



# ASSEMBLY

## Special Session on Climate Change and Migration Crises in Urban Areas Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

**Date:** Monday, 5 June 2023  
**Time:** 13:30 - 14:30 EAT  
**Venue:** Conference Room 1

### Background

Growing inequalities and instability arising from conflicts, the climate emergency, and biodiversity loss converge in cities. In an urbanizing world, cities are becoming the theatre of complex cascading and compounding crises, either as places affected by disasters, instability and conflicts, or by large and sudden influxes of people fleeing these situations.

Local governments, as first responders, are under extreme pressure to deal with the consequences of these multiple crises. But they are often not equipped to respond, lacking the capacities and resources that are needed, resulting in many places and people left behind.

The current multilateral support system is not sufficient to respond to the climate emergency converging with urban migration. Existing multilateral and national frameworks often lack a mandate for structural engagement with cities and non-state actors.

As requested by the Executive Board in November 2022, this special session will continue the Extraordinary Dialogue on Urban Crisis that was held at WUF 11 held in Katowice last June. It will further explore the contribution of urban crisis prevention and response to climate action, durable solutions to displacement, and to the achievement of the SDGs.

This session intends to further unpack the links between climate change, migration and instability, and their impact on cities and human settlements. It will outline the need to build a better understanding of the converging risks that increasingly affect cities, with a view to better prepare for and reduce the impact of shocks.

It will also highlight the need for a multilateral support system that promotes more integrated and localized approaches across the climate and the migration agenda to better prevent and respond to crises at city and local levels.

## Objectives of the session

- Showcasing how cities can effectively respond to global crises aligned with the Paris Agreement and Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement as well as the Global Compact for Refugees and Global Compact for Migration.
- Understanding the key challenges for scaling up good practices on effective local climate action, and displacement solutions regionally and globally.
- Exchanging examples of innovative forward-looking delivery mechanisms for climate action, and urban solutions to displacement through effective and inclusive multilateralism and multilevel governance.
- Raising awareness that international environmental and displacement solutions must systematically anchor the role of cities.

## Expected Outcomes

- Identify key existing challenges that hinder cities in responding to crisis.
- Identify global frameworks that are already in place can facilitate more effective multilateralism.
- Highlight the main global policy shifts that can equip local governments and cities to better respond to multiple and cascading crises.

## Session outline and proposed speakers (60 min)

**Moderator:** Soraya Goga, Lead Urban Specialist & Urban Forced Displacement Coordinator, World Bank Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, South Africa or Cerin Kizhakkethottam, Programme Management Officer for Climate Change, UN-Habitat, Germany/India (tbc)

**Opening (10 min):** Focus on CCA resolution and displacement with links to the WUF 11 Urban Crises outcome

- **Opening remarks (5 min):** Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Malaysia
- **Opening remarks (5 min):** Abul Kalam Abdul Momen, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh (tbc)

## Panel (40 min)

- **Panelist 1:** Sherry Rehman, Minister of Climate Change, Pakistan
- **Panelist 2:** Dr. Nick Simpson, Senior Advisor, Africa Lead for Knowledge & Practice, Global Centre for Climate Mobility, Africa Climate Mobility Initiative, South Africa
- **Panelist 3:** Rose Molokoane, Co-Founder/ Coordinator Slum Dwellers International, South African Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP), South Africa
- **Panelist 4:** Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco (tbc)

**Closing remarks (5 min):** Jochen Flasbarth, Secretary of State, German Ministry of International Cooperation (tbc)