

JOIN UNEP AT THE 12TH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM



Dates: 4 – 8 November 2024

Location: the Egypt International Exhibition Center, Cairo, Egypt

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UNEP Engagement in WUF12

The UNEP Cities Unit, Mitigation Branch, Climate Change Division, will be facilitating UNEP's engagement in WUF12. The UNEP portfolio of partner-led events at WUF12 will consist of 17 events that address cross-cutting issues according to 3 of the WUF12 dialogues; namely, Dialogue 1: Housing for the Future; Dialogue 2: Cities and the Climate Crisis; and Dialogue 4: Financing localisation and localising Finance. These include urban finance, climate-resilient and nature-positive cities, extreme heat, food waste, plastic pollution and sustainable mobility.

UNEP will also use WUF12 as an opportunity to launch and re-launch key publications such as the 2024 Food Waste Index Report and the 2024 State of finance for Nature in Cities report. Finally, UNEP will discuss partnerships, including with subnational authorities with national governments using the multilevel governance approach; as well as cooperation between the subnational authorities and other stakeholders – experts, academia, private sector - to promote an exchange of experiences and best practices.

Please find a calendar of UNEP's partner-led events at WUF12 below



TUESDAY 5 NOV

**09:00
to 12:00**

Training Event - Empowering Communities Participatory Approaches for Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Urban Transportation

**Multipurpose
Room 10**

This event is aimed at building capacity on how participatory approaches can be used in climate resilient infrastructure planning, with a focus on low emission transport. Co-led by the Stockholm Environment Institute - University of York and UNEP, the training will introduce key issues relevant to inclusive and climate resilient transport in Africa and outline creative participatory tools that can be used to engage low-income, disadvantaged groups in transport policy making processes to ensure their voices are heard.

**10:00
to 12:00**
**Plenary
Room B**

Dialogue 2: Cities and the Climate Crisis by UN-Habitat

This groundbreaking session will examine concrete strategies for urban climate adaptation and mitigation, featuring perspectives from global thought leaders, urban planners, innovative mayors, and practitioners with extensive experience in national and international climate policy. We'll showcase how bold actions by cities and local

governments can drive carbon neutral, resilient development by leveraging nature-based solutions, emerging technologies, new approaches to urban planning and design, and local knowledge.

**13:00
to 14:15**

Networking Event - Green and resilient buildings: From multilateral cooperation to local implementation

**Multipurpose
Room 21**

This event will review key multilateral initiatives for decarbonizing and building resilience in the built environment. It will assess progress since the Declaration de Chaillot, endorsed by 70 countries, and highlight the Buildings Break-through initiative, launched at COP28. Both initiatives are led by the UNEP-hosted GlobalABC, which focuses on engaging local stakeholders in climate action. The event will also cover urban climate initiatives such as SURGe and CHAMP, aimed at fostering collaboration between national and local governments for implementing climate goals and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

**15:00
to 16:30**

One UN Event - Investing in the Nexus of Climate and Biodiversity at the Urban Scale

**One UN
Room A**

Traditionally, efforts to confront climate change and biodiversity loss have been addressed as separate and distinct, as shown by the divergence in funding for both crises. However, considering the synergistic relationship between climate and biodiversity, there is a need to link the two agendas at the local level and scale up financing to implement both urban NbS and climate action. This event will highlight cooperation among UN agencies in investing in synergies of climate and biodiversity at the urban scale.

**17:00
to 18:30**

SDG in Action Event - #GenerationRestoration: From Brownfields and Concrete Jungles to Sustainable and Green Urban Landscapes

**SDG in Action
Room A**

Active Mobility is supported by a number of UN agencies through different sectoral lenses. This includes UNEP, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF. This session will explore the intersectionality of walking and cycling as a contributor to the sustainable development goals. We will also use this opportunity to launch the Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility.

WEDNESDAY 6 NOV

**11:00
to 12:30**

One UN Event - The future is people powered - Active Mobility in the United Nations Agenda

**One UN
Room B**

Active Mobility is supported by a number of UN agencies through different sectoral lenses. This includes UNEP, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF. This session will explore the intersectionality of walking and cycling as a contributor to the sustainable development goals. We will also use this opportunity to launch the Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility.

**12:00
to 13:00**

German Pavilion Event - Local Solutions for Building Green and Resilient Cities

**German
Pavilion**

Organized by the Subnationals Action Group of the GlobalABC, this event will emphasize the need of empowering local governments and stakeholders through multilevel governance for a just transition towards a low-carbon and resilient built environment. The event will convene representatives of national and local governments, city networks and civil society along with private sector to support exchange of experiences and best practices and formulate concrete recommendations for actions to support built environment decarbonization and resilience. The event will also announce the establishment of a partnership between the GlobalABC and the Subnational Climate Action Leaders Exchange (SCALE) to deliver on multi-level climate action on buildings and construction. Through its Zero Emissions and Resilient Buildings (ZERB) Accelerator, SCALE intends to expand multi-level climate commitments in the buildings and construction sector at subnational levels, by mobilizing financing, technical expertise and capacity building.

15:00
to **16:30**

One UN Event - Scaling-up Financing for an Urban Shift towards Nature-Positive and Climate-Resilient Cities

One UN
Room B

This partner-led event will further highlight the need for scaling up financing for the localization of the SDGs and other global environmental goals, by drawing on the experiences from UrbanShift cities, countries and partners, and the recommendations of the Urban SDG Finance Commission. It will more specifically explore how national governments can unlock financing for local governments to implement sustainability activities.

17:00
to **18:30**

Networking Event - Cities Leading the Way: Combatting Plastic Pollution for a Sustainable and Circular Future

Multipurpose
Room 9

The fourth session of the INC was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 23 to 29 April 2024, with considerable progress made specifically on obligations aimed to control emissions and releases of hazardous pollutants from plastic production facilities and waste management facilities handling plastic waste. To mark this occasion and contribute in the aftermath of this important process, this event will enable exchanges between practitioners, cities, and experts globally who are committed to fight plastic pollution for 90 minutes to highlight urban solutions to minimize the impact of plastics on our ecosystems.

17:00
to **18:30**

Networking Event - The Role of Cities in Decarbonizing the Built Environment

Multipurpose
Room 21

Rapid urbanisation exacerbates the environmental burden of the construction sector. This event aims at creating awareness on the role of cities in decarbonizing the buildings and construction sector, and why multi-level governance is crucial to advance in the transition towards a low-carbon, high-efficient and resilient built environment. It will showcase examples of strategies and tools used by governments at national and sub-national level to decarbonize the built environment.

THURSDAY 7 NOV

09:00
to **10:00**

Urban Library Event - Towards Zero-Waste and Circular Cities: Key Findings of the Food Waste Index Report 2024

Urban Library
Room A

This sustainable urban food team within the UNEP Cities Unit is leading an event that will serve as a re-launch of the Food Waste Index Report 2024, which was initially launched by UNEP on 27 March 2024. The event will mark a pivotal moment in understanding global food waste across retail, food service, and household sectors. It unveiled a greater availability of food waste data than anticipated, particularly at the household level, and revealed that per capita household food waste generation was more consistent worldwide than previously thought.

09:00
to **12:00**

Training Event - Empowering African Cities - Advancing Urban Mobility Solutions

Multipurpose
Room 8

Together with AfDB, JICA, UITP, UN-Habitat, UNEP will present a training program which will equip participants with practical approaches to developing and implementing sustainable urban mobility solutions in African cities. Participants will gain insights into effective implementation frameworks, including infrastructure development, policy formulation, strategies for mobilizing finance, advocacy and stakeholder collaboration. Through shared best practices and lessons learned, participants will receive practical guidance on adapting and implementing these solutions within their local contexts.

12:00
to **13:30**

Voices From Cities Event - Local Perspectives - Cities Leading the Way to Achieving the SDGs

Voices from
Cities
Room B

The proposed session is spearheaded by the city of Tallinn, Estonia, and will be moderated by Eurocities, the largest network of European cities. Reflecting on its longstanding efforts of SDG implementation, Tallinn will share insights into its journey, discussing its challenges and the pivotal role international cooperation has played in its efforts. Providing a real-world example, Tallinn will illustrate how cities can draw insights from peer-learning initiatives and institutional work on achieving the SDGs, such as the collaborative work undertaken in the Eurocities SDGs Taskforce and making use of the research and technical support by organisations like the JRC, OECD and the UN Environment Programme.

**12:00
to 13:00**

French Pavilion Event - Implementing the Declaration de Chaillot for Global Collaboration on Decarbonization and Resilience in the Buildings Sector

**French
Pavillion**

In March 2024, the Buildings and Climate Global Forum in Paris culminated in the adoption of the Declaration de Chaillot, endorsed by over 60 countries. This significant agreement established the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC), a platform for global collaboration to advance decarbonization and resilience in the building sector.

This session will explain the role and significance of the Declaration de Chaillot and its follow-up actions, highlighting the coherence between various frameworks, including the GlobalABC, the Buildings Breakthrough Target (BBT), the Declaration de Chaillot, and the ICBC. It will also provide an opportunity for partners to share their expectations regarding the future direction of the ICBC and broader climate initiatives in the building sector.

**13:00
to 14:30**

Networking Event - Cooling the Climate Crisis: Turning the Global Cooling Pledge into Urban Impact

**Multipurpose
Room 9**

The Global Cooling Pledge provides an opportunity to commit to sustainable cooling with concrete actions. An initiative of the United Arab Emirates as host of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), the Pledge is one of nine non-negotiated declarations, pledges, and charters that constitute key outcomes for the COP28 Presidential Action Agenda. This event will delve into the sub-national commitments of the Global Cooling Pledge.

**13:30
to 15:00**

WUF12 Special Session by UN-Habitat - Empathy in motion

**Plenary
Room B**

This Special Session begins with the premise that embedding empathy into urban planning, particularly in mobility, is essential for building a more just and inclusive city. By doing so, we ensure that all residents—regardless of age, ability or socioeconomic status—gain better access to economic opportunities and can fully engage in community life. The session takes place in the main plenary and is coordinated by UN-Habitat. It has various segments on how to plan, implement and transform transport systems so that they are more accessible. UNEP will be engaging in segment 3 on public responsibility.

FRIDAY 8 NOV

**09:00
to 10:30**

Voices from Cities Event - Cities at the Forefront: Innovating for Climate Resilience and Displacement Solutions

**Voices from
Cities
Room A**

The event will provide a platform for cities to share successful strategies and lessons learned, deepening understanding of the link between rural-urban migration and environmental hazards and exchanging innovative urban planning methodologies to inspire replication and collaboration across different contexts.

**09:00
to 10:00**

Urban Library Event: Launch of the Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility

**Urban Library
Room A**

This event is geared towards sharing resources and knowledge products to support the delivery of the Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility (PAAPAM). PAAPAM was developed as a comprehensive framework to guide governments and other stakeholders on the priority actions to be implemented over the next ten years to ensure healthy, safe, equitable and sustainable transport for the majority – people who walk and cycle. Led by the African Urban Cycling Organisation and the Transportation Growth Initiative with strategic inputs from UNEP, this event will showcase PAAPAM and provide strategic partners with an opportunity to showcase new tools, resources and knowledge products related to active mobility.

**09:30
to 10:15**

German Pavillion Event - Future is public transport - opportunities and drivers to upscale public transport globally

**German
Pavillion I**

Urban areas are facing rising private vehicle use and declining public transport ridership, contributing to increased GHG emissions and social inequality. This event explores policies to strengthen public transport, focusing on fiscal support policies, digitalization, and formalization. While money, tech, and the private sector are all key drivers, strong institutions and good governance form the bedrock for accelerating access. This panel will showcase success stories from around the world and drawing upon insights from countries leading in these areas, including from the IKI ACCESS project. We'll discuss how strategic fiscal investments, and digital technologies can revolutionize urban mobility, making cities more equitable and sustainable.

**13:30
to 14:30**

Urban Library Event - Advancing Nature-Based Solutions in Cities: Lessons from the State of Finance for Nature in Cities Report 2024

**Urban Library
Room A**

This event will launch the State of Finance for Nature in Cities report, developed by UNEP and the University of Pennsylvania. The 2024 edition will present a framework to address data and financing gaps for urban nature-based solutions (NbS), highlighting global best practices. Experts in finance and urban planning will discuss challenges and strategies to scale up investments in NbS, supporting urban adaptation and resilience to environmental issues. The event will provide actionable recommendations for local governments, financial stakeholders, and the private sector to enhance sustainable urban development.

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