

# PANELISTS

## **Prof. Benjamin Gianni**

Prof. Gianni is an Associate Professor at Carleton University's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, where he leads the Urbanism program. He holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and an M. Arch. from Yale. His research focuses on post-WWII public housing in Europe and North America, urbanization in contemporary China, and the redevelopment of informal settlements in China, India, and Africa, exploring culturally adaptable and market-friendly solutions.

## **Prof. Kh Md Nahiduzzaman**

Prof. Nahiduzzaman is an Associate Professor at Citinnov S.A: Integrated Territorial Planning & Smart Cities in Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), specializing in urban resilience, smart cities, and climate risk mitigation. He serves as an editor-in-chief of "City Development: Issues and Best Practices" Journal. He co-chairs the "Smart and Connected Cities" track for US-Africa Frontiers 2025 in Rwanda and is the editor of "Making Sense of Planning and Development for the Post-Pandemic Cities" (2024), Springer.

## **Dr. Claude A. Meutchehe Ngomsi**

Dr. Ngomsi is a Senior Programme Management Officer at UN-Habitat, managing Francophone Africa. Since joining in 2003, he has led urban planning and security initiatives, including Rwanda's National Urbanization Policy. He holds a PhD in Geography, specializing in crime prevention, and lectured at the University of Yaoundé I. He is a member of the International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association.

## **Dr. Ahmadou Sardaouna**

Dr. Sardaouna is the General Manager of the Cameroon Real Estate Company, bringing 35 years of experience in infrastructure and urban management. He holds PhDs in Project Management and Civil Engineering. Previously Secretary General of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, he has organized key urban development forums. He is a recipient of the Order of Valor of Cameroon and has published several works on civil engineering and urban management.

## **Prof. Huhua Cao**

Dr. Cao is a professor at the University of Ottawa specializing in urban studies. He directs transdisciplinary research projects funded internationally and leads the International Council on Canadian, Chinese, and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU), advocating for the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals through global collaboration.

# PANELISTS

## **Prof. Hassan Radoine**

Prof. Radoine is the Managing Director of Citinnov S.A: Integrated Territorial Planning & Smart Cities at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), specializing in smart cities, territorial innovation, and sustainable urban planning. He holds a PhD in architecture and city planning from the University of Pennsylvania. An expert with UN-Habitat and UNESCO, he also serves as a jury member for the Agha Khan Award. He leads research projects like the Territorial Innovation & Performance Lab and the EMARA Scientific Chair.

## **Prof. Menna Agha**

Prof. Agha is an Assistant Professor at the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism at Carleton University, specializing in Design and Spatial Justice. Previously, she coordinated the spatial justice agenda at the Flanders Architecture Institute and was a Spatial Justice Fellow at the University of Oregon. She holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of Antwerp and a Master's in Gender and Design. A third-generation displaced Fadicha Nubian, her research focuses on race, gender, space, and territory.

## **Prof. Sheryl Boyle**

Prof. Boyle is the Director of the Carleton Sensory Architecture & Liminal Technology lab, focusing on immersive materials research and design for manufacturing and assembly (DMAA). Her recent projects include collaborations with ABB Robotics and ETH Zürich's DFAB lab on prefabricated construction systems. She completed her PhD in Sensory Studies, exploring sensory reconstruction of historic spaces across various disciplines.

## **Prof. Allan Cain O.C.**

Prof. Cain is the founding director of Development Workshop Angola, specializing in sustainable urban development and water & sanitation. With over 35 years of experience working in Africa, he holds degrees from the Architectural Association (London), Harvard, and Boulder. Awarded the Order of Canada in 2004, he consulted for the World Bank, UN-Habitat, and others, and leads research on climate change in Angola's coastal cities. His work is widely published, and he serves on multiple advisory boards.

## **Dr. Jean-Marie Cishahayo**

Dr. Cishahayo is the founding member of ICCCASU, Chair for Training and Communication. For more than 15 years, he has been consulting and working closely with UN-Habitat projects on sustainable urbanization. His regional studies and experience have focused on China and Africa. He is an adjunct professor at Burgundy University in France and a research affiliate at the Center on Governance at the University of Ottawa.

# HYBRID SPECIAL PANEL:

NOVEMBER 6, 2024

5:00 - 6:30 PM (GMT+3)

## DISRUPTIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR A RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE IN AFRICA



UN-HABITAT-UM6P Center  
for Territorial Innovation  
and Smart Performance



UN-HABITAT

4-8 NOVEMBER 2024

WUF'12

CAIRO, EGYPT



Scan and join us online!



<https://bit.ly/4ePGC2q>

# PANEL PROGRAMME

## **Dialogue 5:56 pm - 6:08 pm**

Menna Agha, Hassan Radoine & Claude Albert Ngomsi:

How innovative design and technologies could promote culturally appropriate and affordable housing in African and Canadian cities? Importance of stakeholder's (youth, public and private sectors, industries, academia, and civil society) engagement to address the housing justice and challenges.

## **Dialogue 6:08 pm - 6:20 pm**

Sheryl Boyle, Ahmadou Sardaouna & Kh Md Nahiduzzaman:

What are the advancements in affordable housing construction, research and practices in Africa and Canada? Whether "planned" urbanization can be a catalyst for innovative housing solutions?

## **Concluding Remarks:**

Huhua Cao: 6:20 pm - 6:30 pm

Way forward for affordable housing: The need for global partnerships and cooperation.

# VENUE [In-Person & Online]

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024; 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm (GMT+3)**

## **Location:**

*Egypt International Exhibition Center,  
Multipurpose Room 15, Cairo, Egypt*

## **Join online:**

<https://bit.ly/4ePGC2q>



**Moderators:** Huhua Cao & Kh Md Nahiduzzaman

## **Opening Remarks 5:00 pm - 5:10 pm**

Oumar Sylla:

Introduction to the session: An overview of affordable housing challenges in Africa & contemporary pathways for remedies/solutions.

## **Keynote Speech 5:10 pm - 5:20 pm**

Hassan Radoine:

Housing in Africa is not a problem of affordability, but planning and territorial resilience. Reflecting on [SDG1: Goal 11]: How can local actions, informed by global practices and experiences, create inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban spaces and what are the actionable insights presented at WUF'24 that contribute to this goal?

## **Dialogue 5:20 pm - 5:32 pm**

Allan Cain, Jean-Marie Cishahayo & Menna Agha:

How can informal housing and land ownership be transformed from a burden of cities into a key component of sustainable urban transition in Africa?

## **Dialogue 5:32 pm - 5:44 pm**

John Zacharias, Claude Albert Ngomsi & Kh Md Nahiduzzaman

How can sustainable and resilient housing solutions (e.g., finance, etc.) be incorporated into urban and territorial planning and development strategies in the cities across Africa, China and Canada?

## **Dialogue 5:44 pm - 5:56 pm**

Benjamin Giannis, John Zacharias, & Allan Cain:

Market-friendly approaches to redevelopment of low-cost housing that account for social, cultural, technological, policy and affordable financing variables, and be adapted from Canada to the African context and vice versa.

# PANELISTS

## **Dr. Oumar Sylla**

Dr. Sylla is the Director of the Regional Office for Africa at UN-Habitat, with over 20 years of experience in land, natural resources, conflict resolution, and urban development. He has previously led UN-Habitat's Land and GLTN Unit and served as a senior advisor and urban policy lead for Francophone and Lusophone countries. He has been a key figure in global and regional land reforms.

## **Prof. John Zacharias**

Prof. Zacharias is a Chair Professor at Peking University, specializing in urban development policy, particularly in China and the developing world. Formerly a Full Professor at Concordia University, he led the Urban Studies and Planning programs. His recent work focuses on sustainable transport, land use, and public health. He also advises planning authorities in Tianjin, Shanghai, and Shenzhen and publishes in top SCI/SSCI journals.

# IN-BRIEF

As part of the 12th World Urban Forum, this special panel aims to foster dialogue on affordable housing challenges in Africa. The discussions will focus on the redevelopment of low-cost housing, emphasizing market-friendly policies, social and cultural considerations, and technological advancements. This panel will explore innovative approaches to urban planning and design that enhance affordable and culturally appropriate housing options. It will consider the involvement of key stakeholders—including youth, the private and public sectors, academia, and civil society—in addressing housing issues and promoting inclusivity and resilience. The panel will also examine the impact of informal land ownership and the role of planned urbanization as catalysts for sustainable housing solutions. The workshop's structure combines presentations and dialogues to identify actionable insights and share best practices among Africa, China, and Canada, aiming to strengthen affordable housing efforts through policy exchange, partnerships, and practical implementation strategies.

For more information on the event, please visit <https://icccasu.com/> or contact us at [icccasu@uottawa.ca](mailto:icccasu@uottawa.ca)