



“As we close 2022 and look forward to the New Year, I want to thank everyone for support to promote adequate and affordable housing, and sustainable urban development in the global arena. I look forward to working with you to promote and realize our mission to help Member States deliver a better quality of life in our one planet of 8 billion people. I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif,
Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Creating a better urban future for 8 billion people

The world’s population has reached 8 billion. It is another milestone in human development. For us, it is also a time to pause and rethink how to make our home, our planet, sustainable. If we fail to take care of the natural and built environments, we risk ruining our home and displacing billions of people. UN-Habitat’s Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif examines how multi-level governance on urbanization is a key goal for a sustainable future. Her opinion piece was published in **the Nation** newspaper, in **Cities Today**, **The Parliamentarian** magazine, and in Spanish in **El Pais**.



UN-Habitat at COP27

On 17 November 2022, the Egyptian COP27 Presidency with the support of UN-Habitat convened the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at a UN Climate Change Conference of Parties, focusing on housing, urban development, multilevel action in relation to climate change.

This meeting brought together over 60 ministers and appointed representatives, over 40 mayors, local governors, and city leaders, as well as over 220 non-state actors to reinforce the commitment of the Paris Agreement for multi-level climate action and commit to accelerated climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and local climate finance.

To read more about cities and climate change, **visit our website.**

G7 Ministers' Meeting on Urban Development

On September 13 and 14, 2022, in Potsdam, under the German G7 presidency, **the ministers from the world's seven largest, advanced and liberal economies** convened to examine contemporary difficulties around urban development policy. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat expressed her gratitude for the invitation to attend the meeting and stated that for the first time in the history of the G7, the group decided to gather its Ministers of Urban Development to work on joint positions to harness the full potential of sustainable urban development and reaffirmed UN-Habitat's continued support in this journey.

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77th Session of The United Nations General Assembly

The 77th session of the UN's General Assembly was held between the 20 through 26 of September under the theme: "A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges". The General Assembly hosted the leaders of the world and gave them a platform to address the world's most pressing problems. In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General painted a grim picture of the current international situation, followed by addresses from Heads of State. There was a strong emphasis placed on issues related to climate change and its negative impacts on countries' development plans, growth and investment expectations.

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Urban October 2022: 31 days to promote sustainable cities

This year, Urban October featured 408 events worldwide. It engaged more than 5200 people, and its messages and materials reached almost 3 million. Urban October starts with World Habitat Day on the first Monday of October. The global observance was in Balikesir, Turkiye, under the theme 'Mind the gap. Leave no one and no place behind.' It aimed to address the growing inequality and challenges in cities.

The month ended with World Cities Day on 31 October in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China, under the theme 'Act local to go global' to discuss ways to speed up implementing Sustainable Development Goals. **Urban Circuit 2022** in Brazil featured 183 virtual, in-person, and hybrid events in 68 cities with more than 1000 speakers. In Bilbao, the Spanish government, city authorities, the Basque government, UN entities, including UN-Habitat and UNDP, and Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed open a secretariat for the Local2030 Coalition. To learn more, **visit our website**.



UN-Habitat's Scroll of Honour Award recognizes sustainable urbanization

UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award 2022 was presented at the global observance of World Habitat Day on 3 October 2022 in Balıkesir, Türkiye. Five winners are selected this year, including 15'min City Global Initiative, Mr. Stanley Anigbogu from Nigeria, Ms. Dipti Mahapatro from Bhubaneswar India, Program Parceria of Recife Brazil and URBAN Intergroup of the European Parliament.

The **UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor Award**, the most prestigious award for achievements in sustainable urbanization, recognizes individuals, cities, and institutions that promote or contribute to sustainable urban development.

You can meet our winners and find out more about them **here**.

Cities can apply to host World Habitat Day or World Cities Day in 2023 and 2024

UN-Habitat has launched the application process for cities to express interest in hosting World Cities Day and World Habitat Day in 2023 and 2024. Applications are to be submitted by January 31, 2023.

World Habitat Day was created in 1985 by the UN General Assembly to be observed on the first Monday in October. The 31st of October was designated by the UN General Assembly as World Cities Day.

World Habitat Day 2023 celebrations should be linked to resilient urban economies: with cities serving as engines of growth and recovery and in 2024 to involve young people in building a better urban future. The topic of World Cities Day 2023 should be linked to financing a sustainable urban future for all and, in 2024, to youth leading climate and local action for cities.

Click on the links below to submit expressions of interest:

World Habitat Day 2023 and 2024;
World Cities Day 2023 and 2024



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

The **second session of 2022 of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat** was held from 21 to 23 November 2022. 85 countries registered and a total 342 participants attended the session. 7 ministers, 61 Permanent Representatives, 57 Deputy Permanent Representatives, 177 government officials and 41 partner organizations attended. The Board adopted the work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2023. The Board also heard testimonies from UN-Habitat's donors, implementing partners and the community that support UN-Habitat's initiatives.

The daily journals that capture some of the salient points presented or raised under each agenda item from the three-day Executive Board Meeting can be found below (The Daily Journal is not intended to be a verbatim transcript or an official report of the session. The official procedural report of the 2022 second session of the Executive Board will be issued in the six official languages of the United Nations by UNON Division of Conference Services and will be shared with member states. It should therefore not be considered as an official document of the session):

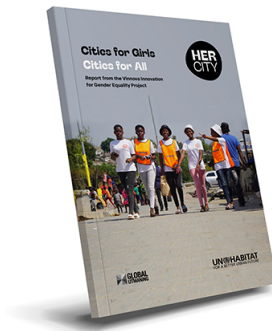
Daily Journal Day 1 | Daily Journal Day 2 | Daily Journal Day 3



Urban Planning law for Climate Smart Cities

UN-Habitat collaborated with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the UNFCCC Secretariat in developing the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement – to which this publication on Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities is a guide on.

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Cities for Girls Cities for All

The publication Cities for Girls, Cities for All is the report from the Vinnova Innovation for Gender Equality Project implemented jointly by UN-Habitat and the Swedish independent think tank Global Utmaning. It shows cases the results of the Her City toolbox as well as the implementation of our partnership projects worldwide.

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Artificial Intelligence and Cities: Risks, Applications and Governance

Artificial intelligence is manifesting at an unprecedented rate in urban centers, often with significant risks and little oversight. Using AI technologies without the appropriate governance mechanisms and without adequate consideration of how they affect people's human rights can have negative, even catastrophic, effects.

This report is part of UN-Habitat's strategy for guiding local authorities in realizing a people-centered digital transformation process in their cities and settlements.

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UN-Habitat's
recent publications

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ARAB STATES

Palestinian refugees return to their homes in refugee camp in Syria after more than ten years

After more than ten years away from their homes in the Dera'a Palestine refugee camp in Syria, Palestinian families return, as the houses and facilities in the camp are rehabilitated. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) partnered to support improving the lives of Palestinian refugees in the camp by **restoring services and ensuring recovery** with the support of the Government of Japan.

“This is my father’s house. For me, returning home was a dream,” Qusai Saleh, a Palestinian refugee returning to his rehabilitated house said, describing his feelings as a mixture of joy, laughter and tears.

Saleh is among 10,000 Palestinians who once lived in the camp, which became severely damaged due to the conflict in Syria. Since their displacement, over 3,700 Palestinian refugees returned to Dera'a, where they faced extremely difficult living conditions and limited access to basic services.

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AFRICA

UN-Habitat project more water to Hargeisa City in Somaliland in the face of a looming drought

At a time when the Horn of Africa is facing the worst drought in 40 years with four consecutive failed rainy seasons. The improved availability and distribution of water in Hargeisa is a critical move that will have a positive ripple effect towards essential service delivery and local economic development.

UN-Habitat has supported in the completion of a state-of-the-art water project in Hargeisa, Somaliland- the foundation work towards a sustainable and permanent solution to the water scarcity problem experienced by residents of the capital city. More than 30,000 households that were previously not served by the piped system will have gained access to an improved water source. In the end, all the 1 million residents of Hargeisa will experience improved access to water, thanks to the Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP) intervention and related projects. A Visual Explainer Document of the water project can be found [here](#).

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ASIA PACIFIC

Solar powered lights are the future in Lao PDR

Public parks in two cities are illuminated by solar-powered lights, showcasing the potential of urban low-emissions development in Lao PDR. These pilot projects are part of the **Urban LEDS II project**, which was jointly implemented by UN-Habitat and ICLEI-Local Governments and funded by the EU. It is fully aligned with the SDGs and New Urban Agenda, directly contributing to Subprogramme 3: strengthened climate action and improved urban environment.

The knowledge and momentum generated by the project has the potential to impact substantially on the trajectory of urbanization in the participating cities, and the Government has requested the project to be expanded to a larger scale. According to Sommad Pholsena, Vice President of the Lao National Assembly and the former Minister of the MoNRE, "The UN-Habitat/ICLEI project, funded by the EU, is a valuable contribution to the country's great goal of green growth. The Government is highly appreciative of UN-Habitat's partnership and values the agency's contribution towards the country's socio-economic development goals."

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Integrated Urban Operations: Creating Shared Visions

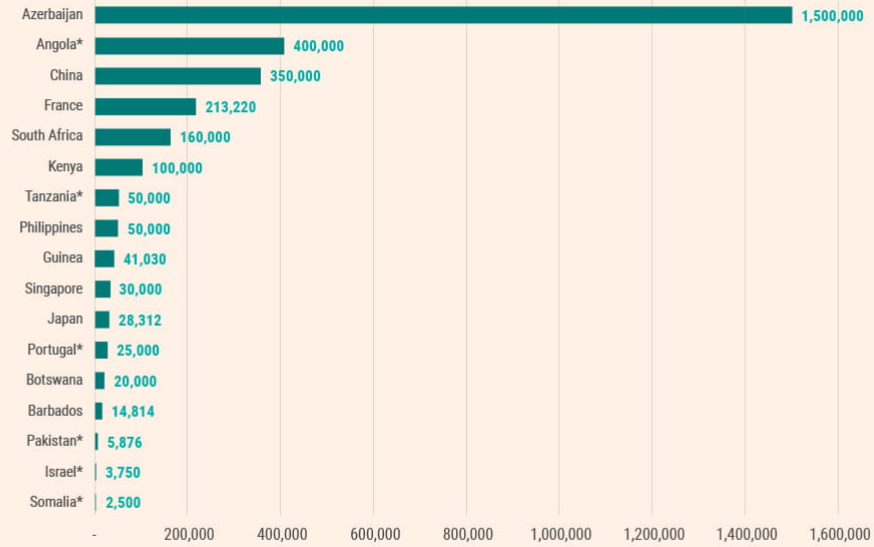
UN-Habitat implements **Integrated Urban Operations** to promote collective participation and to design and finance a better post-pandemic future for precarious neighborhoods in the Central American countries of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. The IUOs involve residents who become the articulators of the solutions to their problems and become their main beneficiaries. This generates a sense of belonging in the neighborhoods, improves the living conditions of the population and facilitates more public space. By humanizing neighborhoods, sustainable cities are promoted.

Through the IUOs, territorial governance is strengthened by encouraging the commitment of different actors to guarantee access to public services, facilities, public space, and social infrastructure, in addition the green productive reactivation that promotes food sovereignty, urban economy, support and caring. Similarly, it also seeks to generate actions for climate justice, disaster risk reduction and strengthening of urban resilience.

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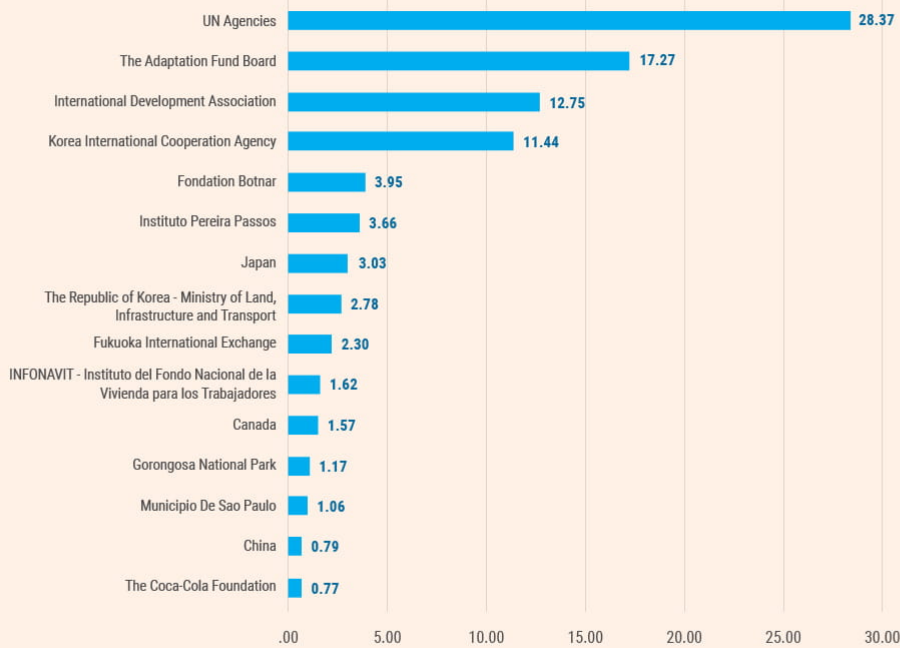
Financial Update

Core Contributors as of 31 October 2022 in USD



*Includes previous years' contributions

Top donors and development partners as of 31 October 2022 in USD millions



Upcoming Events and Meetings

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

16 - 20 January 2023

Davos, Switzerland

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UN 2023 Water Conference

22 - 24 March 2023

New York, USA

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**The 5th Global WOPs Congress and
GWOPA Assembly in Bonn, Germany**

22 - 25 May 2023

Bonn, Germany

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