

Members of the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee

Biographies

Ms. Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach, Executive Director, UN Human Settlements Programme; Under-Secretary-General, United Nations

Anacláudia Rossbach of Brazil was appointed Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at the Under-Secretary-General level for a term of four years on 7 June 2024. She was elected by the UN General Assembly following nomination by the United Nations Secretary-General. Ms. Rossbach assumed office on 12 August 2024.

Ms. Rossbach is an economist with more than 20 years of experience working on precarious and informal urban settlements, social housing and urban policies, together with designing and implementing strategies for public, social and private organizations with local, national and international stakeholders. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director of UN-Habitat, she was the Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.



Co-chair

Ms. Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach
Executive Director, UN Human Settlements Programme;
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations

From 2014 to 2022, she worked for Cities Alliance, serving as the Regional Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, where she supported communities of practice, promoted the transfer and exchange of knowledge, and provided advisory services on housing and urban policies in Brazil, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Chile and Paraguay, among others. She also led the Organization's global programme on informality in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. From 2005 to 2014, Ms. Rossbach served as a Senior Housing Specialist at the World Bank, providing technical assistance and facilitating high-level policy dialogue to develop and implement housing solutions in several countries around the world. This includes in Brazil, where she had a leadership role in the design of large-scale housing and informal settlements upgrading programmes, and in India, Mozambique, the Philippines and South Africa.

She also worked for the Municipality of São Paulo and was the Founding Director of the non-governmental organization Interação, affiliated with Slums Dwellers International, developing high-impact projects in informal communities in the State of São Paulo and the city of Recife, Brazil.

Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Dr. Qu Dongyu assumed office as the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on August 1, 2019.

Born in 1963 to a rice-growing family in China’s Hunan Province, Dr Qu studied horticultural science at Hunan Agricultural University and then plant breeding and genetics at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He later added environmental science to his knowledge portfolio while earning a PhD at Wageningen University, in the Netherlands.

Before coming to FAO, Dr. Qu served as China’s Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, where one of his achievements was to promote inclusive and innovative development and make sure information and communication

technologies were available in rural areas so that more than 400 million farmers could use their smartphones as a new farming tool.

Prior to his portfolio as Vice Minister, Dr. Qu served as Vice Governor for several years in China’s north-west, Ningxia, where he accomplished a number of significant projects aiming to lift millions of local residents out of poverty, and he was recognized as a big contributor to China’s anti-poverty project in that part of country.

That vision has been consistent across a professional career that includes periods in central and local government, in and leading research institutes, and as a human resources leader at the China Three Gorges Project Development Corporation, a USD 40 billion investment project.

Recognized for scientific innovation as a famous scholar, Dr. Qu has for 30 years been involved in international cooperation and orchestrated major events including the World Potato Congress, the International Rice Congress and the International Conference on Plant Protection and participated in multilateral initiatives such as the World Trade Organization and the G20 as well as numerous bilateral initiatives involving Asia, Africa and Latin America. He has also directly led the design of flagship South-South Cooperation projects with FAO and the World Bank.



Co-chair

Dr. Qu Dongyu

Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme

Achim Steiner became Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 19 June 2017. The United Nations General Assembly confirmed his appointment following his nomination by Secretary-General António Guterres. In April 2021, the General Assembly confirmed his appointment to a second four-year term beginning in June 2021.

Mr. Steiner is also the Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, which unites 40 entities of the UN system that work to support sustainable development.

Over nearly three decades, Achim Steiner has been a global leader on sustainable development, climate resilience and international cooperation. He has worked to champion sustainability, economic growth and equality for the vulnerable, and has been a vocal advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to joining UNDP, Mr. Steiner was Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow of Balliol College, University of Oxford. He has served across the UN system, looking at global challenges from both a humanitarian and a development perspective.

Mr. Steiner led the United Nations Environment Programme (2006-2016), helping governments invest in clean technologies and renewable energy. He was also Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Achim Steiner previously held other notable positions including Director-General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Secretary-General of the World Commission on Dams.

Mr. Steiner has lived and worked in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the United States. He graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Master of Arts) from Worcester College, Oxford University, and holds an MA from the University of London/School of Oriental and African Studies.



Former Co-chair

Mr. Achim Steiner
Administrator, UN Development Programme

Mr. Jader Fontenelle Barbalho Filho, Minister of Cities, Brazil

Jader Fontenelle Barbalho Filho is a Brazilian administrator and politician, affiliated with the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) and current Minister of Cities in Brazil in the government of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. He graduated in administration from the University of Amazônia and completed a postgraduate degree in public administration from Fundação Getulio Vargas.

Mr. Filho is a businessman in the communications sector and presided until 2022 over the RBA Group. On 29 December 2022, he was announced as head of the Ministry of Cities, a department that coordinates programmes such as Minha Casa, Minha Vida, and which was recreated from the Ministry of Regional Development. Mr. Filho was one of three MDB nominations for Lula's third-term cabinet.



Member

Mr. Jader Fontenelle Barbalho Filho
Minister of Cities, Brazil

Ms. Eva María Granados Galiano, Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

Eva María Granados Galiano was appointed State Secretary for International Cooperation at the Council of Ministers on 5 December 2023.

Ms. Galiano worked as spokesperson for the Socialist Parliamentary Group in the Senate (2021-2023), member of the Catalan Parliament (2010-2021), member of the National Secretariat of the UGT of Catalonia (2002-2010), where she served as a representative on the Labour, Economic and Social Affairs Council of Catalonia and Spain.

Ms. Galiano also worked in the area of corporate social responsibility at Alstom (2007-2010). Her political work has focused on improving social protection, promoting employment and building the Spanish common project. At university, she was a driving force behind the Fundació Solidaritat-Universitat de Barcelona for the defence of human rights. Ms. Galiano holds a degree in Political and Administrative Science from the University of Barcelona and an Executive Master in Public Management from ESADE.



Member

Ms. Eva María Granados Galiano
Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

Ms. Noraini Roslan, Mayor of Klang, Malaysia

Noraini Roslan is the first female Mayor of Klang Royal City, which has a population of around 1 million people and hosts the biggest port in Malaysia.

Previously, Mayor Roslan served as the President of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments, aimed at promoting sustainable coastal development strategies and actions for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) on pollution reduction, waste management and environmental preservation.

Since 2011, she served as the Mayor of Kuala Selangor District Council, Hulu Selangor District Council and Subang Jaya City Council. Mayor Roslan has 25 years of experience in urban planning. In 2023, she received the Best Local Authority Leadership Award.



Member

Ms. Noraini Roslan
Mayor of Klang, Malaysia

Ms. Roslan holds a Master’s degree in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, and a Bachelor’s degree in (Magna cum Laude) Urban and Regional Planning from the East Carolina University, North Carolina, USA.

Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

Emilia Sáiz is a jurist by profession and has devoted her professional life to promoting the role of local governments in development as well as fostering relations between cities and their associations worldwide. She started her journey as local government international advocate in the founding organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), International Union of Local Authorities in 1997. Ms. Sáiz was appointed as Secretary-General of UCLG in 2018.

She has led programmes dedicated to institutional capacity building and decentralized cooperation. Ms. Sáiz has actively promoted women empowerment, social inclusion and international partnerships.

She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and has followed and represented local and regional governments in iconic international processes such as the Rio and Beijing + 20 as well as the Climate Agreement, the SDGs and Habitat III.

Ms. Sáiz has further been deeply involved in the institutional development of United Cities and Local Governments into a network of networks.

During her work in the World Organization, Ms. Sáiz has been appointed to numerous panels both in her personal and professional capacity. Her active participation in Cities Alliance, the General Alliance of Partners and the Cities Programme of the Global Compact is particularly noteworthy.

Ms. Sáiz was appointed Secretary-General of UCLG in 2018. When asked about her priorities for coming years she mentions ensuring that the global agendas are built from local priorities, and that international action of local governments is understood as an indispensable role to fulfil local needs, with solidarity, justice and accountability at the centre.



Member

Ms. Emilia Sáiz
Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

Mr. Jesper Nygård, CEO, Realdania

Jesper Nygård is the CEO of Realdania, a private-member based philanthropic association in Denmark, with about 185 000 members, which supports philanthropic projects in the realms of a sustainability in the built environment.

Mr. Nygård joined the Supervisory Board of Realdania in 2003 and was elected Chairman in 2009. He resigned from the Supervisory Board when he became CEO of Realdania in 2013. Mr. Nygård also is a member of several boards and committees including Philea’s Advisory Board, The Danish Management Society and The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

Mr. Nygård is a skilled moderator and active public debater both nationally and internationally, where he advocates for smart climate solutions in retrofitting existing urban areas and in the development of new urban areas. Mr. Nygård is a firm believer that by working collectively and in partnerships individuals and individual organizations can achieve far greater things that they can alone.



Member

Mr. Jesper Nygård
CEO, Realdania

Ms. Celeste Connors, CEO, Hawai’i Green Growth Hub

Celeste Connors is a recognized leader in sustainability with more than 20 years of experience designing and implementing economic, climate and energy policies in government, nongovernmental organizations, academia and the private sector.

Ms. Connors is the CEO of Hawai’i Green Growth, a United Nations Local2030 Hub that catalyzes action across government, the private sector and civil society to achieve Hawaii’s 2030 sustainability goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. She is also Co-Founder of c.dots development LLC, which works with investors, developers, governments and philanthropy to mobilize investments in resilient infrastructure systems and services.



Member

Ms. Celeste Connors
CEO, Hawai’i Green Growth Hub

Ms. Connors previously served as Professorial Lecturer and Practitioner in Residence with the Energy Resources, and Environment Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and Director for Environment and Climate Change in the White House National Security Council and National Economic Council. Ms. Connors served as a diplomat in Germany, Greece and Saudi Arabia,

as well as the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and as the Climate and Energy Advisor to the Under Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Ms. Connors is a Senior Adjunct Fellow at the East-West Center, Affiliate Faculty at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, and was a faculty member at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in the Energy, Resources and Environment Programme. She holds a Master of Science in Development Studies from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Tufts University. Ms. Connors has served on numerous boards including her current service as an Independent Director of Hawaiian Electric Industries, the Global Island Partnership. She previously served on the Board of America’s Service Commissions, the IUCN World Conservation Congress National Host Committee, and was a Term Member on the Council on Foreign Relations.

Ms. Nakita Aboya, PhD Candidate in Economics

Born in Yaoundé, Cameroon, Nakita Aboya embarked on an exceptional academic journey, starting her Bachelor’s degree in Economics at 14 and subsequently obtaining a double Master’s in Economics and Finance from the University of Yaounde II and the University of Rennes 1 in France. Her intellectual prowess earned her prestigious awards including the Cameroon government’s excellence award, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Mentoring Program, Erasmus and PON scholarships as well as an invitation to speak at a Tedx Talk featuring global leaders.

Continuing her quest for knowledge, Ms. Aboya is currently completing her PhD in Development Economics at La Sapienza University in Rome, with a joint supervision from the Paris School of Economics. Professionally, she has worked with the Cameroonian Government and international organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations System.

Active in humanitarian causes, Ms. Aboya passionately advocates against poverty and inequality. Her participation in Nelson Mandela Day in Rome reflects her commitment to fundamental human rights and dignity. Notably, she was one of the youngest researchers at the Paris School of Economics, highlighting her growing global recognition and influence.



Member

Ms. Nakita Aboya
PhD Candidate in Economics