



UN-HABITAT

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE



GLOBAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD HABITAT DAY 2024

7 October 2024 in Querétaro, Mexico

ENGAGING YOUTH TO CREATE A BETTER URBAN FUTURE.



World Habitat Day 2024 will be held in Querétaro, Mexico, under the theme **“Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future.”** This event aims to address the challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanization by focusing on the active involvement of young people in shaping sustainable cities and communities. World Habitat Day presents a unique opportunity to celebrate the contributions of youth to sustainable urbanization while addressing the challenges of rapid urban growth.

BACKGROUND

By 2050, cities are projected to host approximately 70 per cent of the world’s population, highlighting the pressing need for inclusive urban planning and sustainable development.

Currently, youth in the global South make up 70 per cent or more of cities. Despite global efforts, the United Nations acknowledges persistent challenges in advancing the SDGs, especially in the areas of poverty, inequality, and the looming threat of climate change. These and other issues pose significant obstacles to the equitable growth and resilience of urban areas worldwide. Mobilizing support from all segments of society is crucial, with a particular emphasis on engaging the youth. Empowering youth and involving them in urban decision-making is essential for developing inclusive and resilient cities. By harnessing the energy, creativity, and perspectives of youth, cities can work towards more sustainable and equitable development, ensuring a brighter future for all.

OBJECTIVES

Recognize the transformative potential of youth in shaping sustainable urban futures.



Highlight and celebrate successful initiatives and contributions by youth to urban development.



Facilitate dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders towards sustainable urbanization.



Highlight and showcase the importance of actively involving youth in urban planning and development processes as well as in the development of public policies.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Opening ceremony for the World Habitat Day 2024
- Press conference and launch of the World Habitat Day exhibition
- Thematic roundtables and panel discussions
- Closing ceremony for the World Habitat Day 2023

Thematic roundtable 1: Youth power – Leading the charge against climate change

Objective: To highlight the pivotal role of youth in addressing climate change challenges within urban environments and fostering sustainable practices.

Key Discussion Points:

- Innovative youth-led initiatives for climate action and environmental sustainability in urban areas.
- Strategies for engaging youth in climate policy advocacy and implementation at local, subnational, national, and regional levels.
- The intersectionality of climate justice, urban resilience, and youth activism, particularly in marginalized urban communities.
- Opportunities for youth involvement in green urban planning and renewable energy projects.
- Case studies showcasing successful youth-led climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in urban settings.
- Biodivercities, youth creation of natural and built environment synergies.

Thematic roundtable 2: Moving forward – Youth-driven solutions for sustainable urban mobility

Objective: To highlight the essential role of young people in promoting innovative solutions to improve urban mobility and create more sustainable and accessible urban environments, to reduce private car dependency and CO2 emissions.

Key Discussion Points:

- The role of youth to enhance awareness, educate, and encourage society towards active mobility, sustainable urban behavior, and public transport use for all.

- Active participation of young people in planning accessible public spaces and integration of sustainable mobility in urban development plans.
- Strategies for engaging youth in the design of mobility systems, advocating for sustainable urban transportation policies, and infrastructure investments at local and regional levels.
- Challenges and opportunities of technology and innovation in supporting youth-led transportation solutions, such as ride-sharing platforms, electric vehicles, and smart mobility apps.
- Addressing transportation equity issues and ensuring inclusive access to affordable and reliable transportation options for all urban residents, particularly marginalized youth.
- Case studies highlighting successful youth-driven projects and partnerships that have transformed urban transportation systems and behaviors for the betterment of communities.

Exhibition on Sustainable Urbanization:

- Showcase innovative youth projects, technologies, and solutions contributing to sustainable urban development.
- Provides a platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among participants.

BEYOND THE 2030 AGENDA

“Beyond Agenda 2030” event, hosted by the Urban Development and Public Works Secretariat of the State of Querétaro, Mexico, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the federal government of Mexico. It will take place following the World Habitat Day 2024 celebration in Queretaro from 8 to 10 October 2024. It will be the first global event to put into perspective the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their relevance to 2030. It proposes to continue dialogue and collaboration among various local and global entities and to provide a platform for formulating solutions and strategies that lead to sustainable urban development and the implementation of the global development agenda.