



UN-HABITAT

Agenda Item 8:

Outcomes of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum and the Africa Urban Forum



**WORLD
URBAN
FORUM**



The premier global conference on sustainable urbanization
since 2001

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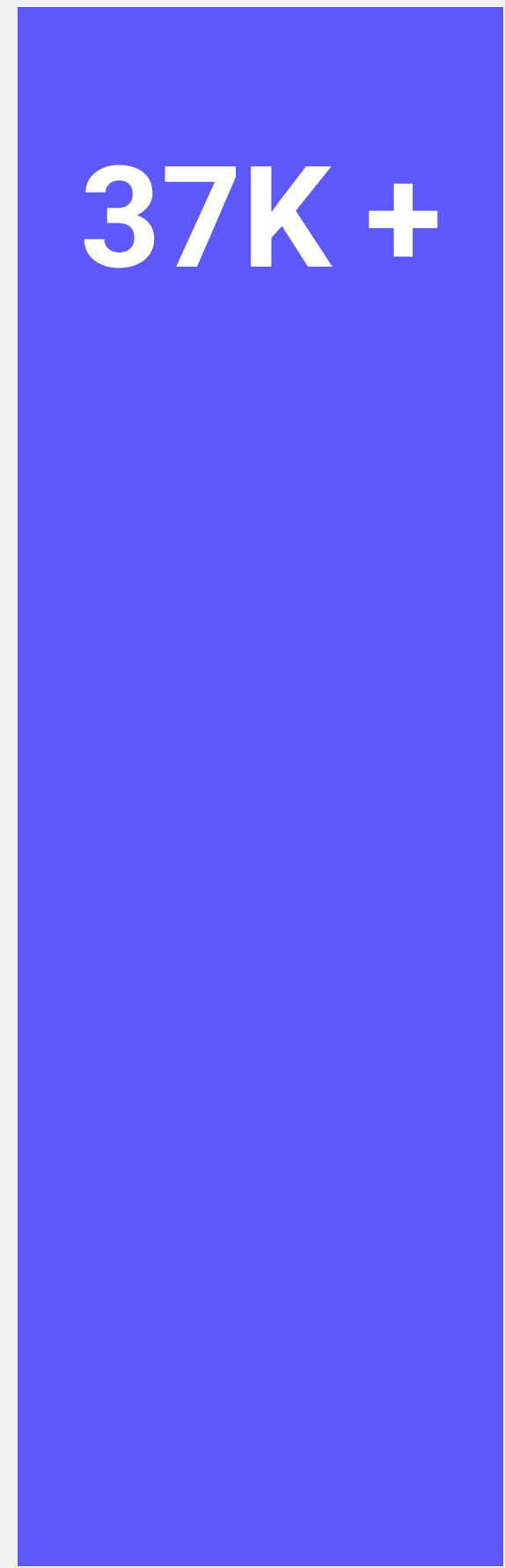
It All Starts at Home

Local actions for sustainable cities and communities



Scale and scope

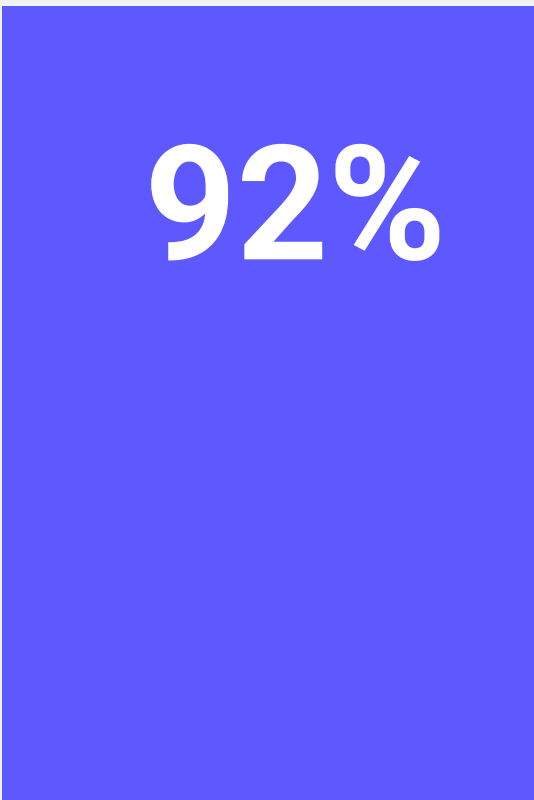
Attendance



Registrations



Participants



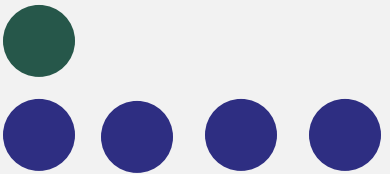
In-person



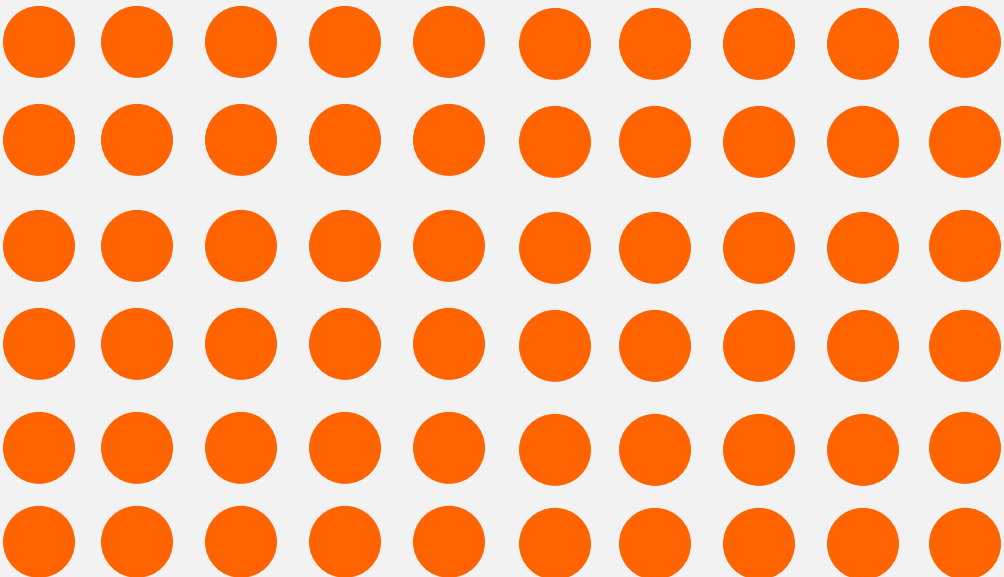
4 Heads of State



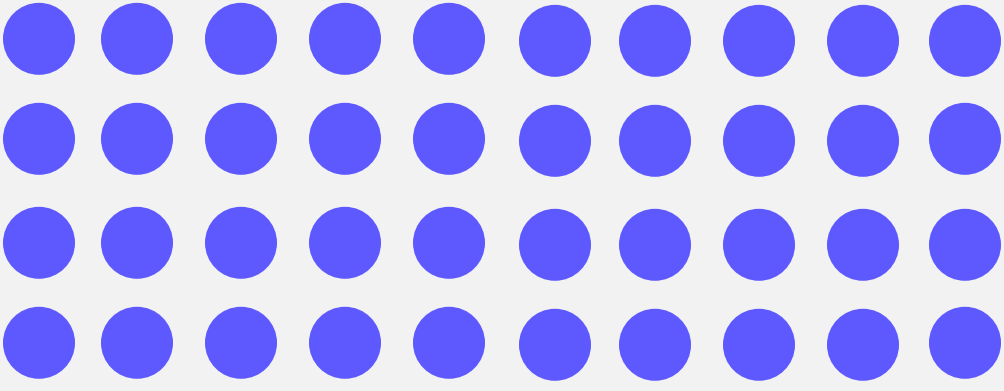
1 Prime Minister



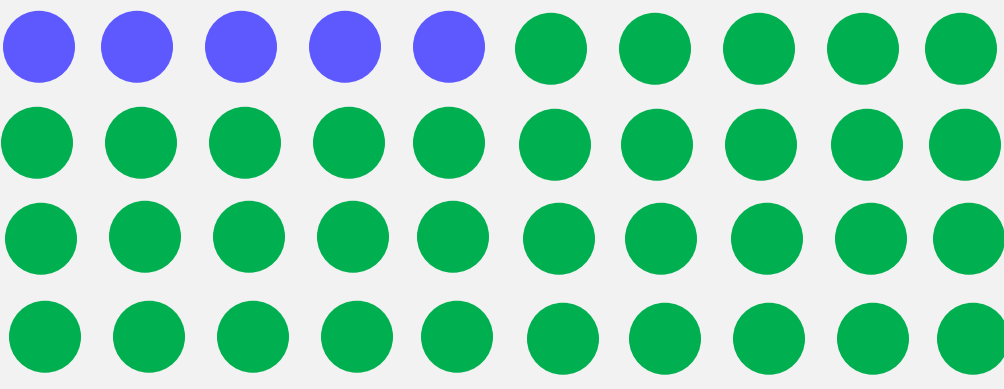
4 Deputy Prime Ministers



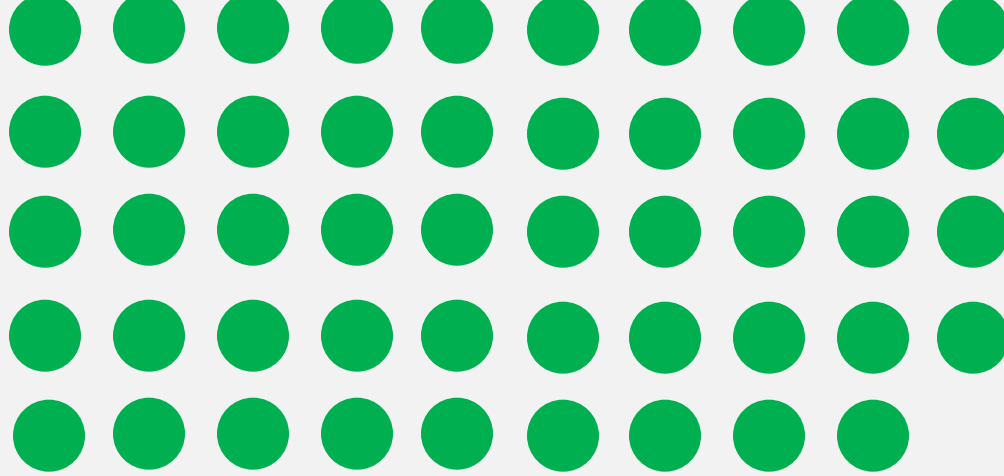
60 Ministers



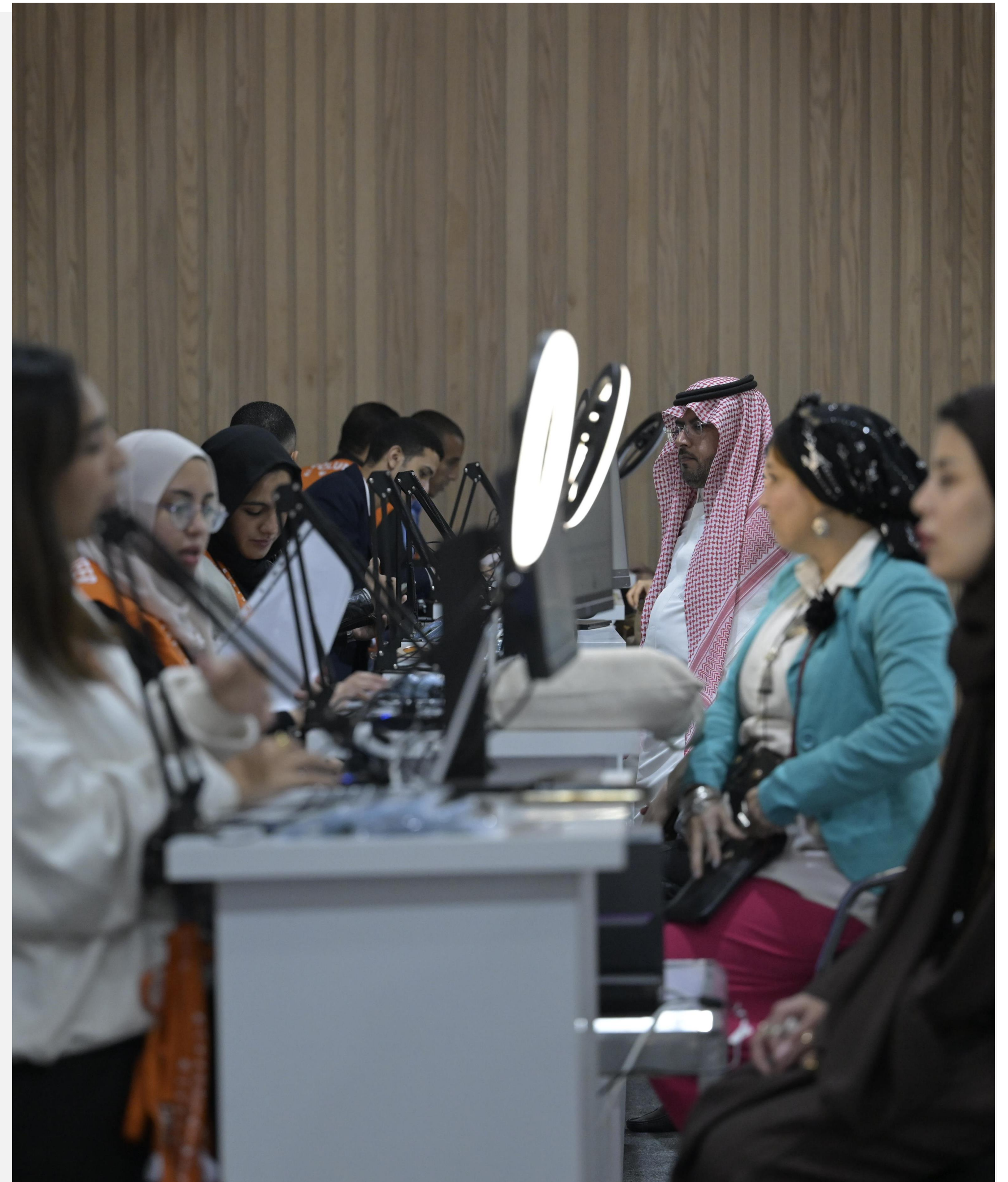
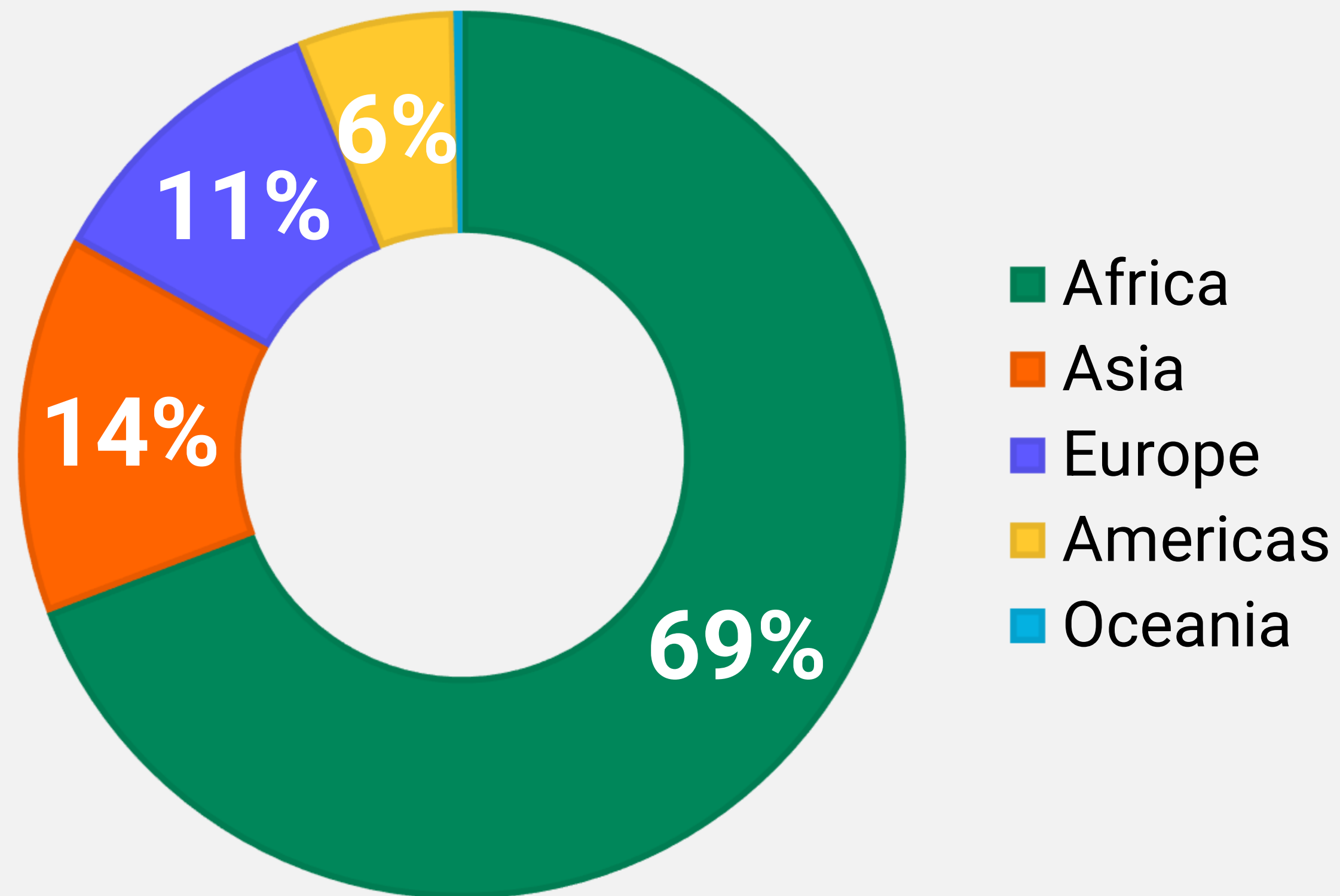
45 Deputy Ministers



96 Mayors and Governors from 84 countries



Regional participation



Events

700+
events

Main events

Organized by
UN-Habitat

Partner-led events

Organized by partners



Gender parity

General attendance

♀ 46.4%

2% Prefer not to say

♂ 51.7%

Main Sessions' panelists

♀ 50.6%

400+ speakers



UN-Habitat Arena

29 events on adequate housing and sustainable urbanization

Water and sanitation, finance, displacement, climate change, mobility, national urban policies, health, urban planning, infrastructure, data, resilience, smart cities, and more.



Media

905
registered

500
in person

120+ M

impressions

50+

countries

72.5 M
mentions on X



Sustainability

Waste management

13% plastic waste reduction

40 segregation bins

Educational boards

100% five-streamed waste sorting

Local recycling partners



Accessibility

Interpretation in all UN Official
Languages + Sign Language

Communication Access Realtime
Translation (**CART**)

+ Many other initiatives



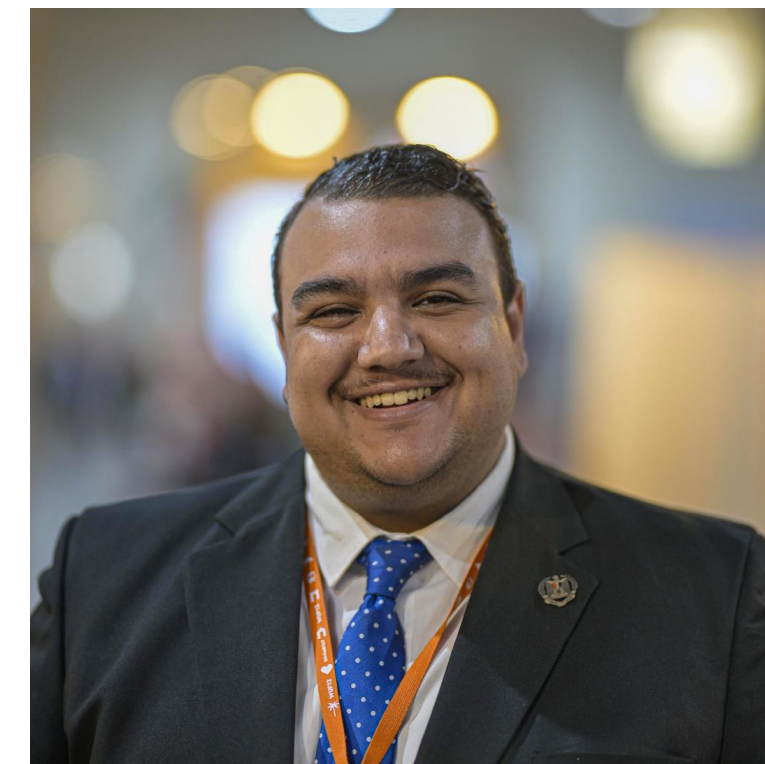
**WORLD
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TWELFTH SESSION



**Shaping knowledge
and action**



Cairo Call to Action



1. **URGENT ACTION** to address the **GLOBAL HOUSING CRISIS**
2. Achieving **GLOBAL GOALS** through **LOCAL ACTION**
3. Sustaining a **SYSTEMIC REPRESENTATION OF LOCAL ACTORS** at all levels
4. Sharing **URBAN SPACES** and opportunities **INCLUSIVELY**
5. **URBAN PLANNING** to deliver better **LOCAL OUTCOMES**



6. **UNLOCKING FINANCE** for cities and communities
7. Ensuring **EQUITY AND JUSTICE** for sustainable cities
8. Leveraging **LOCAL AND GRASSROOTS DATA** for decision-making
9. Harnessing **CULTURE AND HERITAGE** as an asset for **SUSTAINABILITY**
10. Building **COALITIONS AND ALLIANCES** to scale local impact



Cairo Call to Action

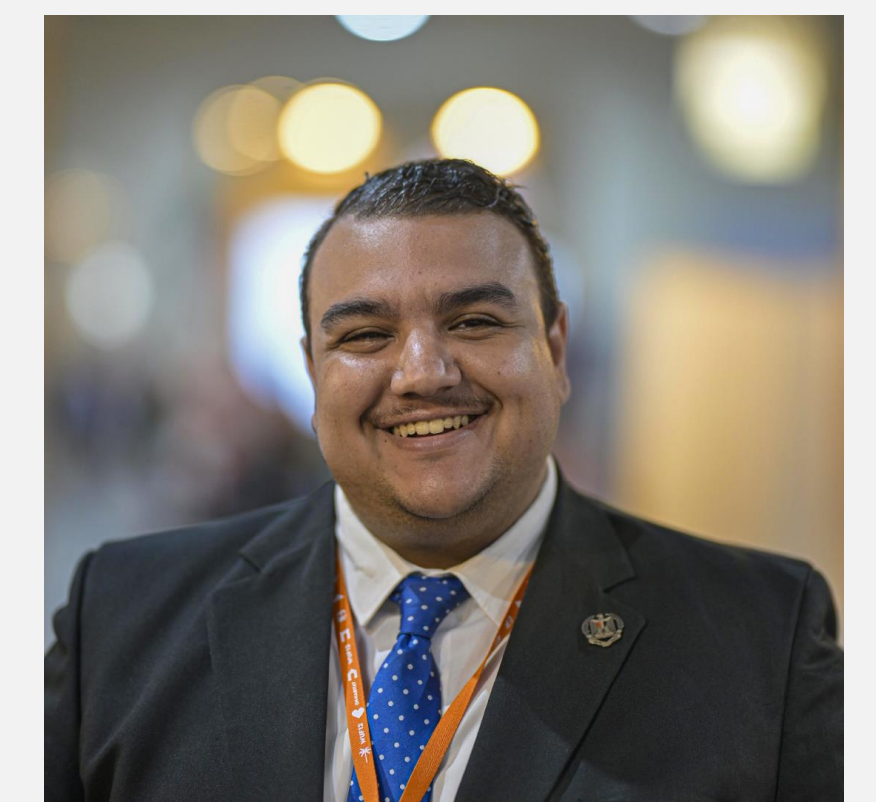


WUF12 Report

Facts and figures

WUF12 Perspectives

Detailed policy analysis



Participants expectations

Pre-WUF survey | 3,437 respondents

- **89%** of newcomers
- **25%** to gain knowledge, 21% to network and 17% to gain skills
- **59%** very familiar (32) or familiar (27) with localization
- Associate **localization** with **culture, adaptation, sustainability**



Outcomes for participants

Post-WUF survey (901 respondents)

- **94%** very satisfied or satisfied
- **94%** very likely or likely to **attend again**
- **74%** of respondents' **perspective on localization changed** after WUF12



UN-HABITAT

Dialogues

Dialogue 1

Housing our future

Called for elevating adequate housing as a priority in countries' national development agendas to respond to the global housing crisis across its facets, leveraging also land-use policies, integrated financing frameworks ensuring climate resilient responses.



Dialogue 2

Cities and the climate crisis

Underscored that cities are at the forefront of the climate crisis, both in terms of vulnerability and capacity to provide solutions and called for a strengthened role of cities and local and regional governments in national and global climate frameworks especially to address urgent financing for urban climate action.



Dialogue 3

Stronger together

Emphasized the key role of partnerships to achieve global goals at all levels and called for strengthened multilevel governance, community engagement, and inclusive policymaking while leveraging public-private investments for equitable urban development.



Dialogue 4

Financing Localization and Localizing Finance

Underscored the financing gaps and limitations cities face including limited access to international capital and own source revenue generation capacities, and called for innovative and untapped revenue streams to be leveraged better while improving financial and budget practices and greater financial accountability and transparency.



Dialogue 5

Putting people first in a digital era

Focused on leveraging technology to create inclusive, resilient cities, emphasizing the importance of being responsive to people's needs first and the need for robust governance, improved digital literacy, and addressing the digital divide.



Dialogue 6

The loss of home

Highlighted the challenges caused by urban displacement and emphasized the need for long-term investment in host communities beyond short-term aid through collective rebuilding to benefit both displaced people and host communities, also qualifying the loss of home and neighborhood means, placing homes and neighborhoods at the center of urban recovery



Other Sessions



Assemblies and Roundtables

5 Assemblies and **13 Roundtables**
with key stakeholders

Called for the role of stakeholders to be
better recognized

Emphasised the need for inclusive and
participatory processes

Highted the opportunity to leverage
their **resources, skills and expertise**



Ministerial Roundtable

- **70** Ministers and senior representatives

Focused on how to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda emphasizing the value of a multi-level collaborative approach to align SDG implementation with local realities, leveraging also public-private partnerships for urban infrastructure and housing investments



Special Sessions

- **8** lead by UN-Habitat, **1** by the Government of Egypt
- **Focused on complementary topics** that were not directly captured in the six dialogues including **health** and wellbeing, **circular economy**, empathy and **inclusion**, **mobility**, **heritage** and civilizations, **public space**



UN System

- The need for **long-term investment** in host communities
- **The interrelated impacts** of conflict, climate change, and economic instability
- Secure **land tenure**, collective **rebuilding**, voluntary **resettlement**, and integrating **housing and livelihoods**
- Mobilizing international resources for **sustainable solutions**



Strategic Highlights



FREE
WIFI



SCAN TO CONNECT

Username: WIFIDG
Password: WIFIDG2024

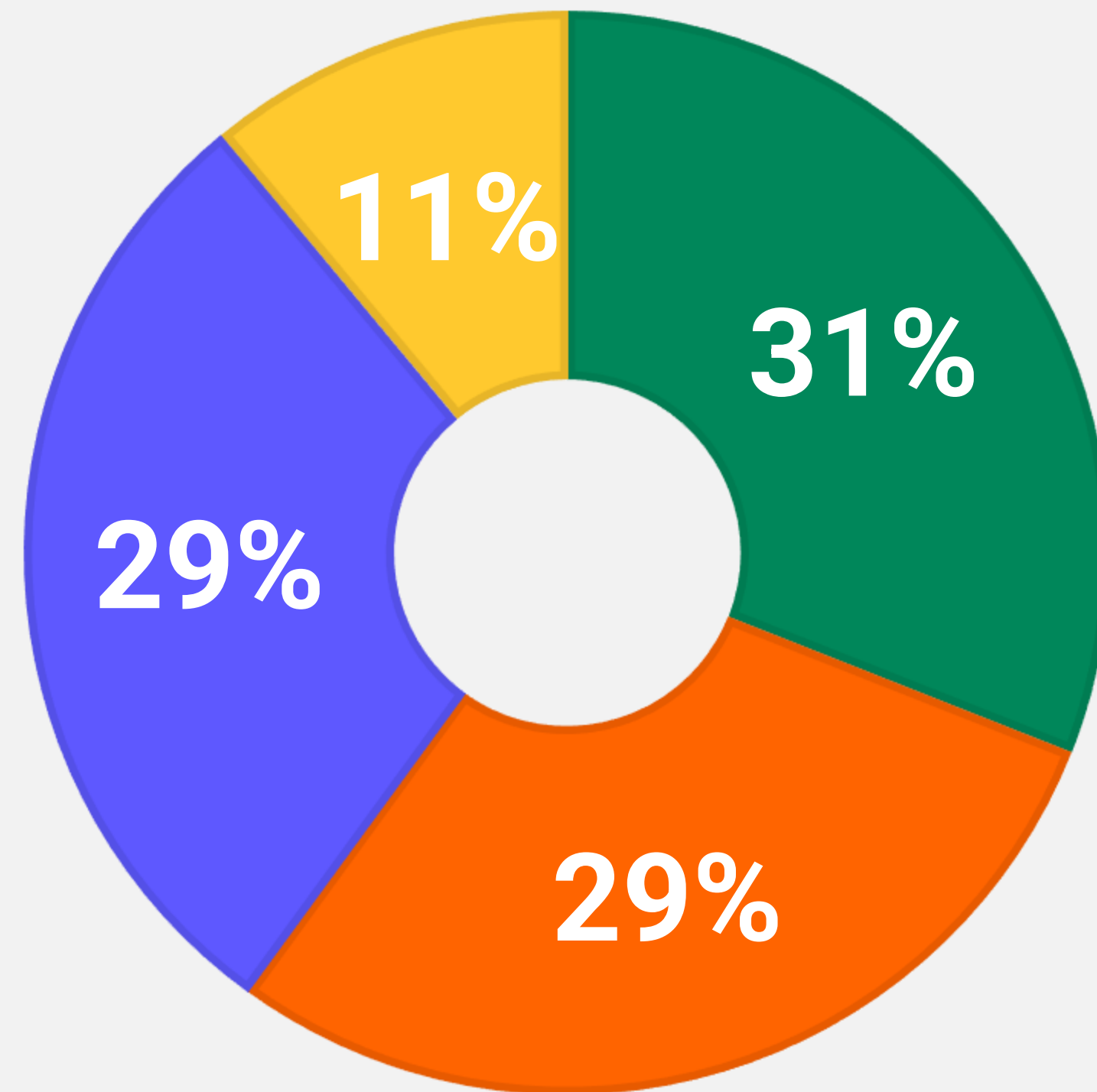
- ↑ Opening and Closing Sessions
Assemblies
Arena
- ← Restrooms
- ↓ Multifaith Prayer room
- ↑ Lost & Found
- Dog Relieving Area
Gate 2,3
- Drop Off Zone
Gate 2
- ↘ Pick Up Zone
- ↘ Exit
Gate 3,4

A clear message

The critical role of **local action** and the role of local and regional governments in achieving sustainable cities and communities



2026-29 Strategic Plan Survey



■ International Organizations and UN Agencies

■ National Governments

■ Local and Regional Governments

■ Others

610 Respondents

91% Consider housing, land and basic services as relevant and **81%** a priority in their countries

81% agree that we cannot achieve the SDGs without resolving the global housing crisis

98% interested in working for the Strategic Plan

The need to showcase good practices

Participants consistently underscored the need to showcase and make available tried and tested good practices



The urgency for finance

Strong calls were made to address the resource gaps faced by local and regional governments



A leading global urban coalition

UN-Habitat undertakes its role as a global convenor of stakeholders and actors relevant to sustainable urban development



WUF13 BAKU



The handover



In the lead up to WUF13

A roadmap of interconnected initiatives for continuous engagement through a global ecosystem of multi-level urban forums and stakeholder platforms, noting the significance of 2026 as the midpoint of the New Urban Agenda, guided by General Assembly mandates of the WUF

