

Regional Conference:
Advancing Urban Transitions in Africa
in connection to the
WUF12 Congress 2024

Location: JW Marriott Hotel Cairo Ring Road- Mirage City, New Cairo, Cairo, Egypt, 11757

Date: November 7, 2024

Registration: <https://utmc.app/event-220> (hybrid format)

Agenda

Time and content	Session	Topics- Speakers
09.00-09.30	Get together	
09.30 – 10.00 Session I ➤ Presentation of the Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) Initiative and Interventions in Africa ➤ UTMCentre services and community portal	Welcome and Introduction	Elli Tzatzanis-Stepanovic , FFG, UTMCentre coordinator Karel Van Oordt , Eurocities, UTMCentre partner Kanak Gokarn , ICLEI, UTMCentre partner Nicola Iezza , GCOM, UTMCentre partner
10.00-11.15 Session II- Voices from cities Moderation: ICLEI/FFG This session will explore the experiences of four UTM cities, focusing on their progress, exercises, and challenges in urban transition.	City case studies of urban transitions in Africa	➤ Accra in Ghana TBC ➤ Casablanca in Morocco TBC ➤ Quelimane in Mozambique TBC ➤ Walvis Bay in Namibia TBC ➤ Makindye Ssabagabo in Uganda TBC
11.15-11.45	Coffee break	
11.45-13.15 Session III – International collaboration: Exploring Strategic Urban Development Initiatives Moderation: EuroCities/ENoLL This session will explore the implementation of strategic urban development initiatives, with specific case studies. It will highlight how urban projects contribute to the long-term vision of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities across Africa.	Initiatives and Contributions to sustainable African cities: UfM case studies from North Africa (Imbada Project Egypt, Bouregreg Valley Development Project Morocco, Tunis Central Station Project Tunisia, Alexandria Urban Mobility Project Egypt)- UfM representative & case studies representatives TBC	➤ Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 ➤ Rise Africa- ICLEI representative ➤ Kanak Gokarn, ICLEI , Presentation of the SESA - Smart Energy Solutions for Africa (sesa-euafrica.eu) & 100% Renewables Cities and Regions Roadmap ➤ Martina Desole, European Network of Living Labs , Global Living Labs Networks: Empowering Cities to Bridge the Urban-Rural Divide- ➤ Gianni Nardone , LGI, LEAP-RE Longterm EU-AU Partnership in Renewable Energies
13.15- 14.15	Lunch break	
14.15- 16.00 Session IV- System innovation: Finance and Funding Dialogue Moderation: FFG/GCoM This session will explore alternative funding schemes addressing cities, and systems innovation to drive long-term planning, financing and system change. It is targeting policymakers, funding agencies and financiers.	Best practice examples and Case studies	➤ European Investment Bank (EIB) Urban Development and Climate Resilience Initiatives TBC ➤ Urban and Municipal Development Fund (UMDF) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) TBC ➤ Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) ➤ Olle Dierks (TBC), Head of large-scale investments, Chairman of Team Sweden Smart Cities, Viable Cities ➤ Representatives from African funding agencies
16.00-17.00	Wrap-up and Networking	Elli Tzatzanis-Stepanovic , FFG, UTM coordinator

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Concept note

The second Regional Conference of the Urban Transitions Mission Centre (UTMCentre) targeting African cities, will be held alongside the twelfth World Urban Forum Congress (WUF12).

The UTMCentre is supporting the Urban Transitions Mission with a global knowledge exchange platform, empowering cities worldwide to shape their own transition with a robust knowledge base and strong net-zero community of support and interchange. <https://urbantransitionsmiission.org/centre/>

The Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) was launched at the COP26 with the aim to increase the capacity of cities worldwide. It's goal is to broker solutions, approaches, and knowledge for net-zero transitions at each stage of a city climate action journey. <https://urbantransitionsmiission.org>

WUF12 was established to address one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, policies, and the climate. This event gathers representatives from national, regional, and local governments, city representatives, academics, business leaders, community leaders, urban planners, and civil society. <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/wuf12>

WUF12 represents a significant opportunity for the UTMCentre to leverage the high number of participants to disseminate its project results and promote its activities. The primary focus is on reaching out to and encouraging greater involvement from African cities in the UTM city cohort.

Objectives

- Advocate for Sustainable Urban Transitions: Promote a global movement of local actions towards net-zero, people-centred, and resilient urban transitions by showcasing successful initiatives and strategies from African regions.
- Explore Funding and Financing Opportunities for Urban Transition Mission (UTM) Cities and focus on engaging funding agencies and financiers by addressing key questions such as:

In support of:



Connected with:

NET ZERO CITIES

- How can existing funding programs be adapted to support cities?
- What is needed to create dedicated or earmarked sustainable funding for urban actors?
- What does effective blended funding look like, combining public and private sources for city-level projects?
- How can innovative and alternative funding schemes, such as system innovation, support long-term urban planning and financing?
- Showcase Best Practices and Case Studies presenting examples of successful funding models and strategies, including:
 - Green and sustainable finance for urban infrastructure, mobility, and basic services like water supply, sanitation, and waste management.
 - Participatory budgeting practices.
- Facilitate Knowledge Exchange: Share experiences and targeted solutions among African cities and with cities worldwide, fostering an environment of mutual learning and collaboration to tackle urban challenges effectively.
- Introduce Support Services: Present the support services provided by UTMCentre to support cities implement sustainable urban solutions, enhancing their capacity to manage urbanization and its impacts.
- Expand the UTMCentre Platform: Open the global platform (<https://utmc.app>) urban actors in Africa, providing access to a Knowledge Repository of resources and tools, and a network of initiatives and stakeholders supporting urban transitions.
- Encourage Participation in the UTM Community: Invite other cities from Africa and beyond to join the UTM and its global urban transitions community, thereby expanding the network of cities committed to achieving sustainable and resilient urban futures.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness and understanding of the Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) and the UTMCentre and existing funding programs
- Higher interest of cities in participating in the UTM city cohort
- Higher interest of funding agencies in participating in the Driving Urban Transitions partnership
- Strengthened partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders.
- Exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices, including the living lab methodology.
- New ideas for multilevel collaborations across stakeholders, including funding agencies, private and public investors, cities, etc.
- Enlarged and empowered networks and partnerships

Target Stakeholders

- Representatives and mayors from African cities
- Policy makers and government officials involved in urban planning
- Representatives from international organizations, initiatives, partnerships and NGOs involved in sustainability and urban development.
- Academia and researchers
- Private sector
- Community leaders and organizations advocating for urban sustainability and innovation