

Cities Leading the Way: A Just Transition for a Sustainable Future

Dakar, Senegal - 14 October 2024



Join us on World Metropolitan Day 2024, hosted by the City of Dakar in collaboration with Metropolis and UN-Habitat, to explore the critical role cities and younger generations play in achieving a just transition that leaves no one behind.

Halfway to 2030, achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals remains an uphill challenge. While large cities are significant emitters, they also stand at the forefront of climate change's impact. **These metropolises are champions of green initiatives, but a successful transition to a low-carbon future requires recognising the inequalities that pre-exist and which, without due attention, could be amplified in the process.**

City and metropolitan governments hold the key to steering metropolises towards a future where economic prosperity, environmental responsibility and social well-being are mutually reinforcing. This is especially urgent in the Global South, where many communities face the brunt of climate change, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns. Moreover, the impacts of the climate crisis are not evenly distributed: more often than not, those already in vulnerable situations in urban settings suffer the most. Those living in poverty and informal settlements, along with young people, women, migrants and historically marginalised groups are most at risk in a context where extreme weather events become more frequent. They also stand to benefit the most from emerging economic opportunities in transitioning to a more sustainable model. Urgent action is therefore needed to safeguard social cohesion and mitigate vulnerabilities.

The transition to a green economy holds immense potential. Investments in waste management, air quality, renewable energy, conservation, sustainable agriculture and adaptation measures can foster economic development while reducing emissions and protecting ecosystems. This will pave the way for a more resilient future, fostering hope and stability for younger generations. However, these new opportunities need to be fairly distributed, and open to all, particularly young people and women, who often encounter more difficulties in the job market.



Africa is home to the world's youngest population, but unemployment and a lack of opportunities threaten their future. Empowering young people through skills development and training in green technologies and sustainable practices is crucial. This approach not only tackles the climate crisis but also cultivates a diverse, skilled workforce and distributes economic opportunity more fairly.

Genuine engagement with diverse stakeholders is essential and so is taking into account the distinct challenges and opportunities for women. Bridging the socioeconomic gap and uplifting those most affected by climate change requires it. Engaging young people and the most affected communities in climate action is not a choice, but a necessity. By fostering youth leadership and amplifying their voices, we can harness their collective power to drive transformative change.

World Metropolitan Day 2024 in Dakar promises to be a landmark event, driving collective action towards a just transition and a brighter, more sustainable future for our cities and planet.

Objectives

- Foster dialogue and collaboration between global, regional, and local leaders to accelerate progress towards a just transition within metropolises.
- Showcase best practices and success stories in implementing just transition initiatives in cities.
- Identify key challenges and opportunities for African metropolises in leading the just transition.
- Empower young people as vital stakeholders in shaping the future of sustainable cities.

Agenda

14 October | World Metropolitan Day

10:00 - 10:15

Opening ceremony

- Welcome remarks by the Mayor of Dakar and representatives of Metropolis and UN-Habitat



- Keynote Address: High-level speaker on the urgency and opportunities for a just transition in metropolises

10:15 - 11:15

Panel discussion: Leading the Just Transition - A Global Perspective

This session will delve into building inclusive green economies. Mayors will discuss their strategies for creating green jobs, fostering local economic development and ensuring equitable access to opportunities. Moreover, they will also discuss solutions for mobilising resources for sustainable urban development projects.

Followed by an open Q&A with the audience, moderated by Metropolis.

Guiding questions

- What opportunities and challenges is your city navigating in building an inclusive green economy? Share specific examples of initiatives driving green jobs and local economic development in your city.
- How is your city mobilising resources for the just transition? What challenges have you faced and how can we foster global collaboration on finance?
- From your experience, what key learnings can we share to accelerate progress towards a global network of inclusive green economies?

11:30 - 12:30

Panel discussion: Youth at the centre of a just transition

This dynamic session brings together young leaders from Dakar to share their innovative ideas for creating a sustainable and inclusive future. They'll dive deep into groundbreaking approaches for fostering green jobs and businesses, strategies for empowering young people to become active participants in the green economy and insights into successful advocacy strategies for youth inclusion in decision-making, with a particular focus on women.



Global mayors and young leaders from Dakar will discuss their perspectives in a moderated discussion led by UN-Habitat.

Guiding questions

- How can we create innovative green jobs and green businesses specifically for young people in Dakar and across Africa?
- What strategies can ensure equitable access to the green economy for young people from vulnerable communities?
- How can young leaders collaborate effectively with stakeholders to advance the Just Transition agenda?
- How can we build on success stories to inspire action on just transition initiatives?

12:30 - 14:00

Networking lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Financing the Just Transition: 2nd Investment Forum for Sustainable Metropolises (Part 1)

The Investment Forum for Sustainable Metropolises, organised by Metropolis and FMDV with the support of UCLG, brings together political leaders from major cities and metropolitan areas, connecting them with development finance institutions, public and private investors and service providers.

In this new edition, selected African cities will participate in a matchmaking session, presenting their projects focused on Just Transition to a curated group of financial institutions and investors specifically invited for the occasion.

15:30 - 16:00

Closing ceremony

Language: English and French (with simultaneous interpretation).



15 October (time TBD) | Official Launch of the Metropolitan Governance of Energy Transition (MGET Project)

The launch of MGET, a project funded by the European Union, will take place in the presence of representatives from the European Union Delegation in Senegal. This initiative will focus on addressing the urban governance challenges associated with the energy transition in Dakar, taking a metropolitan perspective.

Building upon Dakar's development of its "Territorial Climate and Energy Plan", the MGET project will aim to further enhance the city's capacity and knowledge in governing the energy transition across the metropolitan area. Additionally, it will seek to foster dialogue among various stakeholders, with particular emphasis on engaging youth groups from civil society and the private sector. The project will produce solutions, lessons, and best practices that can be useful to other metropolises in West Africa and beyond.

10:00 - 11:30 **Financing the Just Transition: 2nd Investment Forum for Sustainable Metropolises (Part 2)**

The Investment Forum for Sustainable Metropolises, organised by Metropolis and FMDV with the support of UCLG, brings together political leaders from major cities and metropolitan areas, connecting them with development finance institutions, public and private investors and service providers.

In this new edition, selected African cities will participate in a matchmaking session, presenting their projects focused on Just Transition to a curated group of financial institutions and investors specifically invited for the occasion.