



BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

— Alexandria, Egypt —

**Statement by the Executive
Director of UN-Habitat**

Youth climate changemakers: Catalysing local action for urban sustainability

Our house is on fire, and inaction is making it worse for both people and the planet.

Young people like Greta Thunberg and other activists worldwide are mobilizing in communities across the globe. They are proving that age is no barrier to making a lasting impact. The young generation is determined to do everything in their power to create a better future for all.

This World Cities Day, we are celebrating you – the young leaders, bold advocates, and changemakers driving the climate action we urgently need. You are the face and energy of our cities and towns.

World Cities Day was established to reflect on the state of our cities. Today, however, the youth are calling for action, not just reflection.

This year's theme, "Youth climate changemakers: Catalysing local action for urban sustainability", invites young people to lead the charge.

By 2050, cities are expected to house 70 per cent of the global population, and youth represent a significant share of the urban population. That's why your voices and actions have never been more critical. From housing and clean water to renewable energy and disaster resilience, local climate action must become a reality.

In the Global South, where the impacts of climate change are often most severe, young people are already leading. These are real stories of hope and transformation, driven by youth.

On this World Cities Day, we invite you to lead, share your ideas, and take bold action. Together, we can create cities that are not just liveable but resilient, equitable, and sustainable.

The time is now. Let's shape the cities we want to live in – together.

