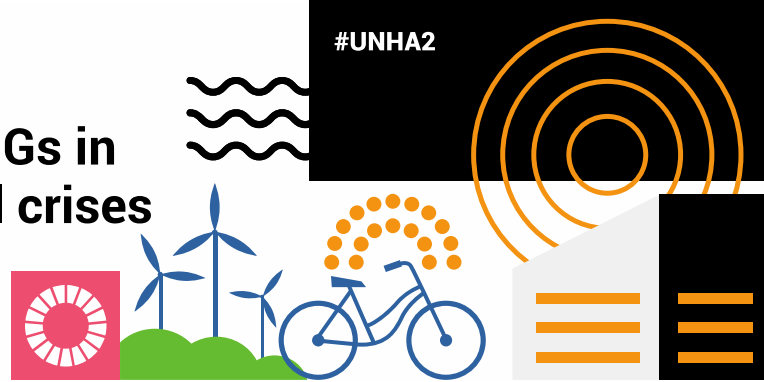


Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 28

Recovering territorial balance by Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages Towards a global partnership to promote Urban Rural Linkages approach

(Recuperando el equilibrio territorial mediante el fortalecimiento de los vínculos urbanos-rurales hacia una asociación global para promover el enfoque de vínculos urbanos-rurales.)

Mérida Communiqué Call for Global Urban-Rural Agenda (GURA)

(Comunicado de Mérida: Llamamiento a la Agenda Urbano-Rural Global (GURA))

 7 JUNE 2023, 13:15 – 14:15

 Conference Room 13

SUMMARY

In an increasingly urbanized world, where more than 2/3 of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas by 2050, for some years the importance of preserving balance within territories has been discussed. The 2030 Agenda has reinforced the relevance of rural and natural systems on the road to sustainability, and the New Urban Agenda underlines the importance of strengthening the links between cities and rural spaces. More recently, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the deficiencies of urban systems that have largely lost their links with the territories in which are located.

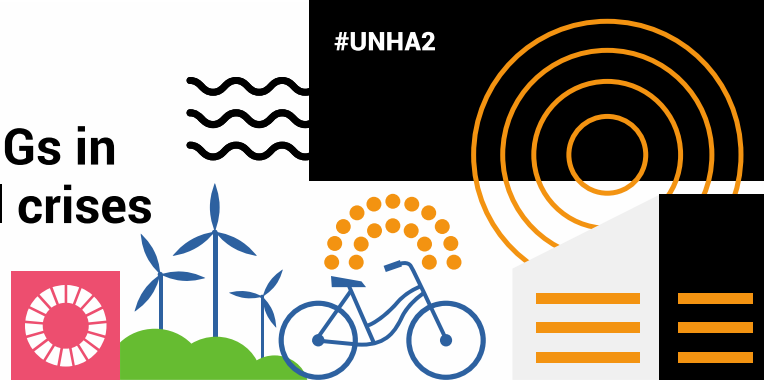
Towards supporting member states to achieve sustainable urbanization while ensuring that rural areas are not left behind, and initiative led by the UN-Habitat began in 2018.

The initiative, called "Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding principles and framework for action to advance territorial development", convened over 130 stakeholders from over 40 international organizations.

The principles and framework of actions were successfully launched at the first UN-Habitat Assembly (UNA 2019) and a resolution adopted by member states. The resolution was titled "Sustainable urbanization by strengthening urban-rural linkages".



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



This resolution and the principles have been the basis for UN-Habitat work and partners in supporting member states through technical support of case studies.

In the framework, in March 2023, with the support of the Regional Government of Extremadura, UN-Habitat organized the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) “Recovering Territorial Balance by Strengthening Urban- Rural Linkages” that took place in the city of Mérida, Spain. Experts from UN agencies, as well as representatives of national, regional, and local governments, academy, civil society gathered to debate how current trends on territorially imbalanced development are threatening not only rural areas development and sustainability but also have consequences for urban areas.

The *Communiqué* resulting from the EGM debates, decided to call for a global partnership dedicated to advance territorial development, at both political and technical levels. This partnership is seen as a key element in promoting sustainable livelihoods, life, the commons for the planet’s resilience.

Organizer(s)

- Junta de Extremadura, España - Extremadura Regional Government, Spain
<https://www.juntaex.es>
- UN-Habitat

Moderator

Mr. Remy Sietchiping, Head PLGS, UN-Habitat, Australia

Speaker(s)

Ms. Nuria Matarredona Desantes, Director General of Urban Agenda and Architecture, MITBA, Spain.

Ms. Begoña Garcia, Counselor of Agriculture, Rural Development, Population and Territory, Extremadura, Spain.

Ms. Eulalia Elena Moreno de Acevedo Yagüe, General Director of Urbanism and Territorial Planning, Counselor of Agriculture, Rural Development, Population and Territory, Extremadura, Spain

Ms. Firdaus Oussidhoum, Special Adviser to the Secretary General, UCLG, Morocco

Ms. Irene Fagotto, Project Manager, United Nations Environment Programme. Italy

