



Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY**

2024  
YOUTH DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

International Youth Day in Nairobi

12 August 2024

# Road to A Sustainable Urban Future in A Digitalized World

Thematic Session III

Concept note



Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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## **FUTURE FORWARD**

Youth Leading the Change on Digitalization for Sustainable Development



Aug 12, 2024 | 10:00-17:30 (EAT) | Nairobi, Kenya, and online | #YouthDay #DigitalSolutions #YouthLed

## Background

On 12 August 2024, the world will celebrate International Youth Day (IYD), a day dedicated to recognizing youth and addressing the opportunities and challenges they face in today's world. This year's theme, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development," highlights the key connection between digitalization and accelerating SDG progress, emphasizing the pivotal role of young people in this transformative process. The theme centers on digital engagement, strategically aligned to build momentum toward the Summit of the Future, where the Sustainable Development Agenda will be revisited, and the social contract between generations renegotiated.

As part of the broader "Future Forward" event, UN-Habitat will lead a session titled "Road to A Sustainable Urban Future." This session is dedicated to preparations for the Children & Youth Assembly at World Urban Forum 12, with its outcomes contributing to the DeclarACTION of Urban Youth.

Key topics for the session include digitalization in tackling urban climate and biodiversity crises, public spaces as a means to promote urban health, innovative approaches in designing public spaces and enhancing participation of youth in matters related to urban governance.

## Objectives

The event's objectives include promoting youth participation in the global development agenda, providing recommendations for post-SOTF development processes to include young people meaningfully, fostering partnerships between youth and various stakeholders, and learning from best practices in youth engagement in climate change and sustainable urbanization.

The session will document and showcase the transformative approach of the UN working jointly with young people to amplify their voices on housing, climate change, digital technologies, and sustainable urbanization.

## Format

The session will be held in a hybrid format, allowing speakers and attendees from all over the world to join the discussion. The session begins with the objective-setting: What is **Global DeclarACTION of Youth on Sustainable Urbanization** which is to be adopted at the upcoming World Urban Forum and why is it important for both urban and rural youth? What are the main

The programme is made up of several segments: opening, speaker's space, discussion session, and the speakers and the audience both are asked to each produce the answers on the following questions (up to the moderator:

1. **Youth-led Digitalization and Housing:** How can digitalization improve access to affordable housing for young people? What digital tools or platforms currently exist that could be leveraged? How can we ensure these tools are accessible and user-friendly for all youth, including those in marginalized communities? What role can youth play in the digital transformation of the housing

- sector? What innovative ideas do young people bring to the table? How can young leaders collaborate with policymakers and tech developers to influence digitalization in housing?
2. **Youth-led Digitalization and Urban Health:** How can youth-led digital initiatives improve urban health outcomes? What are some successful examples of digital health solutions led by youth? How can digital tools help in addressing specific urban health challenges such as pollution, mental health, and access to healthcare services? What strategies can young leaders use to ensure equitable access to digital health resources in urban areas? How can we bridge the digital divide to ensure all urban residents benefit from health technologies? What partnerships and collaborations are necessary to enhance the reach and impact of youth-led digital health initiatives?
  3. **Youth-led Digitalization and Public Space:** How can digital technologies be utilized to enhance the accessibility and functionality of public spaces for youth? What are some innovative digital tools that can improve public space usage and engagement? How can digital platforms foster a sense of community and inclusivity in public spaces? What role can youth play in shaping the digital transformation of public spaces? How can young leaders collaborate with urban planners and local governments to integrate digital solutions into public space development? What are the potential challenges and opportunities in promoting youth-led digital initiatives in public spaces?
  4. **Youth-led Digitalization and Civic Engagement:** How can digital platforms empower youth to participate more actively in civic engagement and decision-making processes? What digital tools or social media strategies have been effective in mobilizing youth for civic actions? How can these platforms ensure diverse and inclusive participation from all segments of youth populations? What challenges and opportunities do young leaders face in leveraging digitalization for enhancing civic engagement? What are the main barriers to digital civic engagement among youth, and how can they be overcome? What role can partnerships with educational institutions, governments, and tech companies play in supporting youth-led digital civic initiatives?

Once the discussion rounds are closed, the moderator will ask the facilitators to report back to the audience on the outcomes of the discussion.

For engaging with the global audience joining online, Mentimeter and Padlet Board will be used.

The draft of Global DeclarACTION will be posted online for the comments.

## Outcome

The outcome document is a report on the session that will be shared publicly with the participants and the online audience on [unhabitatyouth.org](https://unhabitatyouth.org).

## Programme

time	activity	speaker	comments
<b>Opening (20 min)</b>			
15.00-15.20	Opening remarks	Moderator: Safrina Waceke, Youth Advocate, Mto Wangu // Doug Ragan, Lead Specialist, Children & Youth	
<b>Speakers' space (30 min max)</b>			
15.20-15.25	Opening the discussion on the Question 1	<b>Jonathan Oriki</b> , UN-Habitat Youth Advisor	Jonathan, raised in Kibera, one of Kenya's most extensive informal settlements, faced daily struggles to meet basic needs, access education, and healthcare. Nevertheless, he persevered, completing high school and pursuing university education. His formative years in Kibera deeply rooted his commitment to social justice and sustainable development. He directly witnessed the impact of urban poverty and inequality, igniting his passion for instigating change. Post-university, Jonathan joined the National Youth Caucus of Kenya (NYCK), a youth-led organization dedicated to advocating for young people's rights. As the Country Coordinator, he mobilizes youth to take proactive measures on critical issues. Additionally, he serves as the Resource Mobilization Secretariat for Emerging Brand Africa, a media company focusing on compelling narratives about emerging and startup organizations and communities in Africa.

15.25-15.30	Opening the discussion on the Question 2	<b>Safrina Waceke, Youth Advocate, Mto Wangu</b>	Safrina Irungu is a youth advocate from Y-ACT and a community organizer based in Nairobi County. As a member of the Mathare Roots Initiative, she serves as a resource mobilizer with a strong emphasis on environmental importance. Her environmental advocacy includes active participation in developing the Mathare Community Park. Safrina's dedication extends to empowering youth through community engagement and social impact activities such as cleanups, sports events, and menstrual hygiene advocacy. She inspires the younger generation to recognize their potential and actively participate in environmental protection. As an advocate for change and social progress, she encourages others to join the movement for a brighter and more inclusive future. Safrina passionately believes that by working together, a sustainable environment can be created for the benefit of both current and future generations.
15.30-15.35	Opening the discussion on the Question 3	<b>Nikolas Lanjow, Digital Engagement Specialist, UN-Habitat</b>	Nikolas Lanjow is a digital engagement specialist working on harnessing the power of games and play to empower the voices of youth in cities around the world. His work on the Young Game Changers program enables youth around the world to use their creativity to engage directly with local municipalities and ensure they are heard. He hopes that in the future games will be seen as valuable tools for civic engagement and not just entertainment.
15.35-15.40	Providing a practical example from Young Gamechangers Initiative, joining online	<b>Deepshikha Ray, Young Gamechanger from Jatni, India (online)</b>  Participation in Young Gamechangers	

		Initiative, Public Space as a means to promote Urban Health, example from Jatni	
15.40-15.45	Opening the discussion on the Question 4	<p><b>Speaker UNFPA Youth Advisory Group - Lydia Achieng</b></p> <p>Urban Health in Informal settlements and in Kenya, GBV, reproductive health, water sanitation and menstrual health</p>	<p>Lydia Achieng is a dynamic Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) advocate, currently serving as the Chairperson of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth Advisory Panel. Her commitment to empowering communities is exemplified by her role in coordinating adolescent and young women activities on SRHR and life skills training at Polycom Kenya, a non-governmental organization operating in the informal settlements in Kenya. With a primary focus on Gender Equality, SRHR and the intersectionality of both in relating to a holistic approach to human rights, Lydia's impactful mentorship has touched the lives of over 5000 adolescents in Nairobi, while also providing sanitary products to more than 7000 girls and women in the community.</p>
<p><b>Interactive part (35 min)</b></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session in-person and online (Padlet Board)</b></p>			
<p><b>Capturing the results (10 min)</b></p>			
16.20-16.30	Closing remarks on the outcome of the discussion	Moderator	