Jedynak, Secretary of State

		Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, The Republic of Poland
11:00 - 11:30	Moderated panel discussion	Q&A
11:30 - 11:40	Close Panel 1	Mr. Laban Cliff Onserio
Video: Leaving No One Behind 11:40 - 11:45		
High-Level Panel 2: The Key Enablers Driving the SDGs In Times Of Crises 11.45 - 13:00		
11:45 -11:50	Welcome Panel 2	Ms. Amruta Byatnal
11:50 - 11:55	National Government	Hon. Nga Kor Ming, Minister for Local Government Development, Malaysia
11:55 - 12:00	Local Government	Hon. Emil Elestianto Dardak, Vice Governor of East Java Province, Indonesia
12:00 - 12:05	Financing	Prof. Oyebanji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka , Senior Special Adviser on Industrialization, African Development Bank
12:05 - 12:10	Private Sector	Ms. Diane Hoskins, Co-CEO, Gensler
12:10 - 12:15	Professional Planners	Ms. Dyan Currie, Chief Planner, Brisbane City Council, City of Brisbane
12:15 - 12:20	Innovation and Digital Transformation	Mr. Fayaz King, Special Advisor Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
12:20 -12:50	Moderated Panel Discussion	Q&A
12:50 - 13:00	Close Panel 2	Ms. Amruta Byatnal
13:00 - 15:00 LUNCH		
AFTERNOON SESSION [INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE] 15:00 PM - 18:00 PM		
15:00 - 15:05	Welcome by UN-Habitat, Chief of Knowledge and Innovation Branch	Dr. Edlam Abera Yemeru
15:05 - 15:10	Welcome by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations	Ms. Amina J. Mohammed
Second Keynote 15:10 - 15:25		

15:10 - 15:25	Second Keynote	Ms. Violet Shivutse
High Level Panel 3: Multi-level Governance and SDG Localization 15:25 - 16:40		
15:25 - 15:30	Welcome Panel 3	Mr. Julians Amboko
15:30 - 15:35	National Government	Hon. Juhani Damski, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment, The Republic of Finland
15:35 - 15:40	Sub-National Government	Mr. Ignacio de la Puerta, Director of Territorial Planning, Urban Planning and Urban Regeneration, Basque Government, The Kingdom of Spain
15:40 - 15:45	City-region Government	Hon. Nora Vargas, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, San Diego, United States of America
15:45 - 15:50	Local Government	Hon. Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, Gambia
15:55 - 16:00	Representative for Indigenous Community and Youth	Mr. Lenin Zambrano, Indigenous Representative, Ecuador
16:00 - 16:30	Moderated Panel Discussion	Q&A
16:30 - 16:35	Close Panel 3	Mr. Julians Amboko
Video: Transforming our cities and communities 16:35 - 16:40		
High Level Panel 4: Key takeaways: Directions for the Summit of the Future 16:40 - 18:00		
16:40 - 16:45	Welcome Panel 4	Mr. Laban Cliff Onserio
16:45 - 16:50	Welcome by the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva , Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York
16:50 - 16:55	Remarks by Executive Director of UN-Habitat	Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
16:55 - 17:00	Global Task Force and Local Governments	Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Africa
17:00 - 17:05	Academia	Ms. Stephanie Egerland, Kanzlerin, Hafen City University

		Hamburg, The Federal Republic of Germany
17:05 - 17:10	International Treaty on Biodiversity	Ms. Musonda Mumba, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention
17:10 - 17:15	National Government	Hon. Zachariah Mwangi Njeru, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Republic of Kenya
17:15 - 17:45	Moderated Panel Discussion	Q&A
17:45 - 17:50	Close Panel 4	Mr. Laban Cliff Onserio
17:50 - 18:00 Dialogue Closing by UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif		