



Key takeaways from WUF

Creating Inclusive and Equitable Public Spaces



INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE PUBLIC SPACES SHOULD



Ensure safety and accessibility for women and girls



Embrace priorities of the younger generation



Focus on fully inclusive, disability-friendly solutions



Integrate diverse user perspectives



Emphasize cocreation with the community

ENSURING SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Public spaces and cities are not neutral spaces. Sebnem Hoskara from the Urban Research and Development Center (URDC) at Eastern Mediterranean University shared compelling data revealing how public spaces often pose greater risks for females, making them inherently inequitable.

To foster truly inclusive cities, urban design and public policies must prioritize equity, and support enrichment and fulfillment for all.



EMBRACING PRIORITIES OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Kelly Donovan from GIB highlighted the importance of engaging young people in designing public spaces within their communities and cities.

She shared insights from the Safe and Sound Cities Programme, showcasing how young people are utilizing placemaking approaches to create spaces that not only invite broader community participation but also resonate with and engage youth effectively.

EMBRACING PRIORITIES OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION

We must create opportunities where young people can create innovative urban solutions, engage with communities and work with governments in decision-making to create safer, inclusive and more dynamic urban

environments—an approach exemplified by the Safe and Sound Cities Programme.

S²Cities Global Programme Manager from Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation

FOCUSING ON FULLY INCLUSIVE, DISABILITY-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS

Nina Efedi from the World Blind Union shared her perspective as a blind woman. She emphasized the need to move beyond physical accessibility in urban design and policies, focusing instead on fostering genuine social inclusion.

This shift is essential to empower people with disabilities, enabling self-reliance, economic productivity, and a society free from discrimination.



INTEGRATING DIVERSE USER PERSPECTIVES

Luisa Bravo, from City Space Architecture, moderated the panel discussion and emphasised the importance of integrating diverse user perspectives to ensure inclusivity.

She highlighted the significance of uniting diverse stakeholders to foster collaboration in developing global policy strategies and frameworks that advance inclusivity and equity in public spaces.



INTEGRATING DIVERSE USER PERSPECTIVES



To ensure that "no one is left behind," we must recognize that inclusive public spaces are not solely a matter of thoughtful urban design but also require robust policy and implementation frameworks.

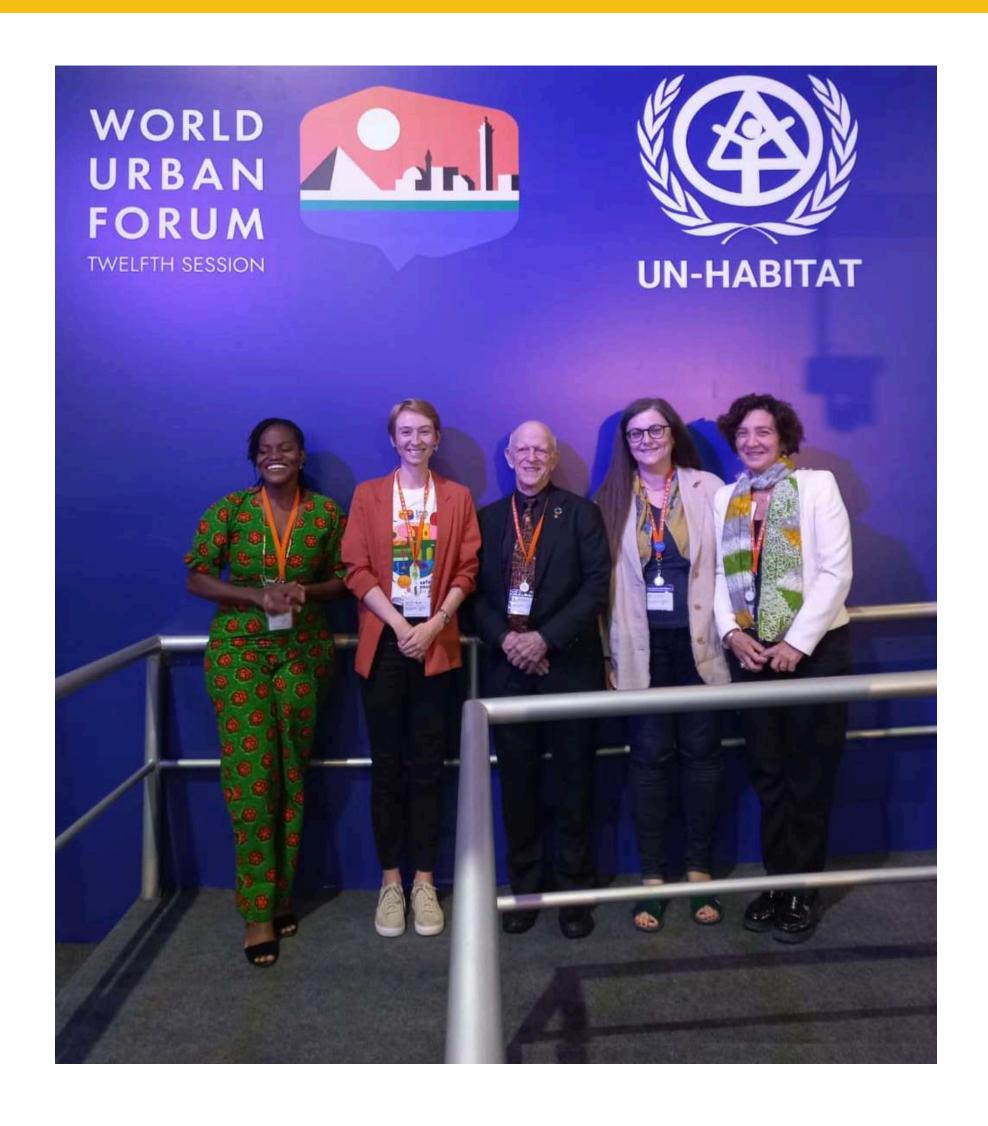


CO-CREATING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Co-creating public spaces with the community is a critical aspect of making them inclusive and equitable.

Lance Jay Brown, from the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, used the example of 22nd Street in New York. He illustrated how active participation converted a car-dominated street into a vibrant, people-centered space.





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