



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UN-Habitat and Egypt ready to hold twelfth session of the World Urban Forum

Cairo, Egypt, 14 October 2024 – Egypt’s Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach, joined by high-level officials, hosted a press briefing at the Prime Minister’s Office in the New Administrative Capital to discuss the upcoming twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12). Taking place from 4 to 8 November 2024 in Cairo under the theme **“It all starts at home: Local actions for sustainable cities and communities,”** WUF12 promises to be one of the largest gatherings in urban development, with over 20,000 participants expected. Over 14,000 participants from 179 countries have already registered for the event.

The briefing was held outdoors, showcasing the ongoing urban development of Egypt’s New Administrative Capital. The speakers emphasized the significance of WUF12 in accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and translating global goals into local action, a core theme of the Forum.

In his opening remarks, Egypt’s Prime Minister expressed his pride in hosting WUF12 in Egypt, stating: “UN-Habitat has traditionally chosen smaller cities to host the Forum, given the logistical challenges and difficulties in moving large numbers of participants. [...] Choosing Cairo was a challenge and a sign of confidence in Egypt’s ability to host such a major event, especially with the large-scale development projects completed in Greater Cairo.”

UN-Habitat’s Executive Director emphasized the Forum’s role in driving local action for global progress: “At the heart of WUF12 is the goal of accelerating the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With less than five years to 2030, we are at the tail end of implementing the SDGs. By bringing the discussion closer to home, we aim to translate these global goals into tangible improvements in people’s lives.”

UN-Habitat has curated 37 main events, including a special session led by the Government of Egypt, alongside over 550 partner-led events. With the confirmed participation of 59 ministers and deputy ministers, WUF12 will foster critical

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discussions about how national governments can address the urgent urban challenges of housing, climate resilience, and displacement.

WUF12 will feature 156 speakers and 13 moderators across the 37 main events, with urban development experts such as Yasmeen Lari and Carlos Moreno among the notable names. The event will also host an expansive Urban Expo with 170 exhibitors showcasing innovations in housing, transport, energy, and public spaces.

As WUF12 draws closer, the press conference provided key insights into the Forum's priorities, including the global housing crisis, climate resilience, sustainable financing, partnerships for local action, and the role of technological innovation in reshaping urban futures.

Convened by UN-Habitat and co-organized with the Government of Egypt, WUF12 will provide a platform for governments, urban planners, civil society, and local communities to discuss solutions for the most pressing urban challenges, including climate change, housing, and social equity.

About the World Urban Forum

Established in 2001 by the United Nations, the World Urban Forum is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization, designed to examine the impacts of rapid urbanization on cities, communities, economies, and climate change. Since its inception, WUF has been hosted in cities across the world, with the first session held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2002.

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org.

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