
From: UNHABITAT-DonorRelations

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To: Xuesai Ma

Subject: Check out the latest issue of Urban Impact featuring impact stories from around the world and more.

Urban**impact**

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Leading for the second round

Following the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General, after consultation with Member States, the General Assembly confirmed Maimunah Mohd Sharif of Malaysia as Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for a further two years beginning 20 January 2022 and ending 19 February 2024. Since joining the United Nations in 2018, Ms. Sharif has re-positioned UN-Habitat as a thought leader in sustainable urbanization. You can [read here](#) the Executive Director's vision for her second term.



Harnessing space-based solar energy for cities

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif expressed her support for technological initiatives that use space-based solar power to produce clean, renewable, and affordable power that cities can use to build green and more sustainable communities.

Launched in London on 10 March 2022, the Space Energy Initiative comes at a time when much of the world relies on fossil-based fuels that are both expensive and heavily polluting. “Advances in science and technology have made it possible for us to make this giant leap forward towards harnessing and transmitting the power of the sun to provide our planet with clean energy. More importantly, we can do this adequately, affordably, and equitably,” the UN-Habitat Executive Director told the **London event**. British Member of Parliament Mark Garnier hosted the launch in the Members’ Room of the Houses of Parliament.



Planning equitable urban futures: Make is smart and local

During her recent mission to the United Kingdom in March 2022, Executive Director of UN-Habitat Maimunah Mohd Sharif visited the Bartlett Development Planning Unit at UCL. She met with the faculty and Director of DPU Michael Walls, Professor of Development Politics and Economy. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat delivered a public lecture on the importance of planning and development to achieve sustainable and equitable urban futures. She prioritized affordable housing as a new social contract to attain economic prosperity and reduce inequality in cities and human settlements. Climate adaptation and climate action in cities as well as local implementation of the SDGs were mentioned as the other priorities of UN-Habitat. Watch the full lecture [here](#).

UN-Habitat's Executive Board: First meeting in 2022

The Executive Board of UN-Habitat is having its first session from March 29 – 31, 2022 at the UNON complex in Nairobi, Kenya. The session is a hybrid setup, combining an online meeting for representatives based outside Nairobi with an in-person meeting for representatives of permanent missions in Nairobi.

The Executive Board is considering key issues such as financial, budgetary and administrative matters; status of and discussion on the draft annual work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of UN-Habitat for 2023; normative and operational activities; preparations for the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The pre-session documents can be found [here](#).

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Catalyzing development and revitalizing the New Urban Agenda

The United Nations General Assembly will convene a High-Level Meeting on 28 April in New York to renew Member States' commitment to implement the New Urban Agenda and review progress that has been achieved since its adoptions at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in 2016. The Secretary-General's quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda forms the basis for discussion. Member States, local and regional governments, and other constituencies of the New Urban Agenda such as professional associations, grassroots organizations, and business leaders will utilize the platform to highlight policy directions and programmatic initiatives they have been engaged in, and to put forward concrete commitments for the next two years. The World Urban Forum in

Katowice, Poland, will turn outcomes and recommendations of the New York meeting into actions to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban-related Sustainable Development Goals.

A spotlight on intermediary cities

Africities is the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa's flagship pan-African event that is held every three years in one of the five regions of Africa. The 9th edition of the Africities Summit will be held 17-21 May 2022, in Kisumu, Kenya, with the theme "The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063." The summit provides a platform for dialogue on decentralization and local governance that brings together diverse stakeholders, among others African ministers, mayors, leaders and elected officials of local and regional governments, civil society organizations, and development partners. Kisumu is the first ever intermediary city to host the Africities Summit.



The City We Need Now: 10 actions in 6 regions

The City We Need Now! is an advocacy campaign led by UN-Habitat with 200 partner organizations of the World Urban Campaign. It calls for urgent actions as the world is off-track to achieve the Sustainable Development

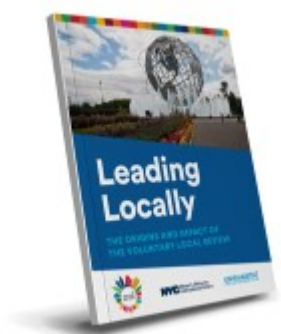
Goals by 2030. The campaign demonstrates how cities and communities can become accelerators of the New Urban Agenda and 2030 Development Agenda. It will be launched in six regions: Africa, the Middle East and Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The campaign focuses on ten action areas to accelerate change and yield results. Two regional campaigns have been launched to date. The first one in the Middle East and Arab States on 9 February led by the Middle East Cities Center. The second – for Africa on 15 February.



Have you been wondering what blockchain is and what role it can play in efforts to achieve sustainable urbanization? The recently published discussion paper by UN-Habitat seeks to answer these questions and explores the potential application of blockchain in addressing challenges related to sustainable urbanization as well as the risks and challenges associated with its implementation. The paper includes a set of recommendations and a checklist to guide urban managers in cities seeking to adopt blockchain.

[Learn More](#)

Leading locally: The origins and impact of the voluntary local review



There is growing acknowledgment that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without the active engagement of local governments. Reflecting on the Voluntary Local Review movement, the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs and UN-Habitat launched the report, "Leading Locally: The Origins and Impact of the Voluntary Local Review". This report seeks to document the early days of the movement and the multiple influences that gave rise to it. It also highlights the importance of local actors' efforts in creating transformations for a sustainable future.

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AFRICA

Women who rebuild their homes

““Before the attacks, we had our own way of living. We had our own houses; we had our own businesses but when those attacks happened, we had to flee and leave everything behind,” said Maria a beneficiary. A UN-Habitat project in Mozambique is empowering girls and women to learn skills to rebuild their homes. The project aims to provide inclusive, sustainable housing solutions to displaced women and girls affected by the conflict.

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ARAB STATES

UN-Habitat in Syria: A house for Osama

“My family has owned this building since 1924,” Osama, 52, says.
“I decided to return and renovate my house after I’d heard of the on-going debris removal work in the neighborhood.”

As Harasta City was one of the heavily impacted areas in Rural Damascus and was also witnessing returnees, UN-Habitat in Syria started the implementation of the “Safer Access to Houses” project, supported by the Syria Humanitarian Fund, in January 2022. The project, focusing on urban recovery, including the removal of debris from around and inside buildings and filling in tunnels that pose a threat to residential buildings, contributed to encouraging more than 1000 families to return to their homes. UN-Habitat aims at ensuring the resilience of the Syrian people who live in the areas most affected by the crisis and the vulnerable, including women-headed households, which underwent successive crises. Now Osama’s house is one of many that are safely accessible again, and he is enthusiastic to return to his life in al-Hadaeq neighborhood again.



ASIA PACIFIC

Understanding your own city

"From young creatives to the experts, we all want to use creative solutions in our city to bridge traditions and the present towards developing the Vietnamese culture." That was a conclusion from Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Thi Thu Phuong in the talk show "Young Creatives – Culture Creates Future." The Ha Noi Rethink project's vision is to help Ha Noi become the Creative Capital, using cultural heritage with the engagement of Vietnamese youth who are an essential element for innovation, creativity, and change.

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

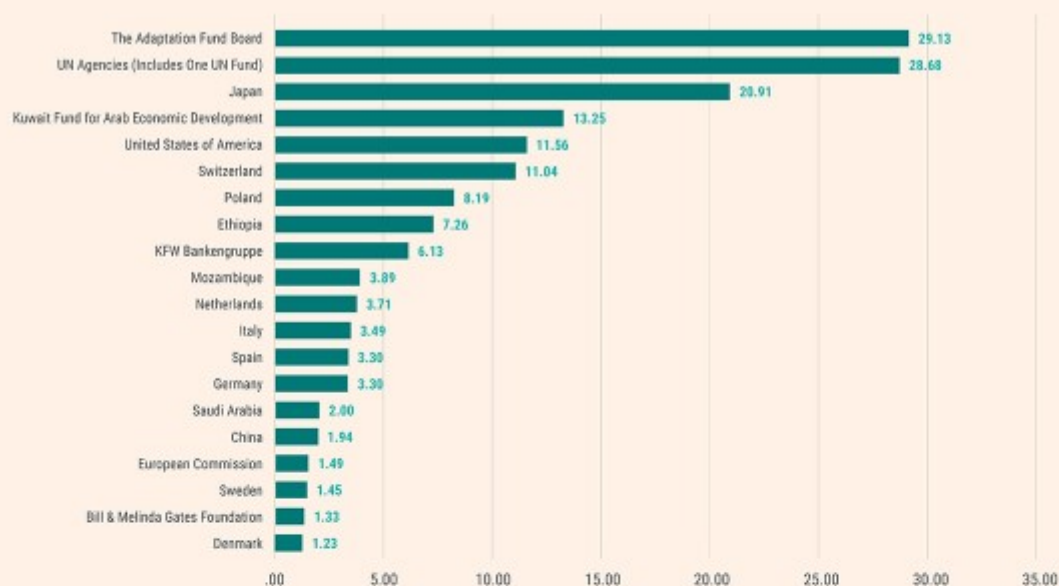
Bolivia: Enhancing urban topics in municipal planning

UN-Habitat, with the support of local entities in Bolivia, developed a cycle of training sessions at the national level, with the purpose of enhancing the urban approach in the territorial development plans of the municipalities of this country. "Approximately 500 municipal authorities and technical staff from predominantly urban municipalities in the country's nine departments participated in these face-to-face and virtual meetings. In these spaces, the Guide for the Inclusion of the Urban Approach in the PTDI 2021-2025 was presented," explained the Coordinator of UN-Habitat's Program in Bolivia, Sergio Blanco.

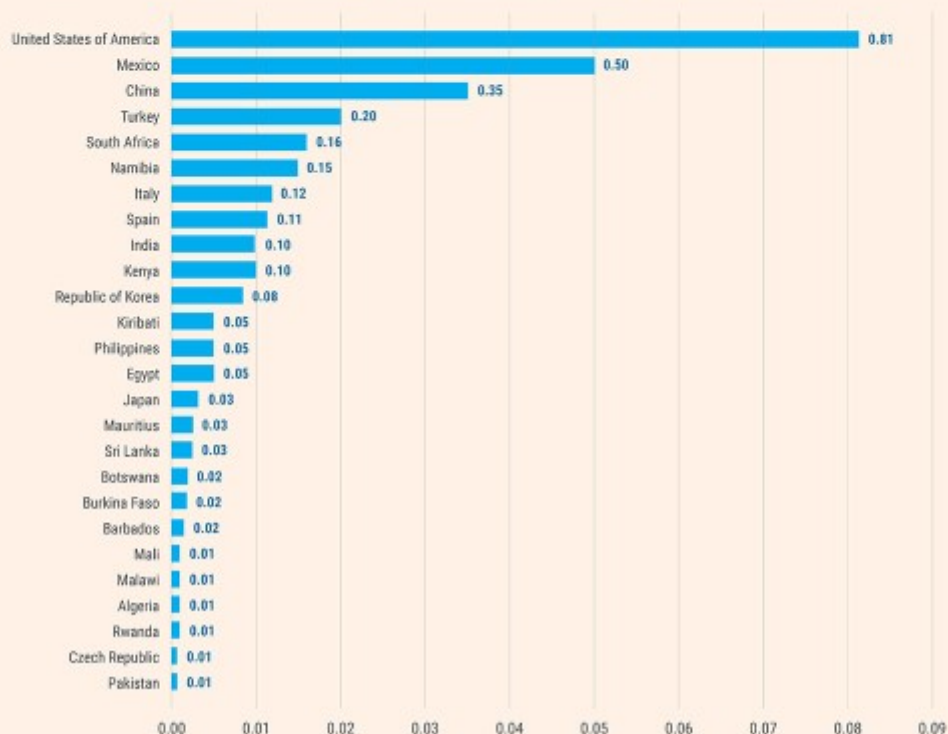
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Financial Update

Top donors and development partners in 2021 in USD millions



Non earmarked core contributions donors in 2021 in USD





Join the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum on 26-30 June 2022

The World Urban Forum is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization. This year the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) will take place in Eastern Europe. UN-Habitat is co-organizing it with the Government of Poland, its Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy and the Municipal Office of Katowice. WUF11 takes place on 26-30 June 2022 in Katowice, Poland. This year's theme is 'Transforming our cities for a better urban future.' Participants from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector will join UN-Habitat and its fellow UN agencies, non-government organizations and the Government of Poland for this fully hybrid event.

Click [here](#) to register!

To host networking, training and other events, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events and Meetings

9th Africities Summit

17 - 21 May 2022

Kisumu, Kenya

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**High-Level Meeting on the
Implementation of the New Urban
Agenda 28 April 2022**

New York City, USA

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**The Eleventh Session of the World Urban
Forum (WUF11) 26 - 30 June 2022**

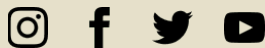
Katowice, Poland

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**High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)
5 - 12 July 2022**

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