Africa Regional Dialogue

DRAFT PROGRAMME - Programme details and speakers may be updated.

CAPE COAST, GHANA
University of Cape Coast (UCC) 14-16 October 2026

OCTOBER 14/ DAY 1
THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WALKING IN THE DECADE OF ACTION

TIME	SESSION	LEAD	FOCUS
08:30	**Opening Plenary**	**Chair:** Bronwen Thornton, CEO, Walk21	Welcome and political inspiration; the opportunity presented by the UN Decade of Action for Sustainable Transport; a strong local story.
		Prof. Dennis Aheto, Vice Chancellor, UCC	Welcome from the University of Cape Coast as host institution
		Hon. George Justice Arthur, Mayor of Cape Coast	Welcome from Cape Coast and the city perspective on walking and local action
		Mr Joseph Bukari Nikpe Transport Minister Ghana	Political Inspiration on why it's important for everyone to have a safe, easy and enjoyable walking (and cycling) experience.
	Cultural performance	**UCC Basic School**	
		Carly Gilbert Patrick, Secretary General, SLOCAT	The opportunity created by the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport
		Frank Agyei-Monney, Independent Child Road Safety Advocate, Accra	A local walking reality: the risks facing walking school children in Ghana
		Jim Walker, Director Walk21	Regional evidence and the Walking Reality Dashboard
		Thaisa Comelli, Walking Cities Lab	Launch of the Africa Living Lab and its role in connecting research and practice
		Regina Amoako-Sakyi, Walking Cities Lab	Building the African Community of Practice and taking the work forward beyond Cape Coast
10:30	**Coffee Break**		
11:00	**What Impact on Walking Do We Want from the Decade?** **Parallel round tables two rounds.** **World Cafe Style.**	• Jim Walker, Director, Walk21 • Janene Tuinz, UNEP • Patrick Kinyanjui, GARS • Louis Kusi Frimpong, WCL • Maria José Nieto, WCL • Maria Attard, WCL	he local and regional vision for measurable better outcomes for people walking: ACTIVITY- SATISFACTION - SAFETY -SECURITY - COMFORT- ACCESSABILITY
12:30	**Lunch**		
14:00	**Report Back and Pathway Setting**	Bronwen Thornton, CEO Walk21	Consolidate actions and priorities from the morning and define pathways, roles and reporting over the UN Decade. Includes inputs from the poster session.
15:00	**Global Goal Session + walking and climate (breakout group)**	Carly Gilbert Patrick,SLOCAT Thaisa Comelli, WCL	
Poster Session			
16:00	**Tea Break**		Refreshments and networking.
17:00	**Closing Plenary**	• Chair: Jim Walker, Director, Walk21 • Marisela Ponce de León Valdés SSATP • Patrick Kinyanjui, GARS • Jordi Bosch , UN-Habitat • Gift Dumedah, KNUST	Reflections on the emerging regional pathway and what will be needed to turn ambition into action during the UN Decade.
17:30	**Wrap-up and Next Steps**	Jim Walker, Director, Walk21	Panel Reflections on the Emerging Regional Pathway for Walking in the Decade of Action.
18:00	**Evening Reception**	Walk21	Networking Reception

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OCTOBER 15/ DAY 2
ENABLING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMBITION FOR WALKING

TIME	SESSION	LEAD	FOCUS
08:30	**Opening Plenary**	**Chair: Regina Amoako-Sakyi WCL Regional Lead** VREF – Video Message Gladys Nyachieoa, Keynote Speaker Prince Kwame Odame, Young Researcher Namatirai Cheure, BRRI, South Africa Bronwen Thornton CEO, Walk21 Regina Obilie Amoako-Sakyi & Louis Kusi Frimpong, WCL	Opening and framing of the day around implementation, research and regional collaboration Welcome and introduction to the role of research in supporting transformation. How safe, accessible and enjoyable walking for transport can contribute to caring cities and climate mitigation and adaptation. Young researcher perspective on walking research and action in Africa. Young researcher perspective on emerging evidence and priorities for walking in the region. Recap of the regional vision and action priorities emerging from Day 1. Defining a local thematic agenda for walking and introducing the Walking Cities Lab themes that will support implementation
10:30	**Coffee Break**		
11:00	**Knowledge and practices**	**Connecting research and practice around three Walking Cities Lab themes.** Maria José Nieto-Combariza Louis Kusi Frimpong Thaisa Comelli Namatirai Cheure Ernest Agyemang Regina Obilie Amoako-Sakyi Dr Daniel Adamu Prof. Gina Porter	UNWALKABLE CITIES What does current knowledge tell us about the conditions that make cities difficult, unsafe or inaccessible to walk in? CLIMATE RESILIENCE How can walking contribute to climate mitigation, adaptation and more resilient urban environments? CARING CITIES How can walking environments better support care, inclusion, accessibility and everyday mobility?
13:00	**Lunch + Posters**		
14:30	**Challenges and Opportunities to Implement Transformations for W4T**	• Julio Dávila • Dr Wilma Sithabiso • Natalia Villamizar-Duarte • Braima Koroma	Practical evidence on the challenges and opportunities involved in governing and implementing change for walking. Selected examples will show how walking-related transformations are being implemented in practice and what can be learned from these experiences. The discussion will also help refine the agenda for the Walking Cities Lab Living Labs.
16:30	**Tea Break**		Refreshments and networking.
17:00	**Closing Plenary**	• Enoch Sam, Local Academic • Alex Johnson, AMA • Patience Onny, DUR • Daniel Essel, Ministry of Transport • Sara Marquéz, ASFes • Ephraim Danso, SLOCAT	Panel reflections on the emerging ambition for a strong regional Community of Practice.
17:30	**Wrap-up and Next Steps**	Regina Obilie Amoako-Sakyi & Louis Kusi Frimpong WCL	How the Regional Walking Community of Practice will work and how collaboration between research, policy and practice can continue beyond the Dialogue
18:30	**Group Dinner**		

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OCTOBER 16/ DAY 3
REGIONAL MEETINGS & CAPACITY BUILDING: PAPAAM Working Day

TIME	SESSION	LEAD	FOCUS
09:00:	**Welcome and Introduction**	Ghanaian Representative: Kenya; Malawi; Ethiopia; Nigeria	Opening of the PAAPAM working day and introduction to country priorities and participation.
09:10	**Delivering of the PAPAAM mandate**	UNEP / UN-Habitat	Review progress and priorities for PAAPAM implementation across participating countries. Key areas: • PAAPAM adoption status • ANWAC • AfDB UMDF pipeline • advocacy commitments • tracking progress
09:30	**Capacity Development: Policy**	UNEP / Walk21	Policy tools and approaches to strengthen walking at national and city level. Potential inputs include: • 8 Steps for Walking • Walk21 training • PATH Guideline
10:45	**Coffee Break**		
11:00	**Capacity Development: Street Design**	UN-Habitat/ Walking Cities Lab	How to ensure that Street Design Standards are PAAPAM-approved? How to embed the PAAPAM Principles into all their stages
12:00	**Action Planning**	UNEP / UN-Habitat	Country-level action planning and identification of priority activities following the Dialogue.
12:50	**Evaluation and closing**	UNEP / UN-Habitat	Reflection on the working day, agreed next steps and follow-up
13:30 14:00	**Lunch & Bus Departures**		

OCTOBER 16/ DAY 3
SHAPING THE FUTURE GENERATION PUBLISHING WORKSHOP -WCL

09:30	**Interactive Session: Writing for Publication**	4–6 facilitators • Participants • NextGen Scholars • Advanced Master's students • PhD candidates • Early Career Researchers	Practical guidance on academic writing and preparing research for publication. The session will connect with the VREF academic writing handbook and Walking Cities Lab learning activities.
10:30	**Coffee Break**		Refreshments and networking.
11:00	**Hands-on Writing Exercise**	4-6 facilitators	Interactive writing session where participants apply publication techniques to their own research
13:00	**Lunch**		
14:00	**The Publication Process**	4-6 facilitators	Understanding the publication process, from preparing a manuscript to submission, review and revision.
16:00	**Tea Break**		
17:00	**End of Workshop**		