

60 YEARS



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ALLY FOR A JUST WORLD

Urban Communities in the Face of the Climate Crisis

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 | IDOS premises | 9 am - 5 pm

Speaker Booklet



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Moderation

Dr. Nicholas Goedeking

Senior Researcher

German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Nicholas Goedeking is Senior Researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) and Visiting Fellow at the University of Sussex Business School. His work examines the political economy of climate policy and the energy transition. He is particularly interested in subnational climate governance, climate action in cities, and the politics of low-carbon infrastructure systems.

Before his doctorate, he worked on energy efficiency policy in Berlin and Brussels, including for the European Commission. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from the University of California, Berkeley.



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Welcome note

Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge

Director

German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge is Director of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS, former Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)) and Professor for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn.

In her research, Ms. Hornidge works on knowledges & innovation development for development, as well as questions of natural resources governance in agriculture and fisheries in Asia and Africa. Ms. Hornidge serves as expert advisor at national, EU and UN level: as Member of the German Advisory Council on Global Change of the German Government (WBGU), Co-Chair (with Gesine Schwan) of SDSN Germany, and as part of the executive council of the German UNESCO-Commission.



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Panel I - Setting the floor Global urbanisation trends and climate vulnerability

Kai Klause

Advocacy Officer for Urban Transformation
Misereor e.V.

As Advocacy Officer for Urban Transformation, Kai Klause accompanies international projects with partner organisations in the Global South that strive for systemic change towards ecological and social justice in cities. He represents Misereor in international, habitat-related policy processes and advocates for human rights and community-based urban development pathways.

Kai publishes on transformative urban climate action, mobility systems, loss and damage, and the right to the city. He has academic qualifications in political ecology, international development and international cooperation.



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Panel I - Setting the floor Global urbanisation trends and climate vulnerability

David Jacome-Polit

Acting Head Resilient Development
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Acting Head Resilient Development at ICLEI - Formerly Chief Resilience Officer and Metropolitan Director of Resilience in Quito, David Jacome-Polit works at the intersection of socioeconomic and spatial exclusion and the effects of extreme natural events, including the ones related to climate change.

He aims to ensure access to essentials such as water, food, energy, transportation and labor opportunities. Preparedness and the betterment of living conditions is a must.



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Panel I - Setting the floor Global urbanisation trends and climate vulnerability

Anumita Roychowdhury

Executive Director
Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

Anumita Roychowdhury is Executive Director of Research and Advocacy at the Center for Science Environment (CSE), a New Delhi based think tank. From the perspective of environmental science, CSE develops cross-sectoral proposals on how India can develop in an ecologically sustainable and socially just way and adapt to the climate crisis.

Anumita Roychowdhury is in charge of research and advocacy on sustainable urbanisation that encompasses clean air, sustainable infrastructure development and socially and environmentally sustainable mobility systems. She played a leading role in the implementation of a clean air law in India.



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Panel I - Setting the floor Global urbanisation trends and climate vulnerability

Dr. Saravanan Subramanian

Senior Researcher
German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Dr. Saravanan is a Senior Researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS). He specializes on institutions, processes, and mechanisms through which societies, governments, organizations, and individuals shape water management and its relation to food security and health. In recent years, he examines multi-risk and institutional resilience in cities.

He has led projects for over a decade in different countries in Asia and Africa, focusing on irrigation management, health systems research, urban water and sanitation, and public health issues. He has qualifications in Geographical Sciences and Planning from universities in India, the UK, and Australia.



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Keynote From the Ground Climate Impacts on Urban Communities

Maria Silvia Emanuelli

Coordinator

Habitat International Coalition-Latin America Office (México)

Maria Silvia Emanuelli coordinates more than 100 organizations and social movements of HIC in Latin America, promoting the respect, protection and realization of human rights related to habitat (housing, land, water, healthy environment), making visible community led actions, and calling for human rights-based climate policy at the local, national, regional and international levels.

She has participated in more than 30 publications and articles on human rights in the field of civil society and academia and has been part of advisory bodies for authorities and international organizations. With a law degree and master in Latin American studies, she has a 20-year trajectory on the field.



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Panel II - Leave No One Behind Strengthening resilience with urban communities

Anika Schroeder

Advocacy Officer for Climate Policy
Misereor e.V.

Anika Schroeder is an environmental scientist and coordinates Misereor's work in the area of Climate Policy. She is committed to human rights-based approaches and climate justice and follows the international climate negotiations since 2007.

She is also involved in developing strategies for Misereor's climate-related project work and is in close contact with partner organisations worldwide on the consequences of the climate crisis and just solutions.



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Panel II - Leave No One Behind Strengthening resilience with urban communities

Samuel Olando

Executive Director
Pamoja Trust

Samuel Olando is the Executive Director of Pamoja Trust. Sam is a seasoned human rights advocate and has contributed to development of Right to Land and Housing Policies, resource rights and alternative justice system. Sam also has foot prints in the development on various legislations on land and urbanization, community participation affecting the urban space and the nexus between urban communities and rural communities and on land related legislations and human rights.

He has also engaged with regional and international reporting mechanisms championing advocating for an end to forced evictions. Olando is a trained Urban Sociologist and a lawyer having earned a Masters Degree from Maseno University and law degree from the University of Nairobi.



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Panel II - Leave No One Behind Strengthening resilience with urban communities

Dr. Susan S. Ekoh

Researcher

German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Susan S. Ekoh is a researcher with the German Institute of Development and Sustainability. Her expertise is on climate (im)mobility in the urban context, especially in West Africa. More broadly, she researches and provides policy advice on climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

Jointly with her team at IDOS, Susan is currently working on the topic of social cohesion in displacement contexts.



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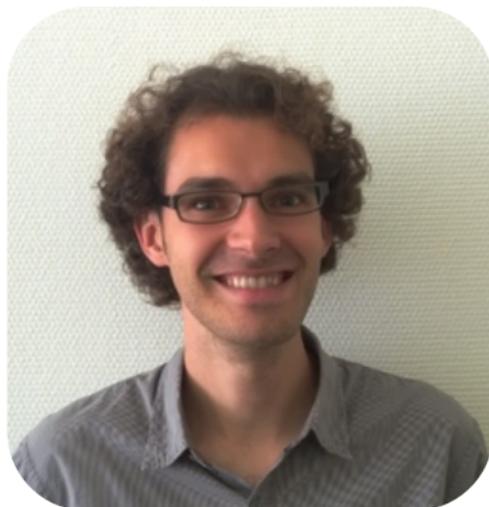
Panel II - Leave No One Behind Strengthening resilience with urban communities

Ruben Werchan

Speaker on Resilience of Urban Communities
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ruben Werchan has been involved in German development cooperation for over ten years, in particular for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation.

With BMZ since 2016, he currently serves as Senior Policy Officer for Sustainable Urban Development and was a key contributor to the BMZ Position Paper on Sustainable Urban Development, published in July last year. Ruben holds academic qualifications in Politics and Economics, with a research focus on Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



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Panel III - Loss and damage in cities Enhancing global finance and governance frameworks

Dr. Mariya Aleksandrova

Project Lead & Senior Researcher
German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Mariya Aleksandrova is a Senior Researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS). She is currently leading the project “Climate-resilient and nature-compatible sustainable development through socially just transformation” (Klimalog III) funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Her areas of expertise include global climate governance, adaptation and loss and damage finance, and social protection and climate change. Her current research focuses on fund-based mechanisms for addressing compound and slow onset climate risks and impacts.



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Panel III - Loss and damage in cities Enhancing global finance and governance frameworks

Dr. Simone Sandholz

Head of Urban Futures & Sustainability Transformation Division
UN University – Institute for Environment and Human Security

Simone Sandholz leads urban research and policy at the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). Her focus is on urban and regional development and systemic transformation towards sustainability. Among others she manages an initiative on Transformative Urban Coalitions under the International Climate Initiative, linking social justice to climate action and risk reduction.

She particularly looks at vulnerable urban groups and how their livelihoods can be improved and made safer through policy and action. This also includes recommendations for global policy-making and implementation of global frameworks such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.



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Panel III - Loss and damage in cities Enhancing global finance and governance frameworks

Laura Schäfer

Senior Advisor for Climate Risk Management
Germanwatch e.V.

Laura Schäfer is a political scientist and a senior advisor for climate risk management with the environmental and development organization Germanwatch. Laura has over 10 years of experience in advocacy, policy development and research on the nexus of resilience building to deal with climate change impacts, climate finance and climate justice. Her current policy and think tank work concentrates on developing adequate solutions to address loss and damage in the international climate policy process that respond to the needs of those on the frontline of the climate crisis, following a human rights-based approach.

Laura is also a co-author of the Global Climate Risk Index and the coordinator of the Working Group on Adaptation and Loss and Damage of the Climate Action Network.



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Panel III - Loss and damage in cities Enhancing global finance and governance frameworks

Dr. Animesh Kumar

Head of Office
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

As the Head of the UNDRR Office in Bonn, Animesh Kumar manages the global portfolios on climate action and comprehensive risk management, data, and monitoring of the Sendai Framework, SDGs and Early Warnings for All. Before joining this position, Animesh served as the Deputy Head of the UNDRR Regional Offices in Africa and in Asia-Pacific. In these capacities, he led regional policy and coordination on DRR, including intergovernmental, UN and stakeholder mechanisms on building resilience.

In his previous positions, Animesh worked in other UN entities in Africa and Asia, working on disaster risk reduction, adaptation and food security. Animesh is a Geographer and holds an MPhil and PhD in adaptation and sustainability.



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Panel III - Loss and damage in cities Enhancing global finance and governance frameworks

Rahel Hermann

Project Manager
C4o Cities Finance Facility

Rahel Hermann is an urban and municipal development expert with 20 years' experience in Local authorities strengthening and development in low- and middle-income countries. Her expertise covers urban environment improvement programs such as climate change adaptation, access to basic services and urban regeneration through participatory and capacity development processes as well as decentralization, urban governance and citizen centered approaches.

In her current position as Project manager for the C4oCFF, she coordinates the support provided to selected South African cities to develop finance ready climate adaptation projects.



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World Café Keynote
Transformative urban climate action

Gesa Schoeneberg

Head of Climate & Environment Unit
Allianz Foundation

Gesa Schöneberg heads the Climate and Environment unit at the Allianz Foundation in Berlin where, among other things, she facilitates the design and implementation of projects, initiatives, and campaigns which drive transformative change and climate equity in cities.

Prior to that, Gesa has worked for more than 15 years in the field of urbanization and global change, including for the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) and the United Nations University. She has worked together with a wide variety of actors, including national and local governments, civil society organisations, academia and the private sector.

Gesa is an architect and lawyer by training



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World Café Keynote
Transformative urban climate action

Dennis Schuepf

Researcher
German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Dennis Schüpf is a PhD researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) and the University of Bonn. His research is embedded in the Klimalog Project under the Environmental Governance department. From a political ecology lens, he investigates shrinking coastal sand resources and the social implications for coastal communities in the context of (mal)adaptation.

Further, he is a freelance documentary photographer aiming at combining research on environmental justice with visual storytelling.



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Video Keynote: Outlook on SB59 and COP29

Joseph Schechla

Coordinator

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)

Joseph Schechla is the founder of the Housing and Land Rights Network, which works for the recognition, promotion and realization of human rights standards related to habitat: housing, water and livelihoods. As a United Nations official, he has served as a representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Palestine and Tunisia, and as an advisor to the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

Born in the United States, Joseph specialises in the Middle East/North Africa region, where he has lived for 25 years. He has an academic background in international relations and has lectured in the USA, Germany and Egypt.



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Closing Remarks

Kathrin Schroeder

Head of the Policy Department
Misereor e.V.

Kathrin Schroeder heads a team of development policy experts at Misereor specialising in socio-ecological transformation and development cooperation. She deals with topics such as citizen participation in sustainability policy, climate justice, food sovereignty, and corporate accountability.

Her previous work focussed on energy policy, ecology and international justice. A geography graduate, she has been campaigning for sustainable development from a global justice perspective for almost 15 years.

