



## HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND ADAPTATION

### 11<sup>TH</sup> FOCAL POINT FORUM OF THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER • 18:30 - 21:00

AHH UPPER CONFERENCE ROOM (BULA ZONE)

COP 23 • BONN, GERMANY

 @NWP\_UNFCCC

# AGENDA

Facilitator: **Musonda Mumba**, UN Environment

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 18:30 -   | <b>Carlos Fuller</b> , Chair of the SBSTA   |
| 18:35   | <i>Opening</i>  |
| <b>Opportunities and challenges for climate-resilience in human settlements</b>   |   |
| 18:35 -   | <b>Musonda Mumba</b> , Facilitator  |
| 18:40   | <i>Introduction</i>   |
| 18:40 -   | <b>Aisa Kirabo Kaeyira</b> , Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat  |
| 18:50   | <i>Keynote address</i>  |
| 18:50 -   | <b>Habiba Al-Khatib</b> , Student, Dubai College  |
| 18:55   | <i>Youth representative intervention</i>  |
| 18:55 -   | <b>Laureline Krichewsky</b> , Associate Programme Officer, Adaptation Programme, UNFCCC secretariat   |
| 19:05   | <i>Presentation of key findings from submissions</i>  |
| <b>Refreshments and networking break</b>  |   |
| <b>Focus group discussions: Knowledge to action in cities, towns and villages</b> |   |
| 19:20 -   | <b>Parallel focus group discussions on:</b>   |
| 20:25   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change;</li> <li>2. Integrating both short-term and long-term climate considerations (including both extreme and slow onset events) into planning;</li> <li>3. The role of national governments in supporting adaptation at the local level, including linkages to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs);</li> <li>4. City-to-city partnerships on climate change adaptation.</li> </ol> |
| 20:25 -   | <b>Reporting on the key outcomes of the focus group discussions</b>   |
| 20:50   |   |
| <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| 20:50 -   | <b>Musonda Mumba</b> , Facilitator  |
| 20:55   | <i>Concluding remarks</i>   |
| 20:55 -   | <b>Carlos Fuller</b> , Chair of the SBSTA   |
| 21:00   | <i>Closing remarks</i>  |

# Nairobi Work Programme: Addressing the knowledge-for-action gap in human settlements

## Topics of the focus group discussions at the Focal Point Forum:

- Assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change;
- Integrating short- and long-term climate consideration (including both extreme and slow onset events) into planning;
- The role of national governments in supporting adaptation at the local level, including linkages to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs);
- City-to-city partnerships on climate change adaptation.

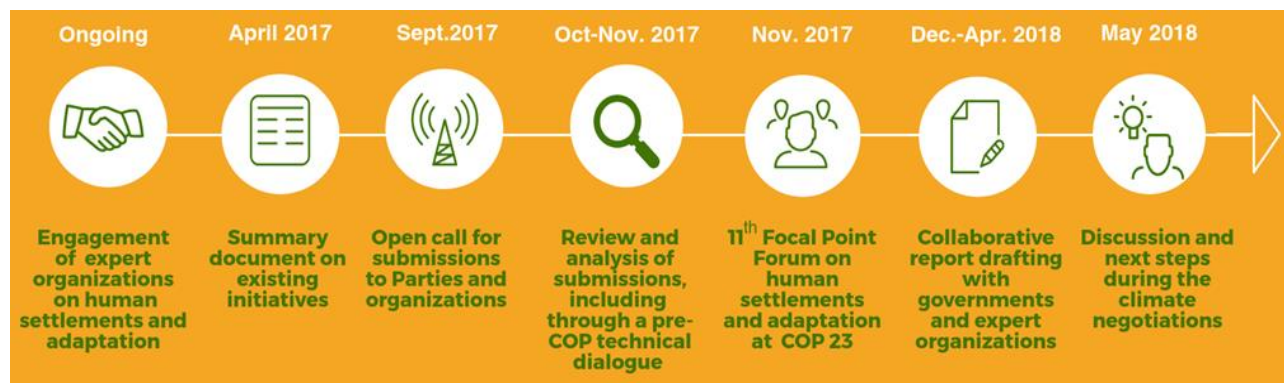
## How will the Focal Point Forum contribute to climate action?

Following presentations on the key opportunities and challenges for adaptation in human settlements today, the Focal Point Forum will provide an interactive space for human settlements experts, country delegates, Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other interested organizations to:

- Discuss their specific challenges;
- Share their knowledge about successful experiences and relevant research; and
- Initiate collaboration to co-design innovative adaptation solutions.

## How does the Nairobi work programme bridge adaptation knowledge gaps?

Knowledge gaps hinder adaptation planning and implementation in human settlements worldwide, as was recognized by Parties at the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body For Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in May 2016. Parties invited national and subnational governments, as well as all relevant organizations to help bridge the gaps by sharing information including good practices, lessons learned and available tools and methods through submissions. In response to the mandate, the secretariat prepared a summary of existing initiatives, and organized a pre-COP technical dialogue with partner organizations working on human settlements. At COP 23, the 11<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum will also facilitate science-policy-practice exchanges and collaboration. The secretariat will then prepare a synthesis report on human settlements and adaptation for consideration by Parties at SBSTA 48 in May 2018. The figure below highlights the Nairobi work programme's recent and upcoming activities on human settlements.



## How can your government or your organization work with the Nairobi work programme to bridge the knowledge-for-action gap?

- Learn about all the opportunities for collaboration at the 11<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum;
- Share additional information on case studies, tools/methods and other knowledge resources through the Adaptation knowledge portal ([www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/](http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/)).

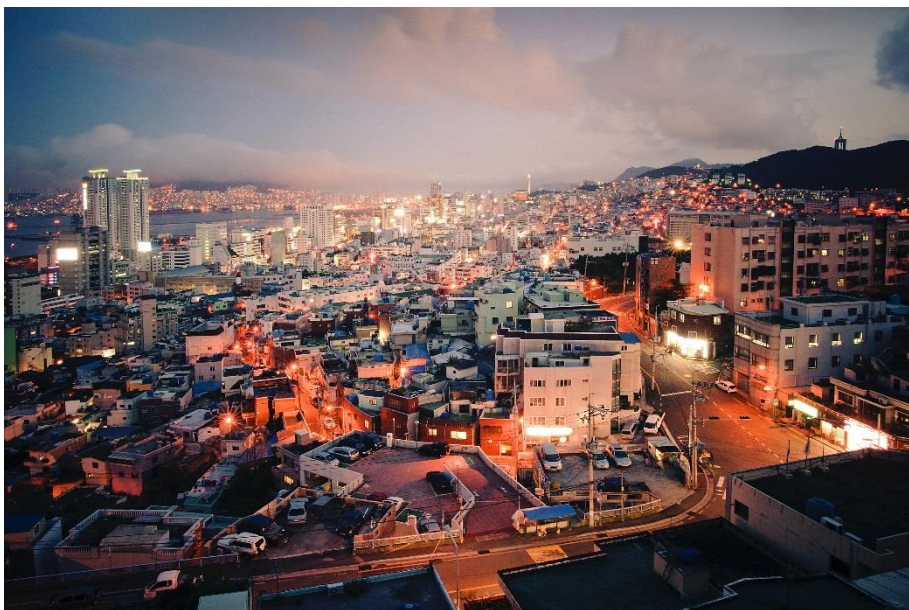


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## Overview of key findings from the submissions

Twenty-four submissions were made by Parties, regional governments and expert organizations. They comprise three submissions from Parties, one from a group of Parties and 20 submissions from organizations including 13 Nairobi work programme (NWP) partner organizations. The submissions cover coastal, rural and remote settlements, as well as small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs). They provide a snapshot of the current progress, opportunities and challenges in relation to the mandated topics. Twelve experts working on human settlements discussed and refined the submissions' key findings during a one-day pre-COP technical dialogue on Sunday 5 November 2017 to ensure that the latest experience and research are captured at the Focal Point Forum and in the upcoming synthesis report.



### 1. Assessing sensitivity to climate change

- **Climate change will exacerbate the vulnerability of human settlements** to other natural and man-made hazards, especially in developing countries, coastal areas, delta regions and SIDS.

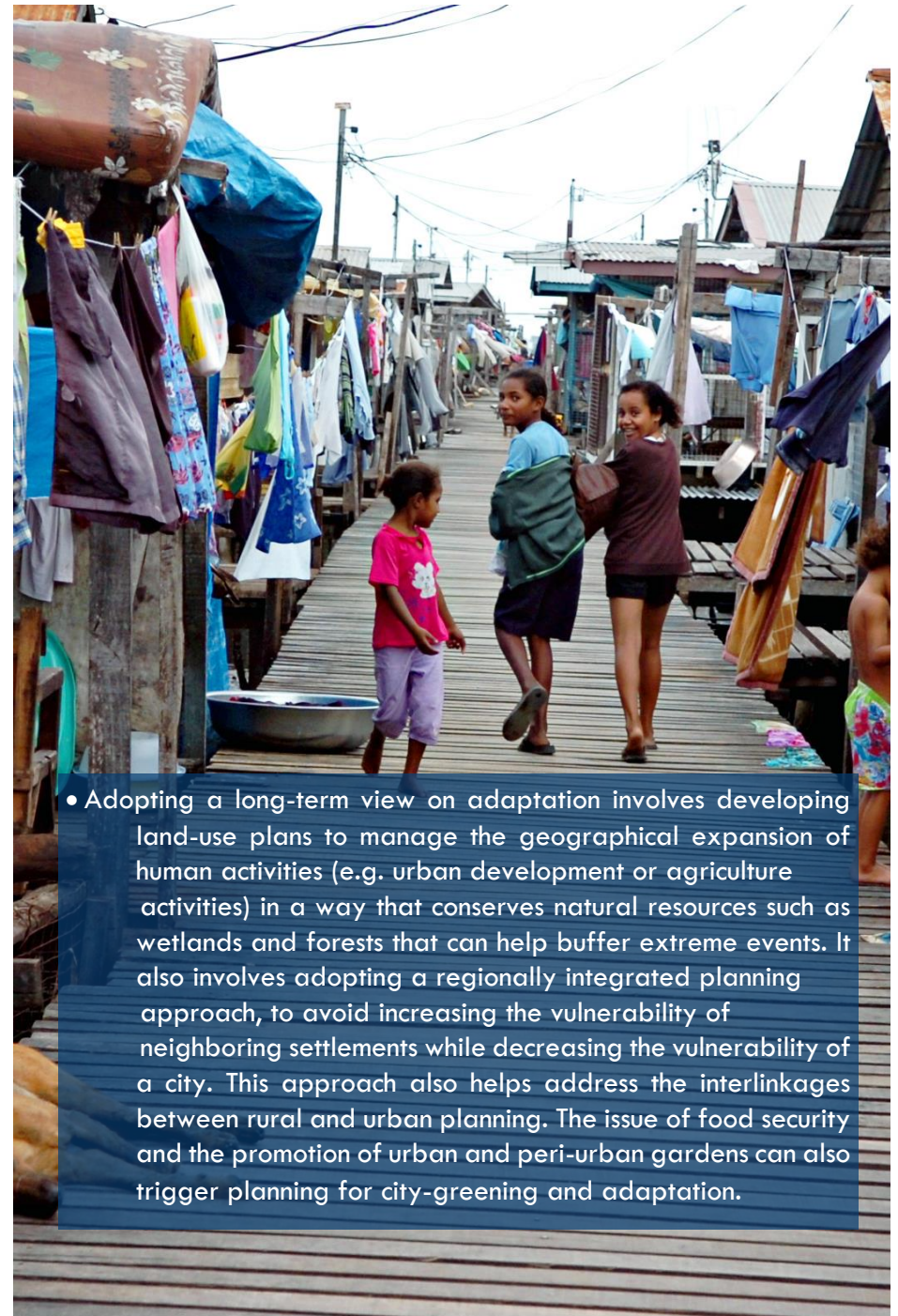


- According to the fifth assessment report of the International Panel on Climate Change, **sensitivity and adaptive capacities are components of vulnerability**. The most climate-vulnerable groups are generally infants, the elderly, those with diseases, injuries and disabilities, as well as women and those living in marginalized, or informal settlements. However, rich and poor, women and men, old and young from both high and low income countries display different patterns of vulnerability to climate change.
- **Assessment of vulnerability** in human settlements should be done at a **scale that can take into account context-specific economic, social, political and cultural drivers of vulnerability**. Gender-disaggregated data on vulnerability also needs to be collected, given that women play a different role than men in the care economy and are more subject to violence in case of disasters. Such data should be used to identify and address the underlying causes of differentiated vulnerability between men and women.

- Numerous **vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning toolkits** are available, targeting national to local governments and addressing the full spectrum of settlements from cities to villages, including informal settlements. The range of toolkits also allows for those lacking human and financial resources and/or risk reduction and resilience planning experience to undertake vulnerability assessments.
- Addressing the various levels and types of climate vulnerability in human settlements is best done through **inclusive assessment and planning processes**. Inclusivity means that vulnerable groups such as women and communities living in informal settlements take part in participatory assessments and planning exercises, along with civil society organizations, researchers and representatives of the private sector. Sufficient time should be allowed to integrate the agency of local communities in the planning process and build trust. Inclusivity also means that indigenous and traditional knowledge should complement conventional scientific knowledge to inform decision-making. This facilitates the implementation of adaptation actions.

## 2. Integrating both short-term and long-term consideration into planning

- Integrating both short-term and long-term consideration into adaptation planning can help avoid maladaptation, minimize climate-related loss and damage as well as build long-term adaptive capacities. In contrast, research shows that many local governments still approach planning in non-holistic, short-term ways. This includes building on flood plains to maximize economic gains, and addressing climate change-related impacts only after they have occurred. Political cycles can drive short-term perspectives and hinder planning for slow onset events.



- Adopting a long-term view on adaptation involves developing land-use plans to manage the geographical expansion of human activities (e.g. urban development or agriculture activities) in a way that conserves natural resources such as wetlands and forests that can help buffer extreme events. It also involves adopting a regionally integrated planning approach, to avoid increasing the vulnerability of neighboring settlements while decreasing the vulnerability of a city. This approach also helps address the interlinkages between rural and urban planning. The issue of food security and the promotion of urban and peri-urban gardens can also trigger planning for city-greening and adaptation.





- **Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)** has a long-term focus and brings numerous co-benefits such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and positive impacts on health. It can be combined with engineering-based solutions to effectively address climate risks. However, integrating long term consideration into planning requires to think beyond grey, blue and green infrastructural solutions and to consider the behavioural changes that are needed at personal, organizational and community levels for adaptation.
- Adaptation needs to be an **iterative, cross sectoral and open-ended planning and implementation process**. Long-term focused decision-making can be supported through the “adaptation pathways” method, which helps in visualizing a range of adaptation actions including determining likely implementation timescales. Thus, as circumstances change, decision-makers have ready-made options at hand to consider.

- **Resettlement of communities should be considered only as a last resort** through a participatory process and with sufficient safeguards not to increase the vulnerability of the displaced populations in other ways (i.e. hampering their ability to access the workplace, breaking up existing social networks and community groups). Conversely, upgrading informal settlements can be considered as an efficient measure to integrate long-term climate consideration into planning.

### 3. The role of national governments in supporting adaptation at the local level, including through national adaptation plans (NAPs)

- Numerous challenges still hinder adaptation planning processes in human settlements. These include:
  - \* Poor access to quality data, including downscaled climate projections,
  - \* Lack of local government and CSO staff who have the technical skills for data collection and analysis, as well as for iterative planning process, and for addressing loss and damage,
  - \* Access to financial resources for adaptation, and
  - \* Inadequate powers at the local level.



- Sufficient **capacities are a prerequisite to ensure that the necessary devolution of powers and resources lead to effective adaptation planning and implementation**. The authority and resources at the local level are indispensable to access finance, including international finance for adaptation. Calls for localizing climate finance and for provisions to ensure adequate technical and financial support for adaptation in human settlements were made to the international community



While some capacity building activities do take place, further support to strengthen capacities on climate-resilience at the local level is urgently needed. In addition, although numerous decentralized climate finance initiatives, including through local savings groups have emerged, scaling-up local level actions to enhance the climate-resilience of human settlements in developing countries requires that subnational governments have better access to international finance.

- Owing to those challenges, **national governments have an essential role to play in supporting local level government in their adaptation efforts.**

- \* As a first step, national governments should ensure that national adaptation strategies, including NAPs, consider human settlements in their focus areas, and include a mandate for subnational governments to develop and implement adaptation plans, including by mainstreaming adaptation into statutory plans.
- \* National governments also need to create an enabling environment, that includes the devolution of adequate powers and resources for subnational governments to take action. Such resources can include fiscal transfers, fiscal decentralization measures, as well as permissions to develop innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds.
- \* National governments can further support adaptation by producing reliable meteorological information, climate projections and socio-economic data, as well as by financing national resilience and adaptation research.
- \* National governments can support “mediators” at the local level. A mediator, which may be a CSO, university or a multi-stakeholder working group, would prepare actionable information for local policy-makers and facilitate the inclusion of resilience approaches in local policy debates, while decreasing reliance on outside expertise. Such support from the national government would ensure the wide-spread scaling up of climate action

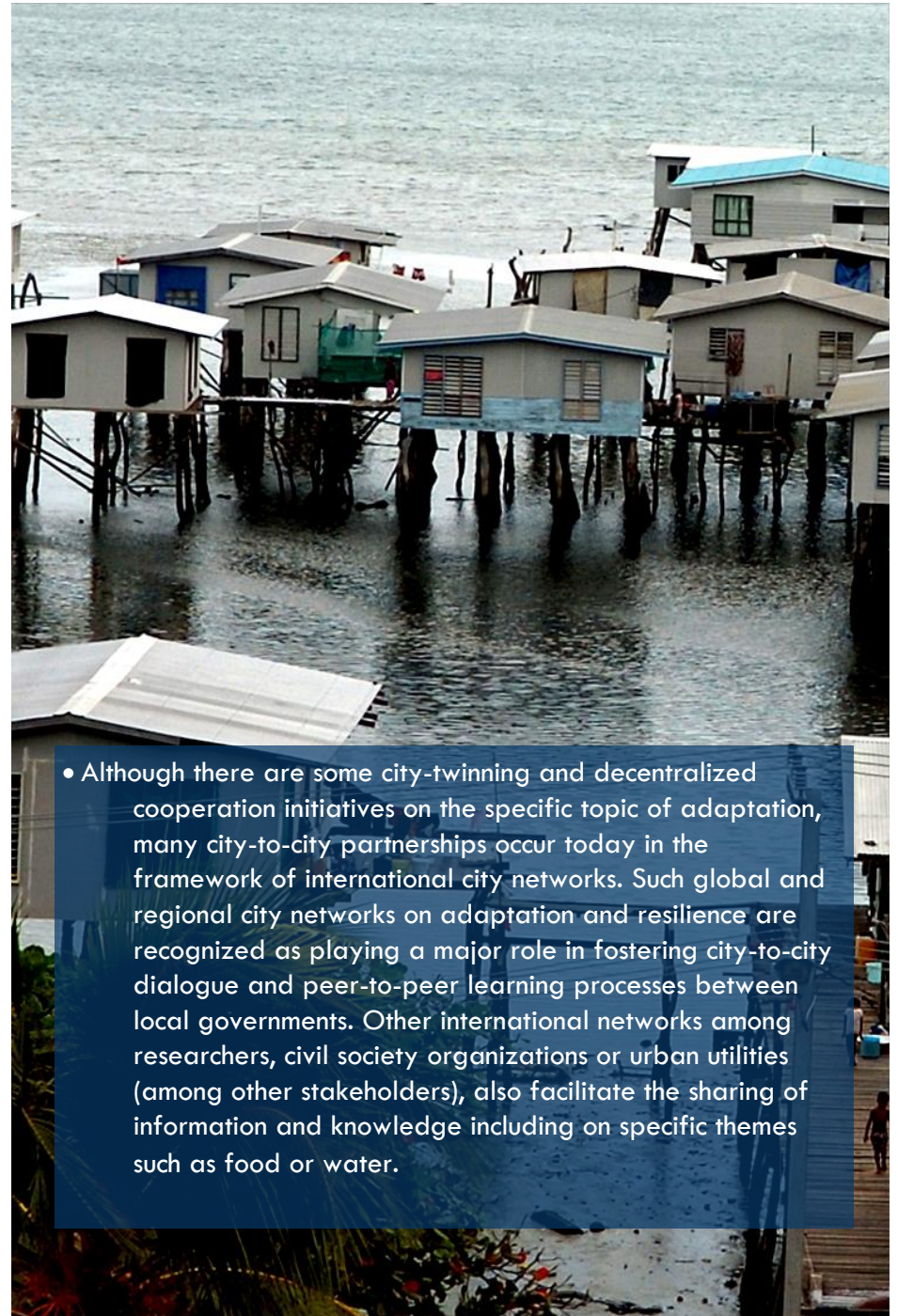




- Lastly, in addition to horizontal integration, there must be **intentional and strategic vertical integration in adaptation policy and actions**. This should include coordination and collaborations between national and subnational governments to plan, implement and monitor adaptation actions. Vertical integration, however, should not be understood as the replication of national plans at the local level, but as facilitating multilevel governance and integrated planning processes. Such multilevel governance should include national, regional/provincial and local governments as well as local communities. It would help national governments recognize the numerous adaptation initiatives that are already happening at the local level and could feed into the NAP process. Such multilevel governance could also facilitate the consideration of local climate action in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While some guidance may be available on how to integrate local governments in the NAP process, more guidance may be needed on how to consider human settlements, including cities, in NAPs.

#### 4. City-to-city partnerships on climate change

- City-to-city partnerships have contributed to enhancing cities' understanding of climate risks and adaptation methods, thereby **accelerating the pace of innovation and implementation**.
- City-to-city partnerships appear to work best when the entities face similar circumstances and/or risks, whether they are from the Global North or South. Such city-to-city partnerships also include national city associations that can be instrumental in sharing information and knowledge on adaptation, including to secondary cities.



- Although there are some city-twinning and decentralized cooperation initiatives on the specific topic of adaptation, many city-to-city partnerships occur today in the framework of international city networks. Such global and regional city networks on adaptation and resilience are recognized as playing a major role in fostering city-to-city dialogue and peer-to-peer learning processes between local governments. Other international networks among researchers, civil society organizations or urban utilities (among other stakeholders), also facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge including on specific themes such as food or water.

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