



Join UN-Habitat in celebrating Urban October 2018

Every October, UN-Habitat and partners organize a month of activities, events and discussions around urban sustainability. This year, Urban October begins with World Habitat Day on 1 October and ends with World Cities Day on 31 October. This Urban October follows the first review at the High-Level Political Forum in New York of Sustainable Development Goal 11, on Sustainable Cities and Communities. We encourage local, regional and national authorities and partners to organize activities highlighting how to implement the commitments of the New Urban Agenda and make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Find more details of activities around the world and register your event on the Urban October website:

<https://unhabitat.org/urban-october-2018/>

World Habitat Day, 1 October 2018 – Municipal Solid Waste Management

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October each year as World Habitat Day, to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It also reminds us we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. This year's theme is Municipal Solid Waste Management (which is one of the targets of SDG11). The global observance is taking place in Kenya.

Solid Waste Management is an issue that affects everyone. The amount of individual waste grows daily, accounting for a large portion of the local government budget and affecting public health. Poor solid waste collection and disposal results in uncontrolled dump sites and waste burning. It also leads to polluted air and water.

A change in public attitudes to minimize waste and stop littering, the regularization of informal waste pickers, increased recycling and reusing, sufficient funding and solid waste planning

including adequate landfill sites, can help cities to improve the current state of solid waste management and save money to become 'Waste-Wise Cities'.

World Cities Day, 31 October 2018 – Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities

World Cities Day was established to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, enhance cooperation among countries and cities in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contribute to sustainable urban development. The overall World Cities Day theme is Better City, Better Life, with this year's particular theme of Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities (closely linked to targets 11.5 and 11.b of SDG 11). The main event will be celebrated in Liverpool, UK.

Over the last decade, natural disasters have affected more than 220 million people and caused economic damage estimated at USD \$100 billion each year. If we do not make a significant investment to make cities more resilient, by 2030, natural disasters may cost cities three times that amount, and push millions of urban residents into poverty. Hundreds of cities and communities are struggling with the impact of crises – including conflicts, natural disasters, failures in governance and economic stress.

Cities need support to become resilient. With proper prevention, cities can absorb the impact of hazards, protect and preserve human life, limit damage to public and private assets, and maintain infrastructure and services following a crisis.

There is a pressing need for new, innovative tools and approaches that strengthen local administrations and empower citizens, while building their capacity to face new challenges and better protect human, economic and natural assets. Governments must lead coordinated inclusive policies that push for resilient urban areas, providing support to regional and local governments.



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