



Press Briefing on Urban Climate and Environment – Roadmap to COP30 and WUF13

Organizer information

Name of organizing entity: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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Event details

Title of event: Press Briefing on Urban Climate and Environment: Roadmap to COP30 and WUF13

Confirmed timing: Thursday, 29 May 2025. The event is planned to take place immediately after the official press conference of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The official press conference is scheduled from 12:00pm to 12:30pm. The actual start time will depend on when the Opening Plenary concludes. The following segments will start at 12:30pm/12:45pm for a duration of 45min.

Representatives of the Media are invited to remain in the Media Centre and Member States are invited to join this briefing.

Duration: 45 minutes





Event description

In the lead-up to COP30 (November 2025) and WUF13¹ (May 2026), UN-Habitat and partners will hold a press briefing on major urban climate and environment milestones. Cities and communities are at the forefront of climate change, bearing significant impacts but also offering immense opportunities for mitigation and adaptation. As cities confront overlapping crises, from climate impacts to housing and inequality, the need for integrated, locally grounded solutions is more urgent than ever. A strong urban component is essential for effective global climate action.

In this context, the press briefing will highlight what UN-Habitat and partners are doing to ensure a strengthened institutional framework for urbanization and multilevel climate action. Specifically, key updates will be shared on the urban roadmap to COP30 and WUF13, the initiatives of the Baku Continuity Coalition², including accelerating the NDC 3.0 and the outcomes of the COP Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change. UN-Habitat's and UNEP's Leadership will also announce priority actions under the renewed Greener Cities Partnership, focused on resilient buildings, inclusive infrastructure, and biodiverse urban planning.

Co-led by the COP29 and COP30 Presidencies, the session will offer partners and participants early insight into how cities and partners are moving from commitment to implementation within the UNFCCC and WUF processes.

Main topic/theme: Climate Change

Relevance to the United Nations Habitat Assembly agenda:

This press briefing supports the Habitat Assembly agenda by advancing UN-Habitat's mandate to promote sustainable urbanization and strengthen multilevel action on climate resilience, aligned with global commitments under the Paris Agreement and the SDGs as well as the upcoming Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

Speakers and participants

List of confirmed speakers/panelists:

¹ The World Urban Forum convened by UN-Habitat takes place biennially and was established by the UN General Assembly in 2001 to convene experts to deliberate on sustainable urbanization <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/>

² The Baku Continuity Coalition for Urban, Multilevel and Multisectoral Climate Action brings together four COP Presidencies and UN-Habitat (Azerbaijan - COP29; United Arab Emirates - COP28; Egypt COP27 and Brazil as the future COP30 host). It is dedicated to ensure complementarity and continuity between UNFCCC COPs as well as with WUFs.





Moderator (if applicable): TBC

- Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP
- Anar Guliyev, Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA) and WUF13 National Coordinator, Republic of Azerbaijan – COP29
- Dr. Abdelkhalek Ibrahim, Senior Minister Assistant, Ministry of Housing, Egypt - COP27 – SURGe (tbc)
- Amb. Silvio Albuquerque, Permanent Representative, Brazil
- Dr Nawal Al-Hosany, UAE - COP28 – CHAMP (tbc)
- Gino van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI

Preliminary run of show (note: this segment to start approx. 12:30)

Time	Thursday, 29 May 2025 Agenda
Opening	
3min	Scene Setting and Opening remarks Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
Launch of the Greener Cities Partnership (Segment 1)	
10min	Vision and priority action of the Greener Cities Partnership Anaclaudia Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP
Roadmap to COP30 with the Baku Continuity Coalition (Segment 2)	
20min	Roadmap to COP30 and updates from members of the Baku Continuity Coalition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anacláudia Rossbach, Moderator • Anar Guliyev, Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA) and WUF13 National Coordinator, Republic of Azerbaijan - COP29 - MAP and Baku Continuity Coalition and WUF13 • Video Message: Amb. André Corrêa do Lago, COP30 president (5 min) • Amb. Silvio Albuquerque, Permanent Representative, Brazil - Roadmap to COP30 • Dr. Abdelkhalek Ibrahim, Senior Minister Assistant, Ministry of Housing, Egypt • Dr Nawal Al-Hosany, UAE - COP28 – CHAMP [TBC]





	Interventions from stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gino Van Begin, ICLEI
Questions and Closing	
10min	Questions and interventions from the floor
2min	Wrap up and closing

Annex

Full concept for the segment:

Our cities are at the heart of the triple planetary crisis: climate change, pollution and biodiversity crisis, combined with a cost-of-living crisis and the housing crisis. Many of these crises are compounding in cities, with impacts on urban economies, services and societies, particularly in informal settlements.

Cities need our full support to build a more sustainable and resilient urban future for all. Against this backdrop, UN-Habitat announces its climate and environment milestones for 2025 and beyond which are dedicated to supporting the institutional framework for urbanization and multilevel climate action within the global climate agenda and forging the partnerships to unlock more projects on the ground in the lead up to COP30, WUF13 and beyond.

Firstly, UN-Habitat has been working with the climate COP Presidencies as well as other UN Agencies and partners to facilitate an enabling environment to showcase the critical role of local leaders and cities within the UNFCCC COP space. Since 2022, Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs have convened Ministers of Housing, Urbanization and Climate Change, local leaders and financing institutions to highlight how multilevel collaboration can accelerate achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement. At COP29, during the third Ministerial Meeting, the Multisectoral Action Pathways (MAP) declaration was launched, which as one of its core elements is highlighting the importance of continuity and collaboration between past, present and future COP Presidencies and WUFs. This idea is embodied in the Baku Continuity Coalition for Urban, Multilevel and Multisectoral Climate Action which bring together four COP Presidencies and UN-Habitat to ensure this continuity and complementarity (Azerbaijan - COP29; United Arab Emirates - COP28; Egypt COP27 and Brazil as the future COP30 host).

With COP30 aiming to have an urban focus, the roadmap to COP30 and WUF13, building on the achievements of the Baku Continuity Coalition, promises to move towards more urban NDCs with action-oriented outcomes and implementation to address the multiple crises and vulnerabilities as well as inequalities in cities.

Secondly, UN-Habitat and UNEP have revigorated the Greener Cities Partnership to leverage each agencies complementary expertise to promote urban sustainability and integrate environmental considerations into urban policy making – with the vision to transform our cities to be healthier, more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable places.





Led by Azerbaijan and Brazil as the COP29 and COP30 Presidencies, UN-Habitat and UNEP, this press briefing will inform about the roadmap to COP30 which builds on the achievements of initiatives and developments relating to urban, multilevel, and multisectoral climate action originating from the UNFCCC COP processes that will also lead up to WUF13 in Baku, as well as the upcoming Greener Cities Partnership. Specifically, three aspects will be covered:

1. Priorities of COP30 and the urban roadmap to COP30 and WUF13
2. Update on the initiatives relating to urban, multilevel and multisectoral climate action from members of the Baku Continuity Coalition (which ensures alignment between COPs and with WUFs)
3. Announcement of the priority actions of the Greener Cities Partnership between UN-Habitat and UNEP (1. Low-emission, resilient, and affordable buildings, neighbourhoods, and cities; 2. Improved provision of and access to low emission and resilient basic services and urban infrastructure; 3. Biodiverse and inclusive planning and design)

The press briefing will also provide an opportunity for participating delegations to ask questions and intervene from the floor.

