



Bonn Climate Change Conference  
30 April – 10 May 2018

# Closing knowledge gaps on human settlements and adaptation - the way forward

## Nairobi work programme side event

Tuesday 1 May 2018

13:15-14:45 Room: [Bonn](#)

World Conference Centre Bonn, Germany

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### Objective

More than 50% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a number which is expected to near 70% by 2050.<sup>1</sup> Climate change is exacerbating the vulnerability of human settlements to natural and human-made hazards globally to a disproportionate degree, especially in developing countries, coastal and delta regions and small island developing States (SIDS).<sup>2</sup> Increasing the climate resilience of human settlements is thus an important measure to protect lives and livelihoods, preserve development gains, and promote sustainable development.

This side event will discuss opportunities to close knowledge gaps related to human settlements and adaptation for decision-makers and planners at the local and national level, including developers of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Building on the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum and the NWP synthesis paper "[Adaptation in human settlements: key findings and way forward](#)," the aim of the event is to identify concrete proposals with NWP partners to address knowledge needs in the short and medium term.

### Outcomes

- Increased understanding about existing adaptation knowledge gaps and barriers related to human settlements;
- Opportunities for further collaboration among participants identified, including between NWP partners, Parties, and the UNFCCC secretariat;
- Proposals and action pledges for closing adaptation knowledge gaps relevant for human settlements;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2014-Report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> NUA and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change See paragraph 64 (and paras. 63 and 65–80) of the New Urban Agenda, available at <http://www.habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>



## Agenda

**Facilitator:** *Ms. Musonda Mumba, PhD, Programme Officer, Climate Change Adaptation Unit, UN Environment*

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**13:15 – 13:30** **Opening** - *Mr. Aderito Manuel Fernandes Santana, SBSTA Rapporteur, (Sao Tome and Principe)*

**Introductory remarks – Advancing adaptation efforts through national and local government partnerships**  
*NN, Minister, Fiji (tbc)*

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**13:30 – 13:35** **Adaptation in human settlements: key findings and way forward**  
Presentation of key takeaways from the NWP synthesis report  
*Ms. Laura Kavanaugh, UNFCCC Secretariat*

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**13:35 – 13:55** **Adaptation knowledge gaps at local and national levels**

*Mr. Robert Kehew, Leader, Climate Change Planning Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-HABITAT*

*Mr. Steve Gawler, Regional Director, Oceania Secretariat, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability*

*Mr. Nicola Tollin, PhD, Professor, University of Southern Denmark; Executive Director of RESURBE International Program on Urban Resilience, led by Recycling Cities Network RECNET*

Expert panelists will share their insights on the context of the issues raised and opportunities to address challenges in the short and medium term related to:

- Identifying and closing adaptation knowledge gaps at the national and local level
- Aligning local needs with global goals through national adaptation planning

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**13:55-14:25** **Discussion**

Participants will break into groups to discuss opportunities for addressing knowledge needs as they relate to human settlements and adaptation.

Given the challenges identified (present situation) and the ideal scenario (desired future), groups will discuss the following questions with the aim to identify concrete ideas for catalyzing coordinated adaptation action at all levels:

- What does a National Adaptation Plan that effectively integrates human settlements look like?





- What is needed to convert existing resources into more actionable knowledge for local and national officials?
- Who are the essential actors to drive these processes forward?
- How can you or your organization contribute?

Participants and rapporteurs will help to capture key points from the discussion via slido.

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**14:25 – 14:40** Rapporteurs will report on the outcomes of each group discussion including proposals for concrete next steps. These will also be captured via Slido. Participants will have the opportunity to offer suggestions, questions, and clarifications, guided by the session facilitator.

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**14:40 – 14:45** **Concluding remarks**

*Mr. Paul Watkinson, Chair of the SBSTA (tbc)*

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### Further information

The [Nairobi work programme](#) (NWP) was established in 2005 to facilitate the development, dissemination and use of knowledge to inform adaptation policies and practice. It operates as a knowledge-to-action hub under the UNFCCC that supports enhanced action on climate resilience by (1) engaging a growing network of non-Party stakeholders in sharing their experience and expertise (2) capturing and synthesizing the latest information and knowledge on key adaptation issues (3) fostering science–policy–practice collaboration to close identified knowledge gaps (4) disseminating knowledge and fostering learning to boost adaptation action at all levels.

In May 2016, the Subsidiary Body for Science and Technological Advice (SBSTA) gave the NWP the mandate to investigate the area of [human settlements and adaptation](#). The SBSTA invited Parties, NWP partner organizations and other relevant entities to submit information on recent activities and research on human settlements related, in particular, to assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change, integrating both short-term and long-term climate considerations, the role of national governments in supporting adaptation at the local level, city-to-city partnerships on climate change, and cross-cutting issues and linkages related to the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The overarching aim of the request was to inform work on human settlements in adaptation planning and implementation.

Over the course of 2017, the NWP collaborated with partners to deliver

- A [summary report on existing initiatives](#) in the area of human settlements and adaptation;
- A call for submissions from Parties and relevant organizations on the topic;
- A [technical dialogue](#) with human settlement experts in advance of COP23;
- The [11<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum](#) on human settlements and adaptation organized at COP23.



In 2018, the NWP captured the outcomes of these activities in a [synthesis report](#) which highlighted key findings and potential ways forward. As a follow up, the NWP is convening a side event with Parties and partners during the 2018 Bonn Climate Change Conference to formulate concrete next steps to address the knowledge needs identified.