

WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ASSEMBLY *Youth-led Action for Sustainable Urbanization*

1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- WUF 11 Youth Council, Poland
- Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports, Nigeria
- Government of Turkey
- Government of Ecuador
- Government of Azerbaijan
- Fondation Botnar, Switzerland
- Human Rights Foundation, Norway
- Center for Sustainable Transformation, Ghana
- United Nations Environment Programme, Kenya
- Dialogo Diverso, Ecuador
- Otavalango, Ecuador
- Interpeace, Switzerland
- Malaysian Youth Council, Malaysia
- United Nations Association of Canada, Canada
- International Youth Conference, Global
- UNICEF U-Report, Ecuador

2. Key Words:

Youth-led development, climate change, technology, peace & security, sustainable development goals, local government

3. Objectives of the Session:

- Hear and celebrate youth voices from around the world
- Address pressing urban issues:
 - Climate change
 - Peace & Security
 - Intersectionality
 - Innovation & Technology
 - Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Recognize the role of youth in localizing the SDGs
- Advocate for youth-led action towards sustainable development

4. Summary:

The Children & Youth Assembly at WUF 11 is being held at a critical point, on the heels of COP26, and in the midst of global conflict. While youth are disproportionately impacted by the consequences of climate change and violent conflict, their integral role in leading action towards sustainable development is no longer in question. Through the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) 2535 (2020), the UN Security Council emphasized

the role of youth in preventing and resolving conflict and building and maintaining peace. Nowhere can the strength of youth led action be more evident than in the international movement to address climate change. The global community of young leaders leading climate change action can no longer be ignored. The Children & Youth Assembly at WUF 11, seeks to embolden youth voices, highlight youth action, and craft a pathway for youth-led sustainable urbanization.

The Children & Youth Assembly will serve as a space to share, report, and galvanize youth action for sustainable urbanization. We recognize that innovation, technology, and local governance as key enablers to youth action, whether that be our very successful use of Minecraft to engage youth in planning and governance, or the development of the SDG Scorecard, Community of Practice, tech-tools that enable young people and local governments to measure progress towards the sustainable development goals. Intersectionality, mental health, and wellbeing are also critical to address to support youth action. A selection of promising youth-led practices will be showcased at the Children & Youth Assembly

The Children & Youth Assembly will promote participatory dialogue through high-level panels, plenary sessions, training workshops and networking opportunities. These sessions will bring together youth and youth organizations, local and national government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. To strengthen participation that might be impacted by global travel restrictions and uncertainty, and to reduce carbon footprint, the Children & Youth Assembly will be designed in a hybrid in-person and online format. We will build on the Youth Forum organized by UN Habitat and the WUF Youth Council, prior to WUF 11. The Children & Youth Assembly will culminate with the adoption of a Youth DeclarACTION on Sustainable Urbanization. The Children & Youth Assembly will be organized in collaboration with the WUF 11 Youth Council.

5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:

- What do we need to have more meaningful participation of youth in decision making on issues of peace & security and climate action?
- What innovative tools are available for young people and youth organizations to act on sustainable urbanization?
- What are some promising practices from around the world of youth-led action towards sustainable urbanization?
- How can we enable, encourage, and recognize youth leadership?

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:

- Youth are recognized for their work and their capacity is increased so as to better engage in promoting sustainable urbanization
- Presentations, training materials and outcomes of sessions on promising practices are produced and packaged for participants, partners and UN-Habitat colleagues;
- Provide input to the WUF 11 Children & Youth Roundtable
- A Global Youth DeclarACTION outlines the actions, commitments and asks of young people towards local, regional, national, and international governments. This will be presented at the closing of the World Urban Forum and be a legacy of the WUF 11.

7. Session Format:

11.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Video • Keynote Address: Minister Piotr Mazurek, Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Poland • Joint Keynote Address by Youth Leaders
12.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davos Style Panel: UN-Habitat, UNICEF, Fondation Botnar, Mayor of Katowice, WUF Youth Council Representative, Youth Leader from the Global South • UN-Habitat & Fondation Botnar Agreement Signing
1.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch
1.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout Sessions on the thematic areas
3.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion on Youth, Peace & Security
4.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout Sessions on the thematic areas
5.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Global Youth DeclarACTION • Youth Peace Statement • Closing & Vote of Thanks
6.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception at the Youth Village