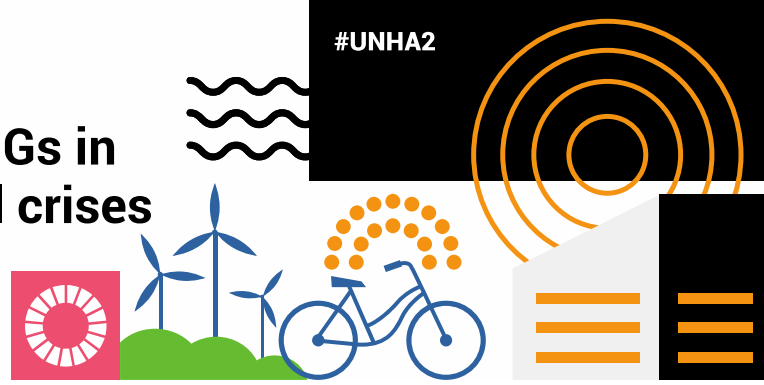



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 14

Localization to Close the Accessibility Gap: From WUF 11 Legacy on Universal Accessibility to engagement of persons with disabilities towards the full implementation of the New Urban Agenda

 Monday 5 JUNE 2023, 18:15 – 19:15

 Conference Room 11

SUMMARY

Cities are growing but becoming less accessible. Despite humanitarian and development frameworks being roadmaps to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities across governance levels - progress remains slow. This includes a lack of actions to transform commitments to integrate accessibility and disability inclusion at the heart of localization. Notwithstanding accessibility being a human right and precondition for participation and inclusion, urban crises including COVID and response measures, have evidenced the urgent need to accelerate efforts to address accessibility barriers across governance levels. This goes along ensuring accessibility cuts across localization efforts, equipping local governments with tools and resources to make accessibility standard practice, including ensuring meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in urban planning and governance enabling strategies and practices responding to their realities.

The Katowice Declared Actions recognized that WUF 11 set a new standard of accessibility and reconfirmed that accessibility and universal design are integral parts of the solutions to the challenges of urbanization, including urban crisis, and constitute the agent of transformative action for a more equitable urban future. Recognizing that actions to address accessibility barriers are lagging, with limited participation of persons with disabilities at all levels, this event seeks to discuss how the Katowice Declared Actions and WUF 11 legacy can be transformed into practice. It also aims to discuss the possible ways forward for persons with disabilities to play active roles in localization efforts, ensuring that accessibility is at the top and centre.

Organizer(s)

World Blind Union, Canada – www.worldblindunion.org

UN-Habitat, Kenya – www.unhabitat.org

City of Katowice, Poland

Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

United Cities and Local Governments, Spain – www.uclg.org

United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), Kenya – www.udpkenya.or.ke

African Union of the Blind (AFUB), Kenya – www.afub-uafa.org



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Moderator

Mr. Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius, Program officer for Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development, World Blind Union

Speaker(s)

1. Mr. Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice, Poland
2. Minister for Housing (or) Minister for Local Development, Government of Egypt
3. Ms. Sally Nduta, Executive Director, United Disabled People of Kenya (UDPK)
4. Mr. Neil Khor, Director, External Relations, UN-Habitat
5. Hon. Caroline Awuor Agwanda, Advisor to the Governor of Kisumu on Disability Inclusion (TBC) / UCLG representative
6. Mr. Abraham Mateta, Human Rights Officer, African Union of the Blind (AFUB)

