

**WORLD  
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FORUM**  
TWELFTH SESSION

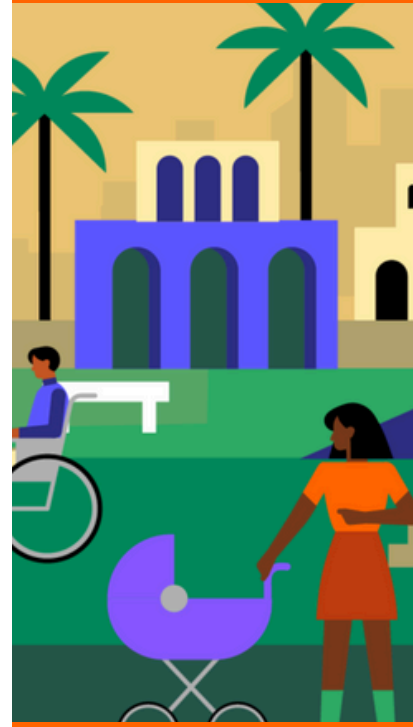


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# **WORLD URBAN FORUM 12**

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)  
P.O. BOX 30030-00100  
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# INTRODUCTION

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the premier global conference on urban issues, established by the United Nations in 2001.

WUF12 aims to address challenges and opportunities from rapid urbanization, focusing on creating sustainable, inclusive cities.

The twelfth session (WUF12) will take place in Cairo, Egypt, from November 4-8, 2024, with the theme

## **“It all starts at home: Local actions for sustainable cities and communities”**

This theme emphasizes the crucial role of local actions in creating sustainable urban futures, empowering communities to drive change in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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# Event Details

**Dates:** November 4–8, 2024

**Location:** Cairo, Egypt - Egypt International Exhibition Center

**Organizers:** UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Government of Egypt

**Official Website:** [WUF12 Official Website](#)

WUF12 will gather urban planners, policymakers, community leaders, business representatives, and civil society organizations from all over the world to share knowledge and collaborate on urban development.



## Anacláudia Rossbach

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat*

Anacláudia Rossbach is an economist with over 20 years of experience in housing, informal settlements, and urban policies. She was appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat in June 2024, and has worked with organizations like the World Bank and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, focusing on urban policy and sustainable housing solutions.

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# What to expect

**WUF12 is a platform for exploring solutions to urban issues, sharing successful practices, and collaborating on sustainable urban growth.**

It aims to advance the New Urban Agenda and achieve the SDGs, in particular SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

## **Key features:**

- 500+ sessions and workshops: Interactive sessions covering various urban development topics.
- Urban Expo: Showcasing the latest innovations and solutions for urban challenges.
- Cairo Urban Week: Engaging the local community through urban-related activities.
- Livestreaming in six UN languages: Accessible globally, plus International and Arabic Sign Languages.
- Participation from over 170 Countries: More than 20,000 attendees expected.

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# Agenda Snapshot

**WUF12 Dialogues are key events shaping policy and action.**

Global experts and decision-makers will share insights on critical themes, with active audience participation, focusing on advancing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Dialogue 1:**

"Housing Our Future," at WUF12 focuses on addressing global housing challenges and developing innovative, inclusive solutions for affordable and sustainable housing.

## **Dialogue 2:**

"Cities and the Climate Crisis," explores how cities can lead in climate action through local adaptation and mitigation strategies, focusing on urban resilience, inclusivity, and environmental justice.

## **Dialogue 3:**

"Stronger Together," emphasizes partnerships between local governments, businesses, and communities to tackle global challenges and achieve more resilient, inclusive cities.

## **Dialogue 4:**

"Financing Localisation and Localising Finance," explores ways to improve access to finance for local governments and enhance financial systems to support sustainable urban development.

## **Dialogue 5:**

"Putting People First in a Digital Era," focuses on using technology to create inclusive, people-centered urban solutions, addressing digital access, smart city development, and privacy concerns.

## **Dialogue 6:**

"The Loss of Home," addresses displacement caused by global crises and focuses on rebuilding resilient communities and strengthening urban responses to protect the idea of home.

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# Global Leaders Driving Urban Sustainability

## Speaker Snapshot:

*Global Thought Leaders at WUF12*

WUF12 features a distinguished roster of global experts, policymakers, and industry leaders across various dialogues, addressing themes like housing, climate action, financial inclusion, and digital innovation.

Notable speakers include Carlos Moreno, Yasmeen Lari, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, and global executives like Jonathan Reckford and Felicia Williams.

Each speaker brings a wealth of expertise, ensuring robust discussions on achieving sustainable urban futures, inclusive development, and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Panelists Snapshot:



**Carlos Moreno**

*Associate Professor at IAE — Co  
founder and scientific director of  
ETI Chair*



**Thierry Fournier**

*CEO Southern Europe*



**Marie-Josée Houle**

*Canada's Federal  
Housing Advocate*



**Audrey Guiral-Naepels**

*Urban and Housing  
Director, AFD*



**Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**

*Deputy Executive Director of UNEP*



**Yasmeen Lari**

*Architect for the Poorest of the  
Poor*

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**The twelfth session of the World Urban Forum is set to be a landmark event in the journey towards creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities.**

With its focus on local actions for urban transformation, WUF12 will provide a platform for collaboration, innovation, and impactful dialogue, addressing the most pressing challenges faced by cities today.

By bringing together stakeholders from across the globe—from government officials and community leaders to urban planners and private sector representatives—WUF12 will inspire new ideas and foster partnerships that are crucial for the future of sustainable urbanization.


Join us in Cairo from November 4–8, 2024, as we work together to shape a better urban future—because it all starts at home.



### Contact Information

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**4-8 NOVEMBER 2024**

