



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 20

Ministerial Panel Discussion on: Localizing Action on the New Urban Agenda and Climate Change: the Road to WUF12



6 JUNE 2023, 13:15 – 14:15



Conference Room 9

SUMMARY

As reported by UN Habitat executive director at WUF11 held at Katowice in 2022, progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is slow in many countries around the world. The same status also applies in general to the wider UN sustainable development agenda under the SDGs. As UN has devised the localization of SDGs to accelerate the attainment of SDGs, the same approach can also be applicable to the localization of the New Urban Agenda. The common ground for both processes is that global agenda and objectives can be adopted by central governments as part of national policies, but can only be attainable when translated into local action. The same conclusion was also reached during COP27 hosted by Egypt in 2022 concerning action on climate change. Agreeing to this realization of the importance of localizing action on sustainable urban development as well as on climate change would entail a big shift in focus of technical support, funding and modes of collaboration among actors at the global, regional, national and local levels, which needs to be addressed during WUF12. This means that attaining the New Urban Agenda objectives does not only require innovative approaches to urban planning and development, but also working on enhancing the capacity of local governments within a good governance framework and empowering them through genuine decentralization to mobilize local action on climate and sustainable urban development.

The side Event will further this discussion to elaborate on the main theme of WUF12 to be held in Cairo in 2024. The event is organized by the Egyptian government and panel will include the ministers of Housing, Utilities and New Urban Communities as well as Local Development. The event is planned also to have the representative of the Polish government as the host of WUF11 to establish the conceptual and action-oriented links between WUF11 and WUF12, and talk about the conclusions WUF11 that are expected to be taken forward in WUF12. The Egyptian ministers will present Egypt's efforts and initiatives aligned with the WUF12 theme and call for engagement with the preparations towards WUF12. In addition, the Governor of Cairo will welcome all participants to attend the WUF12 in Cairo. Also, being the first return of WUFs to the African continent and the interest of Egypt to promote the African agenda on urban development, a panelist from Africa will be on board, hopefully the Kenyan minister of housing and urban development. Also, a governor of a city that hosted the WUF in the past will also be invited to reflect on the hosting experience and the interaction of the WUF theme with urbanism issues of the host city. The side event aims to create links with interested countries and stakeholders that can potentially cooperate with Egypt on the preparation of the WUF12 program agenda and preparatory events throughout 2023-2024.



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Organizer(s)

Government of Egypt:

Ministry of Local Development, and

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and New Urban Communities

Moderator

Dr. Khaled Abdelhalim, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Local Development, Egypt

Speaker(s)

- Dr Assem El Gazar, Minister of Housing, Utilities and New Urban Communities, Egypt
- Mr. Zacharia Mwangi Njeru, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya (TBC)
- Geneal Hesham Amna, Minister of Local Development, Egypt
- Ms Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland (TBC)
- General Khaled Abdelaal, Governor of Cairo, Egypt
- A governor of a previous host city of WUF from Asia or Latin America (TBC).



Ministry of Local Development

وزارة الإسكان والمرافق والمجتمعات العمرانية
Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities

