

The 20th International Policy and Planning Summit

Climate, Migration, and Global Resilience

Thursday, April 2, 2026, at NYU Wagner, New York, NY

Conference Agenda

09:30-10:00 **Arrival and Registration**

10:00-11:15 **Opening Plenary**

- Welcome Remarks by **Polly Trottenberg**, Dean of NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
 - Keynote Address by **Daniel Platz**, UNDESA, Infrastructure Asset Management
-

11:15-12:30 **Panel I - Informality, Infrastructure, and Integrating Climate Response**

- **Hannah Teicher**, Harvard Graduate School of Design
- **Kimberly Noronha**, Penn Institute of Urban Research
- **Bonnie Harken**, Nautilus International Development Consulting

Moderated by **Nate Edwards**, Center on International Cooperation at NYU

12:30-13:00 **Networking Lunch**

13:00-14:15 **Panel II - Innovative Financing for Climate Action**

- **Kate Dunn**, New York Green Bank
- **Shweta Sundar**, Affordable Housing Institute
- **Gautam Jain**, Center on Global Energy Policy, SIPA

Moderated by **Matthew Kwatinetz**, NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate

14:15-14:30 **Transition to Interactive Breakout Workshops**

14:30-15:30 **Round I - Interactive Breakout Workshops**

Small group sessions led by NYU Wagner student clubs and external knowledge partners (CIC, Urban Lab, Rebuild by Design) ****see the back for workshop details**

15:30-15:45 **Break**

15:45-16:45 **Round II - Interactive Breakout Workshops**

Small group sessions led by NYU Wagner student clubs and external knowledge partners (CIC, Urban Lab, Rebuild by Design) ****see the back for workshop details**

17:00-17:20 **Enhancing Public Institutions' Capacity for Service Delivery: Insights from UN DESA**

- **Adriana Alberti**, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 - **Azeema Adam**, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
-

17:20-17:30 **Closing Statement**

17:30-18:30 **Networking Reception**



Scan this QR Code to ask questions during the panels

If you like any questions from other audiences, feel free to upvote them.

The popular question will be prioritized during the Q&A session.

Afternoon Workshops

Workshop 1 – Local Implementation, Policy Design

Knowledge Partner: Rebuild by Design

Heat-Proof NYC is a hackathon-style collaborative workshop that invites participants to replicate the research and strategy model used to create Rebuild By Design's *Toward a Rainproof NYC* report, but focusing on extreme heat. Participants will work together to research existing heat adaptation strategies in New York City, identify policy and implementation barriers, and analyze international case studies that demonstrate scalable, high-impact solutions.

Through rapid research sprints, group synthesis, and shared discussion, the workshop will generate a preliminary framework for a future **Heat-Proof NYC** strategy, which addresses the urban heat island effect and reduces heat-related illness and mortality. Participants will have co-created a set of findings that mirror the core components of the Rainproof NYC approach and will contribute to the foundation of a future Heat-Proof NYC report, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive vision for adapting to Extreme Heat in NYC.

Workshop 2 – Local Implementation, Financing Initiatives

Knowledge Partner: NYU Urban Lab

As climate risks continue to intensify, governments are under growing pressure to move beyond commitments and embed resilience and adaptation into how public systems actually function. This interactive workshop explores how national governments can leverage policy tools, fiscal strategies, and public-private partnerships to drive sustainable, equitable climate resilience. The session will center on real-world implementation challenges, starting with a case study presentation, then launching into a practical exploration of using governmental authority and resources to unlock investment and action.

Participants will work in interdisciplinary groups of four to design **national-to-local financing** and policy pathways using a curated “toolbox” of fiscal, regulatory, and institutional instruments. By combining dialogue, critique, and collaborative design, the workshop aims to generate grounded, actionable ideas for translating climate ambition into measurable impact.

Workshop 3 – International-level Implementation

Knowledge Partner: NYU Center on International Cooperation

As climate risks intensify in coastal cities, governments are under increasing pressure to implement infrastructure that reduces exposure to floods and other hazards while ensuring that adaptation policies do not exacerbate inequality. This interactive workshop will explore the governance challenges that arise when climate resilience investments intersect with land tenure insecurity, informal settlements, and rapidly changing urban land markets. The session will use the case study of **Beira in Mozambique**, a low-lying coastal city pursuing **flood protection and drainage improvements**, while modernizing its **land administration systems**. In doing so, the session will examine how cities can pursue climate adaptation while safeguarding housing security and equitable development.

Participants will work in small breakout groups representing key stakeholder groups, including community representatives, municipal government, international partners and donors, and the real estate sector, to develop negotiating positions on a proposed flood-resilience investment affecting an area with informal housing. Through structured discussion and short presentations, groups will identify their priorities, red lines, and potential compromises while engaging with the perspectives of other actors involved in the project.