

Towards Climate Responsive Urban Planning

World Urban Forum 12, Cairo

Session Note

Date: November 7, 2024 (Thursday)

Venue: Hall 4, Room A

Time: 13:30 – 14:30

Organizing Partners: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); GIZ India; Egyptian Syndicate of Engineers

Context

Urban areas serve as hubs for economic, social, and cultural activity, yet they also face intensifying environmental challenges. Cities generate over 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions and account for 75% of primary energy consumption. This makes urban centres particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, often experiencing severe consequences from disasters like floods, droughts, cyclones, and wildfires, leading to significant economic losses. Furthermore, urban residents—especially marginalized and low-income populations—face heightened vulnerability, exacerbating inequality and social disparities.

Current urban planning and development models often fall short in addressing the complexities of creating sustainable and resilient cities. These challenges necessitate a transformative approach to urban planning—one that integrates holistic and forward-thinking perspectives to effectively design, manage, and plan urban environments and infrastructure. Integrated urban planning plays a crucial role in mitigating climate risks, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and building cities' adaptive capacities to withstand climate change. Against this backdrop, this session aims to equip urban planners, policymakers, and practitioners with actionable guidance for implementing sustainable, climate-resilient solutions across diverse urban contexts.

Aligned with these goals, the event will showcase selected best practices, foster knowledge exchange among cities in the Global South, and explore strategies to enhance technical capacity for long-term, climate-resilient urban planning. It will introduce frameworks and best practices that enable cities to integrate climate priorities into their planning mechanisms effectively—covering aspects such as nature-based solutions, sustainable land use, decentralization, participatory planning, and governance reforms.

The session will conclude with the launch of a white paper to serve as a guiding resource for cities, advancing climate-integrated urban planning.

Key Objectives of the Session

- Examine key barriers cities face in integrating climate resilience into urban planning, such as resource, technical, and governance constraints.
- Discuss practical methods for embedding climate resilience into local urban plans, with a focus on alignment with broader climate goals in Global South cities.

- Highlight successful examples of climate integration in sectors like energy, water, and housing to provide adaptable insights for cities.
- Emphasize the role of partnerships and knowledge exchange in building technical capacity for climate-resilient urban planning.
- Launch the white paper as a practical guide to support climate-sensitive urban governance and accelerate resilient development.

Panelists for the Session

Moderator: Mr. Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI

- Mr. Surapong Khamtanit, Chief Urban Planner, Khon Kaen Office of Public Works and Town and Country Planning, Thailand
- Ms. Fiferi Murni, Implementation Manager, GIZ Indonesia
- Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Ebrahim Elaalem, Environmental Consultant, Architectural Engineering, Egyptian Syndicate of Engineers Dakahlia Branch
- Mr. Mohamed Elsaed Elkholy, New Projects Manager, Egyptian Syndicate of Engineers Dakahlia Branch