



UN-HABITAT

ASSEMBLY


5 to 9 June 2023

Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



From UN-Habitat Assembly to COP28 UAE: Mainstreaming Urban and Subnational Climate Action

A consultation to explore ambitious outcomes for urban and subnational engagement within climate policy design and implementation

 7 JUNE 2023, 14:15 – 15:00

 Press Centre Room

SUMMARY

Cities are at the forefront of the climate crisis and are vehicles for climate action implementation. They constitute more than half the world's population (exceeding two-thirds by 2050). They are responsible for more than two-thirds of global energy consumption, and more than 70 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, they are vulnerable to a wide range of climate hazards including sea-level rise, heat, increases in tropical cyclones, storm surge, intense rainfall, and coastal flooding.

Despite this disproportionate exposure to climate risk and the demonstrated potential of cities as laboratories for climate solutions, global climate policy processes do not fully reflect or leverage the impact of local and regional action towards addressing climate change. UN-Habitat research reveals that only about one-fourth of the most recently submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) mention urban mitigation responses on energy, transport and mobility and waste sectors, and even fewer NDCs mention urban mitigation responses in other sectors, including key sectors like the built environment. Further, only one-fourth of the submitted NDCs mention urban adaptation responses on infrastructure and on water. On the local level, thousands of cities and regional governments have developed Paris-compliant Climate Action Plans in line with, and in some cases, reflecting greater ambition than their national governments.

The first Global Stocktake, set to conclude at COP28 in the UAE, will reveal the significant gaps in the fulfilment of our collective climate goals – but more importantly, provide the opportunity to articulate an inclusive, transformative response that cuts across all pillars of the Paris Agreement and values the contributions of all stakeholders to the process. This consultation session, during the UN Habitat Assembly, aims to build consensus around urban and subnational action as a critical component of this response, and identify concrete ways to bridge federal and subnational ambition, align on finance for implementation, and establish a new standard for multilevel climate partnerships.

Objectives: There are three main, high-level objectives for this meeting.

1. Demonstrate the urgent need for the international community to commit to working with and integrating cities and subnational actors in climate policy design and implementation through the COP28 Presidency.



unhabitat.org/UNHA2

IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



2. Convene dialogue between national governments, multilateral organizations, subnational and city networks, highlighting barriers and identifying solutions for greater multi-level collaboration and partnerships across key climate solution areas, including built environment, waste, transport.
3. Highlight tangible ways, drawing on best practice, to increase capacity for multilevel climate action implementation, particularly in the Global South.

Format: A roundtable discussion which focuses on the following guiding questions. These could include:

- What would a strong outcome be for sustainable urbanization and multilevel action at COP28?
- What would be needed (resources, tools, support) at the federal level to enable better inclusion of subnationals in climate policy planning, design and implementation processes? What is needed at the subnational level? How can we bridge this gap?
- What are some examples of successful multilevel NDC development and implementation that can scaled for wider application?

Draft Agenda:

2:15 – 2:20 | Intro by COP28 Presidency

2:20 – 2:55 | Roundtable Discussion

2:55 – 3:00 | Summary and Way Forward

Organizers

Co-hosted by the COP28 Presidency, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and UN-Habitat



**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**



Moderator

UN-Habitat [TBC]

Speakers

Asif Nawaz Shah, COP28 Presidency.

This event is designed to be a roundtable discussion with participants.

