



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations



Nairobi, Kenya

Invitation

Our Annual World Cities Day Observance

Better City, Better Life: Financing Sustainable Urban Initiatives

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 @1PM –3:30PM, EDT

Hybrid Meeting with the Baha'i International Community UN Offices - [RSVP Here](#)

~ Light Refreshments will be available from 12:15pm ~

Co-Hosts

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations, UN-Habitat and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY with the Baha'i International Community

Our Partners: NGOCSD-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, SDG Relief Fund, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Global Partnerships Forum, Baha'i International Community, Blue Planet Alliance, Coalition for the UN We Need, United Cities & Local Governments, IBTK Foundation, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, Global Family, The Stimson Center, Executive Leadership Development Council, RecycleGO Inc, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Global Urban Development, Debate for Peace, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA-COO.

Concept Note

Our annual observance for World Cities Day emphasizes the 2023 theme of Better City: Better Life and 'Financing the sustainable urban future for all' by addressing multiple issues. The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY together with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the UN and the Urban Cluster along with our partner organizations believe it is vitally important to provide financial tools and investment opportunities including adequate housing and essential services for all. To meet the global housing demand, innovative planning, design, financing, and cooperation among local and national governments, UN Agencies, civil society, and private sectors are essential. Alignment for the success of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with the UN 17 SDGs especially SDG11, and the New Urban Agenda, ensures efforts are synergized on funding scalable initiatives. Community participation in the planning and implementation of these efforts ensures that they are culturally sensitive, and practical. Emphasizing green construction methods and energy-efficient designs can not only lower costs but support climate action agendas. Leveraging technology, data analytics, can help urban planning for growth by creating open spaces in communities. With climate-related disasters on the rise, urban planning must include disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and resilience strategies. We can strive towards a future where cities are not just engines of growth but also centers of equitable, sustainable living, ensuring that no one is left behind in any communities especially as we lead up to COP28 and the 2024 UN Summit of the Future.

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Programme

Welcome by Co-Moderators

- Ms. Margo LaZaro, President & Chair of the NGOCSD-NY, Director of UN Relations for Global Family, and Convener of the NGO/MG Urban Cluster for the UN HLPF
- Mr. Daniel Perell, UN Representative for the Baha'i International Community to the UN & Co-Chair of the Coalition for the UN We Need

Opening Reflections

- Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya

Keynote Reflections

- H.E. Mr. Odo Tevi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations
- Mr. Amir A. Dossal is President and CEO of the Global Partnerships Forum
- Mr. Satya S. Tripathi, Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet
- Ms. Emilia Saiz Carracedo, Secretary General of United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG)

Resilient Cities & Communities

- * Lord Mayor Ms. Carola Gunnarsson, of Sala, Sweden
- * Hon. Mr. Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford, Massachusetts
- * Ms. Aissata M.B. Camara, Deputy Commissioner for Policy & Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs

Innovative Solutions

- Ms. Kate Wright, Executive Director of Climate Mayors
- Mr. Salin Geevarghese, President & CEO of SGG Insight, LLC,
- Ms. Sandra Baer, CEO of Personal Cities, Brand Ambassador, SmartCitiesWorld
- Mr. Stan Chen, CEO of RecycleGO Inc., and President of United Metal Recycling
- Mr. Ted Liebman, FAIA, Principal at Perkins Eastman, Board Member & Vice President of Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
- Dr. Marc A. Weiss, Chairman and CEO of the Global Urban Development
- Ms. Alina Karimamusama, Founder of AfriHer in Zambia
- Mr. Juan Vargas, Co-Founder and Director of the Executive Leadership Development Council
- Dr. Adam Rosenfeld, Director of the Zero Carbon Partnerships Initiative in the UK
- Ms. Jane Katz, Vice-Chair & Washington DC Rep. of Global Urban Development, Rep. of GAP to UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction/Sendai Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Group
- Mr. David Michael Terungwa, PhD Candidate; Environmental Management, Executive Director of Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation in Nigeria
- Ms. Vailshali Kushan, Acting Director of the Urban Economy Forum

Updates: CSO Nairobi Conference & the UN Summit for the Future

- Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Adviser of the Coalition for the UN We Need

Networking Exchange

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>

