

HABITAT PROFESSIONAL FORUM AT THE COP-CLIMATE 27 Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 7-18 November 2022



Habitat Professional Forum participated to COP-Climate 27 at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Mona RADY (chair), Eric HUYBRECHTS (co-chair), and Ishtiaque Zahir TITAS (UIA) represent HPF during the Conference. Habitat Professional Forum of UN-Habitat, UIA, ISOCARP, ICOMOS, and MTPA delivered critical messages to COP 27 on urban innovation and developed partnerships with cities and regional networks. HPF reaches the President of the Global Covenant of Mayors and the President of Climate change to establish new partnerships for cities with our large community of habitat professionals.

When the world population reach 8 billion inhabitants, with 5 billion urban dwellers, urbanization is a critical driver for transformation. If Cities change the world, then cities should contribute to the climate agenda. It is time to amplify the role of cities in mitigation and adaptation. Cities are at the forefront and offer significant opportunities to face climate change. The race to Zero and the race to Resilience is mainly localization issues. It is time to recognize the importance of sub-national actors and institutionalize their role in the COP.

The main topic of the Conference was “Implementation”. It is time to act. Science is consolidated. Politicians are making pledges. But implementation is essentially local. A territorial approach is essential. Adaptation is taking a more prominent place with the introduction of Loss and damage issues. Probably a turning point in the COP series.

The inter-ministerial meeting on “Urbanization and Climate change”, led by the Executive director of UN-Habitat, witnessed a solid commitment to Housing ministers of several countries to put Urbanization on the agenda of the COP. It is a milestone of COP 27. Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (<https://cop27.eg/assets/files/initiatives/SURGE-BR-01-EGY-10-22-EN.pdf>) initiative is a tool for the implementation of the climate agenda in cities and regions. It focuses on five pillars: Housing, Energy, Potable water, Mobility, and Waste consumption, and several cross-cutting thematic as governance, finance, urban and territorial planning, data, and capacity building. Initiated by UN-Habitat and ICLEI, the initiative is supported by 300 partners.

The inter-ministerial meeting on “Cultural Heritage-based climate solutions” led by Egypt (presidency of COP 27) put Cultural Heritage on the agenda of COP. A new step to recognize the power of Culture and Heritage to help people implement a low-carbon, just and resilient future.

The impressive commitment of local authorities, civil society, and private companies to find solutions and develop partnerships gives hope in the fight against climate change.

HABITAT PROFESSIONAL FORUM IS INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION