



Local Governments for Adequate Housing

Wednesday 22 October 2025

12.30 – 13.30

In person: Conference Room 3

Online: [Special Event: Local Governments and Housing](#) | [Meeting-Join](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Background

Adequate housing is a cornerstone of sustainable development, the “roof of the SDGs.” It is essential for health, education, dignity, safety, and social inclusion, forming the very foundation of human dignity, security, and well-being. Without adequate housing, the promise of leaving no one behind will not be fulfilled.

Yet, we are living through a global housing crisis that threatens the achievement of the global development agendas. Cities are on the frontline: they face the most immediate impacts while also pioneering innovative responses that will shape opportunities and outcomes for generations. However, persistent gaps in data, capacity, and financing continue to constrain their ability to guarantee the right to adequate housing.

Despite these challenges, local governments have demonstrated their key leadership and their commitment to expand public housing stock and pursuing innovative solutions. These efforts also underscore the need for robust multilevel governance frameworks that promote policy coherence, clarify institutional roles, foster accountability, and strengthen collaboration between national and local governments.

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029 echoes this vision. By placing housing, land, and basic services at the core of sustainable cities and communities, and by emphasizing participatory governance and SDG localization, it recognizes LRGs as indispensable actors in advancing the housing agenda. This commitment is operationalized through the SDG Cities Initiative – a holistic, flexible and modular approach aimed at making things easy for cities, simplifying their path toward prosperity by translating the SDGs into a practical tool guiding local development. The Initiative is embedded within the Local2030 Coalition, the UN system-wide effort to localize the SDGs.

This dialogue will take place during the second session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H), a historic and unique platform for advancing global commitment and collective action. The session will be an interactive discussion amongst local and regional governments but also other levels of governments and stakeholders on how we can strengthen multilevel governance, foster policy coherence, and ensure that housing policies are inclusive, participatory, and grounded in local realities. It will highlight current initiatives led by UN-Habitat and local and regional governments, that support this work in practice.

This dialogue will also contribute to the Road to Baku: the Local Way, facilitated by the Local2030 Coalition, feeding into the preparations for the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) in 2026, where housing will stand as a central pillar of sustainable urban development.

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Objective

The dialogue will:

- Elevate the voices of local and regional governments in the global housing debate.
- Showcase innovative and practical solutions that local governments are implementing to advance adequate housing.
- Promote a multilevel governance approach as critical to addressing the housing crisis and achieving global development agendas.
- Contribute to shaping commitments within the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing for All and connect to the Road to Baku: the Local Way as part of the preparations for the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) in 2026.

Expected Outcomes

- Stronger recognition of the central role of local and regional governments in advancing the right to adequate housing.
- Reinforced commitment to multilevel governance and policy coherence for sustainable development
- Shared understanding of key gaps in capacity, data, and financing, and emerging directions for solutions.
- Contributions to the *Road to Baku* process, ensuring local and regional governments engagement remains central to WUF13 discussions on housing and sustainable urban development.