Progress toward SDG11 and SDG13 has slowed as a result of COVID, but the urgency of global climate targets remains. Both COVID and climate change are resilience threats, suggesting that to some extent the enormous global attention to COVID may have lessons for how to respond to climate change. Historic adaptations of cities in response to disease outbreaks offer important models. There is now the opportunity to reflect on ‘business as usual’ and consider how we can we develop actions that make for both a healthy and greener city with multiple benefits.

This Urban Thinkers Campus will consider and recommend innovative positive actions by City Planners with specific targets in the immediate and longer term providing pathway for more sustainable urban settlements in the future.

The UTC will identify and rank promising initiatives promoting city climate resilience. These results will be published in a report shared with planners, professional organizations, education associations, and city leadership organizations globally.

URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS

The Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) is an initiative of the World Urban Campaign driven by UN-Habitat. The UTC is conceived as an open space for critical exchange between urban researchers, professionals, and decision-makers who believe that urbanization is an opportunity and can lead to positive urban transformations.

PLANNERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The Planners for Climate Action (P4CA) - a cooperative initiative convened by UN-Habitat, is comprised of associations of planning practitioners and planning educators, collectively representing tens of thousands of planners worldwide, as well as other partners active in this area. P4CA is placed under the UNFCCC’s Marrakesh Partnership of non-State actors for Global Climate Action. It is registered under the NAZCA (Non-State Actors Zone for Climate Action) Platform.
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DAY ONE : 14 OCTOBER, 11h00 – 12h30 UTC/GMT

Session One: Climate Resilience after COVID
Keynote Speakers: Eleanor MOHAMMED, Canadian Institute of Planners
AdrienNe GREVE, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo [USA]
Moderator: Steven BLAND, UN-Habitat, Global Solutions Division

Session Two: Projects and Programs that Advance City Climate Resilience: Infrastructure, Biodiversity, Decarbonisation, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, and Urban Design.
Panelists: Nikanth CHHAYA, Srishti School of Design [India]
Joan FITZGERALD, Northeastern Uni [USA]
Anne-Marie HITIPEUW-GRIBNAU, City of the Hague [Netherlands]
Alex NDIBWAMI, University of Rwanda
Khairiah TALHA, KW Associate Planners [Malaysia]

DAY TWO : 15 OCTOBER, 11h00 – 12h30 UTC/GMT

Session Three: Prioritizing Actions to Advance Climate Resilience
Panelists: Josi SIRI, UN University, Global Health Institute [Malaysia]
Anna HURLIMANN, University of Melbourne [Australia]
Ally Hassan NAMANGAYA, Ardhi University [Tanzania]
Giulio VERDINI, University of Westminster [UK]

Session Four: The Way Forward
Speakers: Dyan CURRIE, Commonwealth Association of Planners
Bernhard BARTH, UN Habitat
SPEAKERS PROFILE

Dyan Currie AM
Dyan Currie is President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, Co-chair of the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group, Past President of the Planning Institute of Australia in which she is a Life Fellow, and Chief Planner for the Brisbane (Australia) City Council. She was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2020 for significant service to town planning and strategic urban development.

José Siri
José Siri is the Senior Science Lead for Cities, Urbanization and Health for the Wellcome Trust's Our Planet Our Health Programme, helping to manage the programme’s portfolio of urban research and build strategic engagement to advance the field of planetary health. Over his career in research and policy, José has worked to develop and apply systems approaches to urban health, focusing on leveraging science for healthy development, developing simple systems tools to catalyze better decision-making, and improving understanding of complex challenges.

Joan Fitzgerald
Joan Fitzgerald is a Professor of Urban and Public Policy at Northeastern University. She focuses on urban climate action and strategies for linking it to equity, economic development, and innovation. She points to leading cities in North America and Europe and offers strategies for lagging cities to accelerate their action. Her ongoing Climate Just Cities Project examines strategies for post-Covid urban climate action to place equity at the forefront. She blogs on inequality and urban climate action on Planetizen.
Ally Namangaya
Ally Namangaya is Senior Lecturer and Head of the Regional Development Planning Department at the School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ardhi University, Tanzania, where he specializes in rural land use planning, use of geographic information systems for land ownership and socio-economic baseline studies for rural projects.

Adrienne Greve
Adrienne Greve is Professor of City and Regional Planning at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, USA and co-author of Climate Action Planning: A Guide to Low-carbon, Resilient Communities (Island Press, 2019). She has prepared climate action planning guides for the State of California, and cities of San Luis Obispo and Benicia.

Bruce Stiftel
Bruce Stiftel is Professor Emeritus of City and Regional Planning at Georgia Institute of Technology [USA]. He served UN-Habitat as a member of expert groups on the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, and the World Cities Report 2016, and represents the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN) to the UN-Habitat University Network

Anne-Marie Hitipeuw-Gribnau
Anne-Marie Hitipeuw-Gribnau is Chief Resilience Officer for the City of The Hague in The Netherlands. She previously worked for City of The Hague’s International Programme as Senior Strategic Advisor, and on eco-cities in Shanghai and Beijing with Arup. In the role as CRO, she connects stakeholders and knowledge about the city to contribute to a resilient The Hague.

Steven Bland
Steven Bland is Climate Change and Urban Planning Consultant with UN-Habitat. Steven supports UN-Habitat in its work to integrate climate change response into local and national decision-making, via research and writing, project management and implementation, strategic advisory services and facilitation.

Anna Hurlimann
Anna Hurlimann is Associate Professor in Urban Planning and Assistant Dean Diversity and Inclusion at the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Anna's teaching and research activities focus on issues of environmentally sustainable cities, with a particular research interest in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable urban water management. She received an Award for Planning Excellence from the Planning Institute of Australia for her work on equitable outcomes in adaptation to sea level rise.

Alex Ndibwami
Alex Ndibwami is based at the University of Rwanda where he is the Director of Teaching and Learning Enhancement of the College of Science and Technology and also teaches in the School of Architecture and the Built Environment at the same College. His work and interests include culturally responsive ethos of design, approaches to built environment education and sustainability in the built environment. Most of this work has been cross (and) inter-disciplinary in nature, encompassing built environment pedagogy, urban policy, development processes and urbanising communities.

Milena Ivkovic
Milena Ivkovic is a Dutch-Serbian architect and senior expert in public space design and public participation processes. Besides her own design practice, Milena is the Director of Urban Planning Advisory Teams and Member of Board of Directors at ISOCARP, International Society of City and Regional Planners based in The Netherlands.
Bernhard Barth

Bernhard Barth is Human Settlements Officer at UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, based in Fukuoka Japan. On an interim basis he also oversees UN-Habitat’s global Programme on Climate Action and Urban Environment. Bernhard holds Master’s degrees in Economics and in Environmental Policy.

Eleanor Mohammed

Eleanor Mohammed is the Co-Chair of the UN-Habitat Professionals Forum and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Beaumont, Alberta, Canada. As an Executive Leader with over 16 years of public and private sector experience, she has led a variety of projects including the preparation of statutory and strategic governance documents; policy and guideline development; stakeholder engagement; and various land use, community development, and economic initiatives. With the recent completion of her final term, Eleanor is the longest serving President of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Neelkanth H. Chhaya

Neelkanth Chhaya has been an academic and practicing architect for nearly 40years. He taught for 26 years at CEPT University Ahmedabad from where he retired as Dean of the Faculty of
Architecture in 2013. Subsequently he has been an Adjunct Faculty at Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore. His architectural practice is focused on culturally and environmentally appropriate design and has emphasized innovative application of local skills and materials.

Barbara Norman
Barbara Norman is the Foundation Chair of Urban and Regional Planning and Director of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) at the University of Canberra [Australia]. Professor Norman is an Honorary Professor at the University of Warwick UK and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. Barbara is a Life Fellow and past national president of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Life Honorary Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute (UK). She was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal for her contribution to the community through urban and regional planning.

Olafiyin Taiwo
Olafiyin Taiwo is the Co-Chair, P4CA WGII – Education and Capacity Building. As an Urban Regeneration & Development consultant with experience of working in partnership with public, private and non-profit Sectors, she has delivered projects associated with bringing together key stakeholders and resources required to promote strategic regeneration, community development and good governance. Olafiyin is the Chair of the Commonwealth Association of Planners Young Planners Network. She is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute’s General Assembly and International Committee.
Khairiah BT Mohd. Talha
Madam Khairiah Talha qualified as a Town Planner from the University of Melbourne, Australia in 1980. She has had 39 years’ experience as an Urban Planner, both in government and private sector. Her consultancy, KW Associate Planners has undertaken many projects for both government and the private sector. It is an award winning planning firm, having instituted several initiatives in the arena of integrated strategic development plans. She is very active in several professional organizations and has held several posts.

Giulio Verdini
Giulio Verdini is Reader in Urban Planning at the University of Westminster (UK) and Visiting Professor at the Polytechnic University Mohammed VI, in Morocco. He has done research on rural-urban linkages, culture and sustainable territorial development, particularly in China, Latin America and, more recently, in Africa. He is currently leading a research project on ‘Globally-informed Climate Pedagogy and Practice’.

Dhanashri Mirajkar
Dhanashri Mirajkar is Associate Professor of Architecture at the D.Y. Patil University, Ambi Pune, and principal with Shrinit Architects and Valuers in Aurangabad [India]. Her work is focused on sustainable building, including healthy cities, adaptive reuse, and flood disaster mitigation. She has worked as scientific committee member of ACE2020 hosted by UTMSPACE, Malaysia in collaboration with TIJKM, Sri Lanka and Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She is receiver of scholarship for outstanding research paper reviewer. She serves as chair of Planners for Climate Action, Education and Capacity Building Working Group.