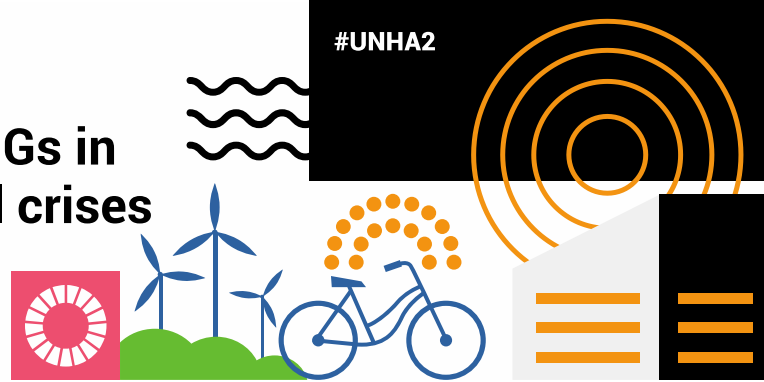



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 29

Planning and building our liveable cities: what it takes and what it needs

 07 JUNE 2023, 13:15 – 14:15

 Conference Room 14

SUMMARY

Background: Providing demand-driven and low-carbon neighborhoods to accommodate current and future urban residents is one of the biggest challenges in implementing international sustainability, climate, and urban development agendas. By 2050, the number of urban dwellers in precarious housing conditions is expected to more than double: from about 800 million people today to about 2 billion – more than one-fifth of the world's population. The construction and management of buildings are already responsible for 40 percent of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. If nothing changes in conventional construction patterns, this figure will continue to rise in the face of rapid urbanization.

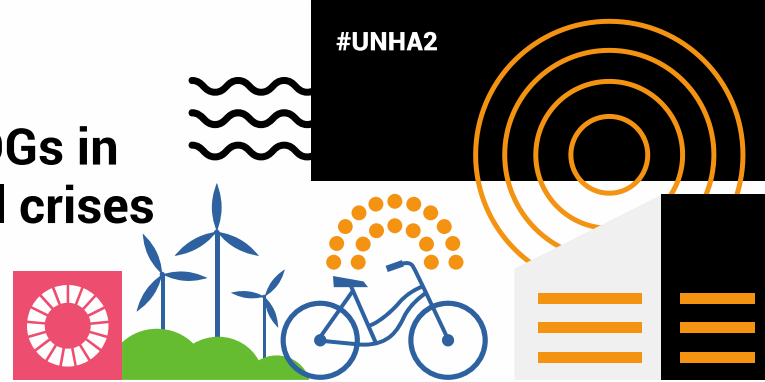
Climate-smart, participatory, and sustainable construction and urban planning approaches offer solutions, as they:

- Support resilient and climate-responsive urban development.
- Reduce urban carbon emissions and resource consumption.
- Create inclusive frameworks and alternatives to informality.
- Combat urban poverty and inequality and promote gender equity.

Climate-smart and energy-efficient building materials, designs and practices combined with effective frameworks and standards can ensure a low-carbon life cycle of buildings and infrastructure. If emphasis is put on local value creation, supply chains can be shortened, and local employment strengthened. Land use, infrastructure planning, water security, environmental and climate protection, as well as climate adaptation can be better aligned and interlinked with the help of integrated planning approaches, which also promotes compact settlement structures. By using nature-based solutions and creating green infrastructure, cities become more livable and resilient, especially to the impacts of climate change. Moreover, when planning buildings and infrastructure it is crucial to recognize the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and, among other things, create gender-sensitive solutions in line with the LNOB approach of the 2030 Agenda. Financing mechanisms should be developed further in a context-based manner in order to use public funds more efficiently and to create incentives for private investment in low-carbon solutions. This will strengthen public administration capacities at all levels and promote local economic development.



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Objectives: The event will discuss the potentials and challenges of sustainable urban planning and construction for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Doing so, it will showcase Germany's national and international approach to sustainable urban planning and construction as well as highlight the urgent need for cross-country, cross-sector, and cross-departmental exchange formats to promote peer-to-peer, practice-based learning and to implement sustainable urban planning and building approaches in countries with rapid urbanization.

Draft schedule and guiding questions:

Welcome and warm-up by moderator (Matthew Bach, ICLEI)

Keynote on German priorities and expertise (Christina Laun, BMZ): Given the importance of sustainable urban development for the implementation of global development and climate agendas, what are the priorities of German development cooperation in this field of action? What is Germany doing to support a global building transition and reducing inequality in cities? How can the German government support international technical and political dialogue so that cities can make their contribution to sustainable development in a world increasingly characterized by rapid transformations, shocks and fragility? How can the momentum of other global processes be harnessed?

Panel discussion:

- **German expertise in global dialogue processes** (Prof. Dr. Oliver Weigel, BMWSB): How does German expertise in sustainable planning, building and housing intertwine with integrated urban development and local implementation of global and regional agendas? How can participatory processes help to identify social inequalities in cities and develop appropriate solutions? How can international dialogue and peer learning contribute to strengthening local capacities and national urban development policies for the common good?
- **Potentials of a global building transition** (Anna Dyson, Yale CEA): What are the potentials of sustainable building materials and construction methods for achieving global and national climate and development goals? What are entry points for better addressing the issues of urban planning and construction in partnerships, processes, and initiatives? What needs to be done to ensure that international processes in this area have a sustainable impact and contribute effectively to achieving the international climate and sustainability goals?
- **Examples from emerging and developing countries** (Edward Kyazze, Ministry of Infrastructure Rwanda & Elcio Batista, Vice-Mayor Fortaleza, Brazil): What is the role of integrated urban development in implementing global agendas on the ground? Where are the local needs and challenges, where are the potentials? What are the strategic approaches, strategies and programs of sustainable planning and building and what is expected from international dialogue in climate and development partnerships?

Q&A with audience

Wrap up by moderator





UN-HABITAT

ASSEMBLY

5 to 9 June 2023

Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Organizer(s)

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, www.bmz.de/en

Moderator

Mr. Matthew Bach, Just Transition Coordinator, ICLEI Europe

Speakers

Ms. Christina Laun, Head of the Division on Urban Development, Mobility and Circular Economy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Mr. Prof. Dr. Oliver Weigel, Head of the International Urban Development Policy Division, Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building, Germany

Ms. Anna Dyson, Hines Professor of Architecture, Yale School of Architecture (YSoA) and Environment (YSE), Founding Director, Yale Center for Ecosystems + Architecture (Yale CEA), USA

Mr. Edward Kyazze, Director General for Urbanisation, Human Settlement and Housing Development, Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda

Mr. Elcio Batista, Vice Mayor of the City of Fortaleza, Brazil

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