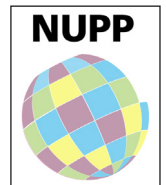


3rd International Conference on NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

UN-Habitat Headquarters | Nairobi, Kenya
28th-31st October, 2019



HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE: "NUPS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LOW CARBON CITIES"

29 October 2019 – 12:00-13:00

3rd International Conference on National Urban Policy – Nairobi, Kenya

CONTEXT

As the impacts of climate change worsen, it is increasingly apparent that climate action must be urgently implemented, especially in cities. The World Meteorological Organisation indicates that CO₂ concentrations may exceed 410 parts per million (ppm) by the end of 2019 – the earth's atmosphere last had 400 ppm CO₂ concentrations 5-8 million years ago when the average surface temperature was 2-8°C hotter than now. Strong global commitment to climate resilience was cemented by SDG 13, the Paris Climate Agreement and the New Urban Agenda, but the lack of attention to climate resilience in NUPs reveals an urgent need to better integrate collective action across levels of government. The NUPs assessed in the *Global State of National Urban Policy* (OECD/UN-Habitat, 2018) revealed that, of 108 NUPs analysed, only 11 NUPs (10%) granted extensive attention to climate resilience and only 28 NUPs (26%) granted extensive attention to environmental sustainability.

It has been widely documented that cities can significantly reduce climate risks through adaptation and mitigation measures facilitated by an effective enabling framework such as a NUP. Nonetheless, the current lack of an integrated approach to climate challenges in NUPs is all the more worrisome given the numerous, well-documented risks posed by climate change in all countries, regions and cities. Recent OECD research stresses that national-level climate plans often fail to adequately address the urban scale and must establish robust coordination mechanisms with cities.

The Coalition for Urban Transitions' recent flagship report, *Climate Emergency, Urban Opportunity* (2019), launched prior to the UN SG Climate Summit, stressed national governments' key roles in securing economic prosperity and lessening the impacts of climate change by transforming their cities. It is significant to note that national governments (as well as state/regional governments) are recognised as having primary authority over two-thirds of the emissions reduction potential in cities. The report stresses that national governments have a key role in funding sustainable urban infrastructure, in leveraging their essential role in shaping global agendas, in supporting city- and community-led climate initiatives, and of course in aligning national and local policies through cross-cutting frameworks such as NUPs.

Within this context, this high-level roundtable dialogue will serve as a platform to share best practices and discuss how NUPs can better integrate climate mitigation and adaptation.

Key questions that will be addressed during the roundtable include:

- What are key bottlenecks and opportunities for integrating climate adaptation and mitigation in NUPs?
- Which innovative practices exist in NUP frameworks to enable the integration of climate issues across different sectors?
- How can national governments best support cities and regions to accelerate climate action through NUPs?



PANEL

Moderator: *Claudio Acioly*, Senior Housing and Urban Management Expert - Head of Capacity Building, UN-Habitat

Keynote Speaker: *Sarah Colenbrander*, Head of Global Programmes, Coalition for Urban Transitions

Speaker: *Oscar Javier Garduno Arredondo*, Head of the Planning and Institucional Liaison Unit, the Secretariat of Agrarian Land, and Urban Development (SEDATU), Mexico

Speaker: *Dr. Mukuki Hante*, Director of Rural and Urban Development, President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government, Tanzania

Speaker: *Alex Jachnow*, Head of Urban Strategies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Speaker: *Christine Auclair*, Climate Change Planning Officer, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat

