



UN-HABITAT

Agenda item 9:

Preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum

Executive Board of UN-Habitat: Third session for the year 2025
25 to 26 November 2025

#WUF13

Thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum

Baku, Azerbaijan · 17–22 May 2026

**WORLD
URBAN
FORUM**
THIRTEENTH SESSION



BAKU, AZERBAIJAN | 17-22 MAY 2026



UN-HABITAT

Status of preparations for WUF13



1.

About WUF



2.

Preparations



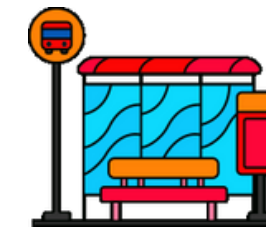
3.

Programming



4.

Global
advocacy and
mobilization



5.

Seeking
strategic
impact

About the World Urban Forum

- Established by the UN General Assembly in 2001 as a non-legislative technical platform (A/RES/56/206).
- An advocacy and engagement platform for all stakeholders in the fields of human settlements and sustainable urbanization (A/RES/72/226).
- A platform to support the reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256*).

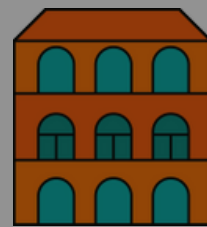


Premier conference on sustainable urbanization

- The twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) in November 2024 gathered **more than 25,000 participants from 182 countries** and culminated in the Cairo Call to Action.
- Participants included national, regional and local government representatives, civil society organizations, grass-roots communities, the private sector, international organizations and academia.
- A key platform for dialogue and partnerships with stakeholders around the priorities of the UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029.



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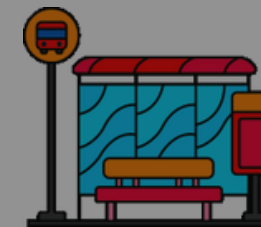
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Thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13)

When?

17 - 22 May 2026

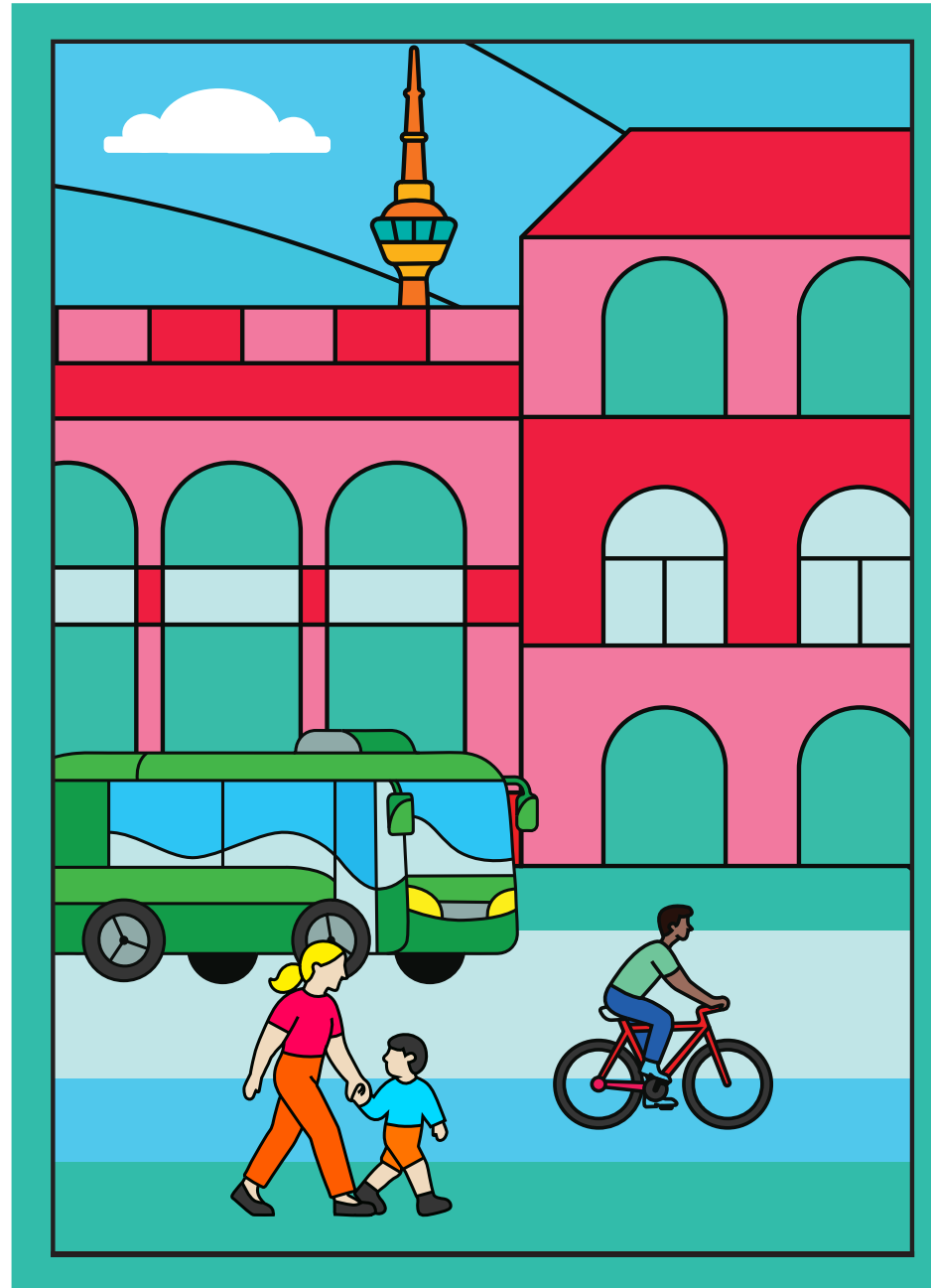
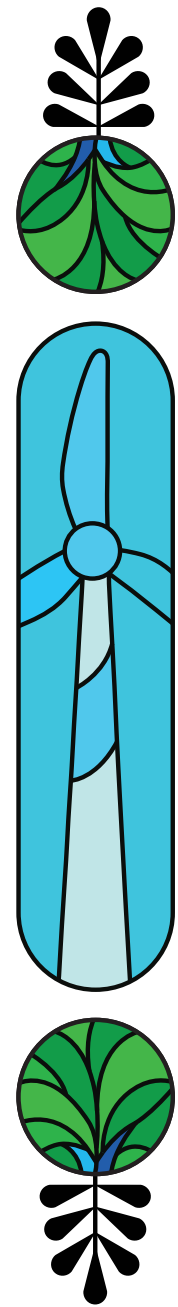
Where?

Baku Olympic Stadium

Azerbaijan

What?

**Housing the world: Safe and resilient
cities and communities**



The urgency of the global housing crisis

- 3 billion people face housing inadequacy.
- 1.1 billion in informal settlements and slums.
- Over 300 million experiencing homelessness.
- Health, safety, and economic stability all at risk.
- Shared challenge affecting both developed and developing nations.

WUF13 Task Force

Chaired by UN-Habitat Executive Director

Strategic

- Alignment with Strategic Plan 2026-2029
- Implementation of New Urban Agenda
- Outcome documents

Political

- Member States engagement
- UN System engagement
- Stakeholder engagement

Substantive

- Theme
- Programme and main sessions
- Partner-led events

WUF13 Operational Technical Team

Chaired by ERSKI Director

Operational

Host country arrangements

Organizing Committee

Main organ to guide preparations

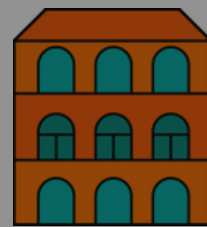
National Coordinator

Principal focal point for coordinating national preparations

Operating Company

Manage operational and logistics aspects

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WUF13 objectives

1

Elevate housing crisis globally – ensure it is a top policy priority.

2

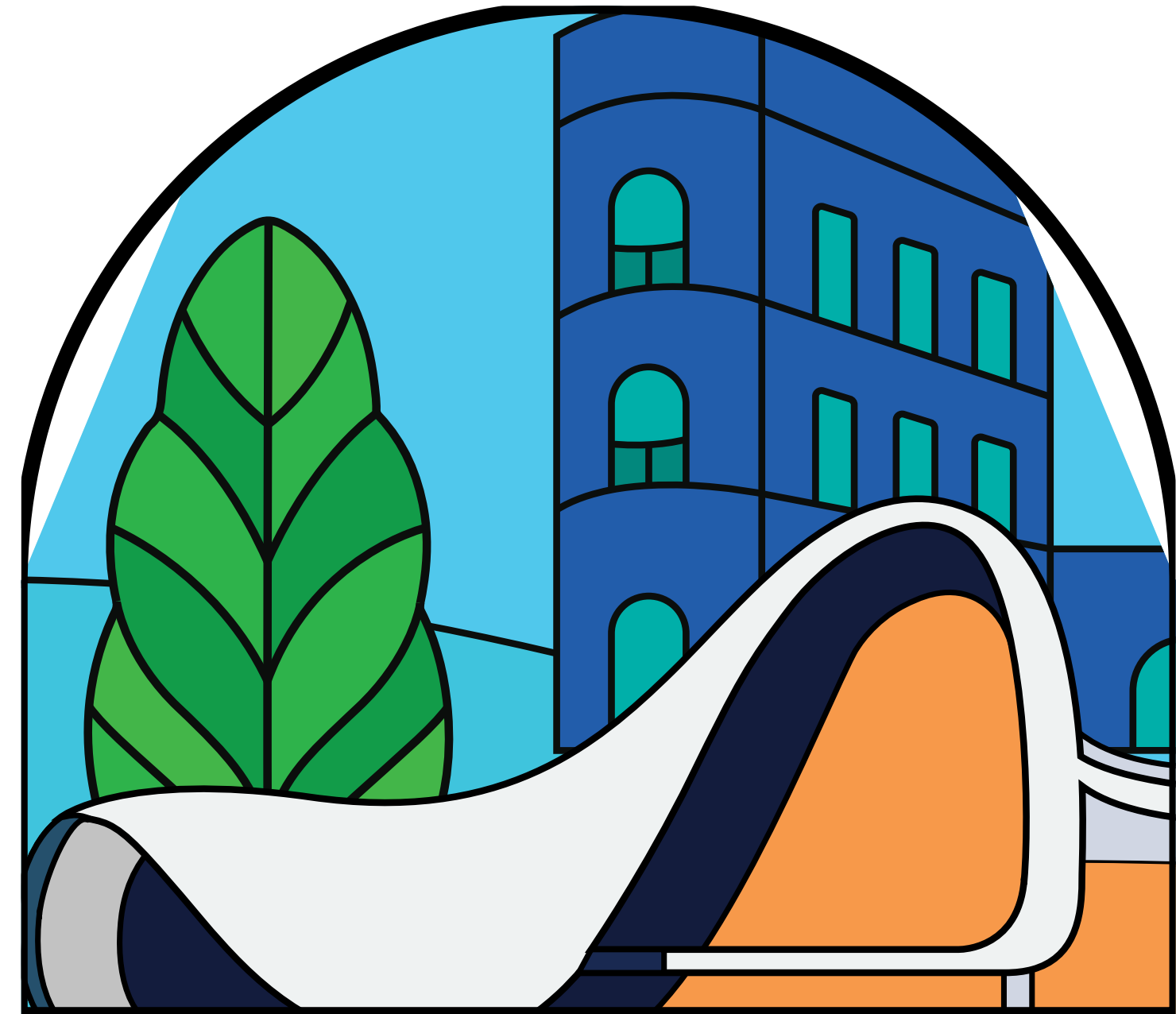
Showcase practical solutions & best practices.

3

Build partnerships & encourage commitments (financing, policies, pledges).

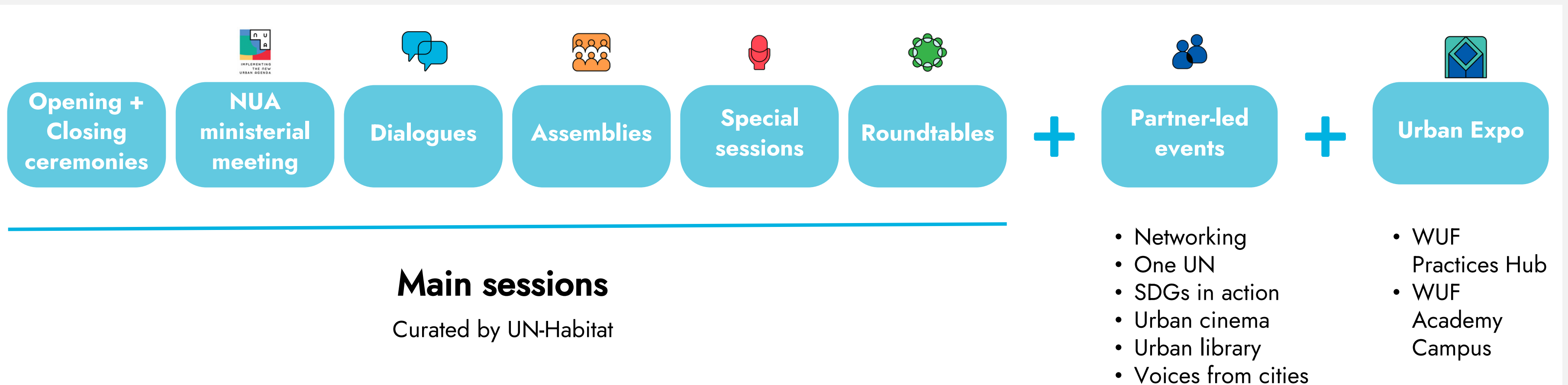
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Deliver clear outcomes – WUF13 Perspectives, Report & Baku Call to Action.

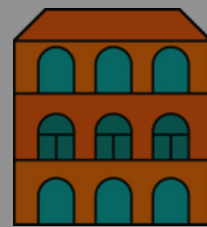


WUF13 programme

The WUF programme features prominent speakers, strategic dialogues, partner-led events and an urban exhibition.



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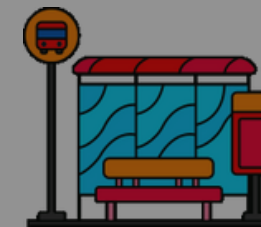
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Stakeholder engagement and communication

- UN-Habitat has launched a **global stakeholder engagement process for WUF13** to ensure inclusive dialogue and mobilization well before the Forum.
- Preparations are guided by **coordinated strategies on communication, global advocacy and regional mobilization**.
- Led by UN-Habitat headquarters and amplified by regional and country offices, these strategies combine messaging, visibility and engagement at all levels.





UN-Habitat's **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT** Towards WUF13 and beyond

In line with its long-standing commitment to partnerships for adequate housing and sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat is pleased to engage you in the roadmap towards the [thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum \(WUF13\)](#), to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 22 May 2026. Reflecting the Forum's theme "**Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities**," UN-Habitat invites stakeholders to co-design meaningful pathways of participation and input. This process enables stakeholders to shape WUF13 sessions, content and outcomes in line with the [UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029](#), the New Urban Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through this structured engagement, stakeholders are invited to contribute to background papers towards the preparatory sessions and the Baku Call to Action.

This briefing note outlines stakeholder engagement avenues before and during WUF13, as part of a sustained participatory process leading into future sessions of the premier conference on housing and sustainable urban development.

Global Stakeholder Forum

The [Global Stakeholder Forum](#) convenes ahead of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, held every four years, to foster inclusive dialogue, shape priorities and bridge stakeholders' perspective with intergovernmental processes. Participants take part in high-level plenaries, strategic and policy dialogues, and thematic sessions on housing, land, climate resilience and urban finance. The Forum concludes with a [Stakeholder Declaration](#) outlining stakeholders' priorities and recommendations to the UN-Habitat Secretariat and Member States.

Global and Regional Stakeholder Dialogues

The engagement process features a series of **Global Stakeholder Dialogues** convened by UN-Habitat's Executive Director and **Regional Stakeholder Dialogues** by senior leadership. These virtual dialogues, open to all UN-Habitat stakeholders, provide a strategic platform for stakeholders to directly engage

with leadership, showcase their initiatives, and align collaborative actions with major global processes such as COP30, the World Social Summit, and reviews of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11, with the ultimate goal of realizing UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029. [The inaugural Dialogue takes place on 2 October 2025.](#)

Advocacy and mobilization

- UN-Habitat is promoting WUF13 at international events through booths, side events, presentations and speaking arrangements. This allows **direct interactions with partners and stakeholders**.
- At the same time, **systematic briefings for the diplomatic corps and the United Nations system** are strengthening ownership, increasing participation and encouraging Member States and agencies to contribute events and solutions at the Forum.

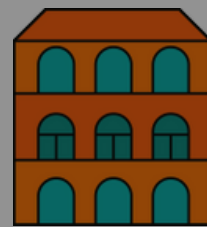


National mobilization

- Preparations are closely coordinated with the Host Country, which is co-leading outreach efforts within Azerbaijan.
- The **Azerbaijan Urban Campaign** (AUC2026) aims to raise national visibility of WUF13 and engage stakeholders across sectors.
- AUC2026 will culminate in **Baku Urban Week**, a public programme of talks, exhibitions, tours and legacy projects immediately before the Forum.



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Strive for lasting impact

Baku Call to Action

WUF13 will issue the Baku Call to Action, an action-oriented declaration on the urgency of the global housing crisis. Consultations with stakeholders ahead of the Forum will ensure inclusivity, broad ownership and alignment with real needs. The Call will guide actions and policy directions at local, national and global levels.

Lasting legacy

In Azerbaijan, legacy projects will enhance engagement of institutions, cities, private sector and civil society. Regionally, peer-to-peer exchange and cross-border cooperation will be strengthened. Globally, WUF13 will reaffirm commitment to the New Urban Agenda and position housing at the centre of development agendas.



Advance global agendas

New Urban Agenda + SDGs

By reaffirming political commitment and engaging stakeholders, WUF13 will accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in its second decade (2026–2036) as well as the SDGs. The deliberations will provide opportunities to align urban agendas with global priorities on poverty eradication, climate action and social inclusion.

Strategic Plan 2026-2029

WUF13 will mark the initial phase of implementing UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 and provide a platform to test innovative approaches and partnerships on housing, land and basic services. The outcomes will inform guidance and knowledge products, while helping Member States and partners set actionable priorities to deliver measurable results.





Register now:
wuf.unhabitat.org/wuf13



Thank you!

unhabitat.org

