

## **Turnaround 8.0: Young Women as Climate Changemakers Panel Local Governments And Cities Day**

Saturday, December 7, 2019

13:15 – 14:45

### Background

Leading up to the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, the decade was dubbed the “Turnaround Decade” and the youth environmental activists of the time the “Turnaround Generation”. Severn Suzuki, a 12 year-old environmental activist, gave a speech to the gathered world leaders which went viral in a pre-internet world<sup>1</sup>. [“The Girl that Silence the world for 5 Minutes”](#) stated “Coming up here today, I have no hidden agenda. I am fighting for my future .. what you do makes me cry at night. You grown-ups say you love us. But I challenge you, please, make your actions reflect your words.”

Now 30 years later we see that much of the promise of that decade has been lost, and eerily a new young woman has come forward. Greta Thunberg’s words reflect the frustration of the three decades of people who spent their lives trying to transform our society to one that is sustainable. It is no longer the “Turnaround Decade”, we’ve now been told that we no longer have 10 years, but only at maximum 8 years to turn this all around.

This panel will be made up of young women climate change activists reflecting the leadership role they have played in the climate emergency movement. Though young women face the challenges brought about by ageism and sexism they have in this emergency overcome them and taken on key leadership roles globally, both in the developed and developing world.

This panel will have 3 young women who will discuss the role young women have played in the climate change emergency, and what strategies can be employed by cities and local government to support the many millions that are currently engaged. They will also discuss the role of cities in climate change and what can be done.

### Panelists

Xiye Bastida (age 16), Friday for Future, Mexico (Otomo Indigenous Nation), Xiye is an young  
Leah Namugerwa, (age 14), Friday for Future, Uganda  
Sofie Nordvik, Norwegian youth delegate to UN General Assembly

The panel is sponsored by UNEP World Situation Room and UN-Habitat Youth Unit.