



human settlements

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## MEC MASHILO PARTAKES AT GLOBAL DIALOGUE - WUF12

The expansion of informal settlements remains a significant global challenge, demanding a coordinated, multilateral response. This issue took centre stage as representatives from UN-Habitat member states gathered for the 12<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, Egypt, from November 4-8, 2024. Led by Minister for Human Settlements, Ms. Mmamoloko Kubayi, the South African delegation included Members of Executive Councils (MECs), Mayors, Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) for Human Settlements, and senior government officials, all dedicated to advancing sustainable urban development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The forum focused on multilevel governance arrangements, partnerships for adequate housing, climate action, finance systems, digital technology, and responses to urban crises. Emphasizing the theme *“The Vital Role of Local Action in Accelerating Urban Sustainability,”* the event underscored how collaborative governance at all levels is essential to achieving sustainable development in urban areas.

Reflecting on the platform’s value, Mpumalanga MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs, Mr. Speed Mashilo, stated, “WUF12 has given us a valuable opportunity to share experiences, successes, and challenges with other countries, fostering partnerships that are essential for progress.” Mashilo highlighted that the summit aimed to elevate coordination, collaboration, and partnerships, accelerating SDG implementation across all regions.

A key component of the summit involved discussions on the Global Action Plan, focusing on transforming slum areas through prioritised local actions and multi-stakeholder partnerships. “Our networking session facilitated dialogue among India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) and development partners to address informal settlement challenges and establish a shared vision for sustainable urban transformation,” Mashilo added.

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach explained that the WUF12 summit, convened biennially by UN-Habitat, provides a crucial high-level platform for nations to address the world’s most pressing urban issues, including rapid urbanisation, climate change, and policy responses. Through this year’s discussions, member states sought to drive impactful, localised action, recognising the critical role local governance plays in creating sustainable, resilient urban communities.

South Africa’s participation in WUF12 exemplifies its commitment to advancing urban sustainability, particularly in addressing the unique challenges posed by informal settlements. The partnerships and insights gained through this global forum will further support South Africa’s pursuit of equitable, sustainable human settlements for all.

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