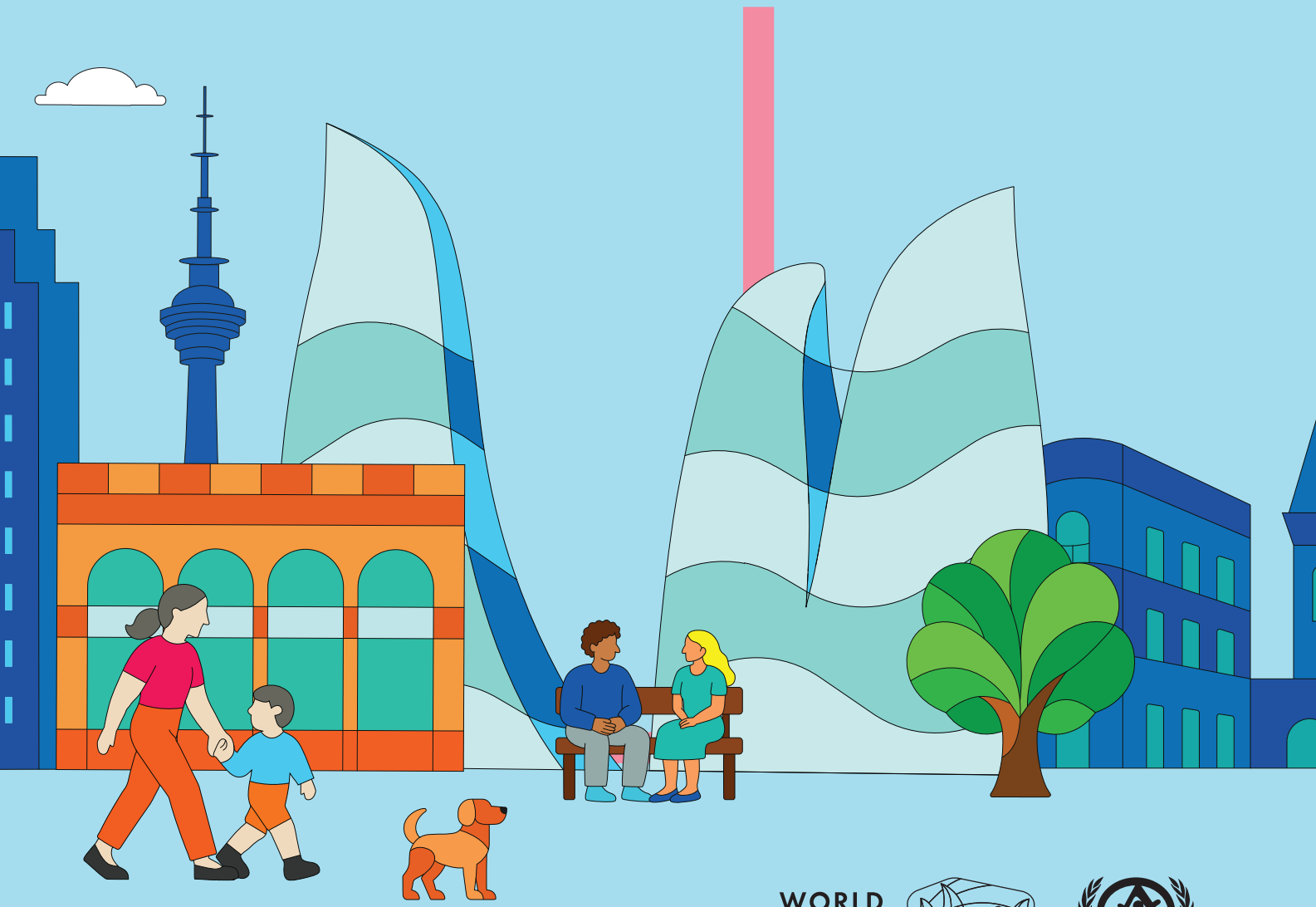
The thirteenth session of the
World Urban Forum report

Housing the world:
Safe and resilient cities and communities



WORLD URBAN FORUM
THIRTEENTH SESSION

UN-HABITAT

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
P.O. Box 30030 00100 Nairobi GPO Kenya

HSP/WUF/13/3

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wuf.unhabitat.org

Report
November 2026

Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities

The thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum report

WORLD URBAN FORUM
THIRTEENTH SESSION

UN-HABITAT

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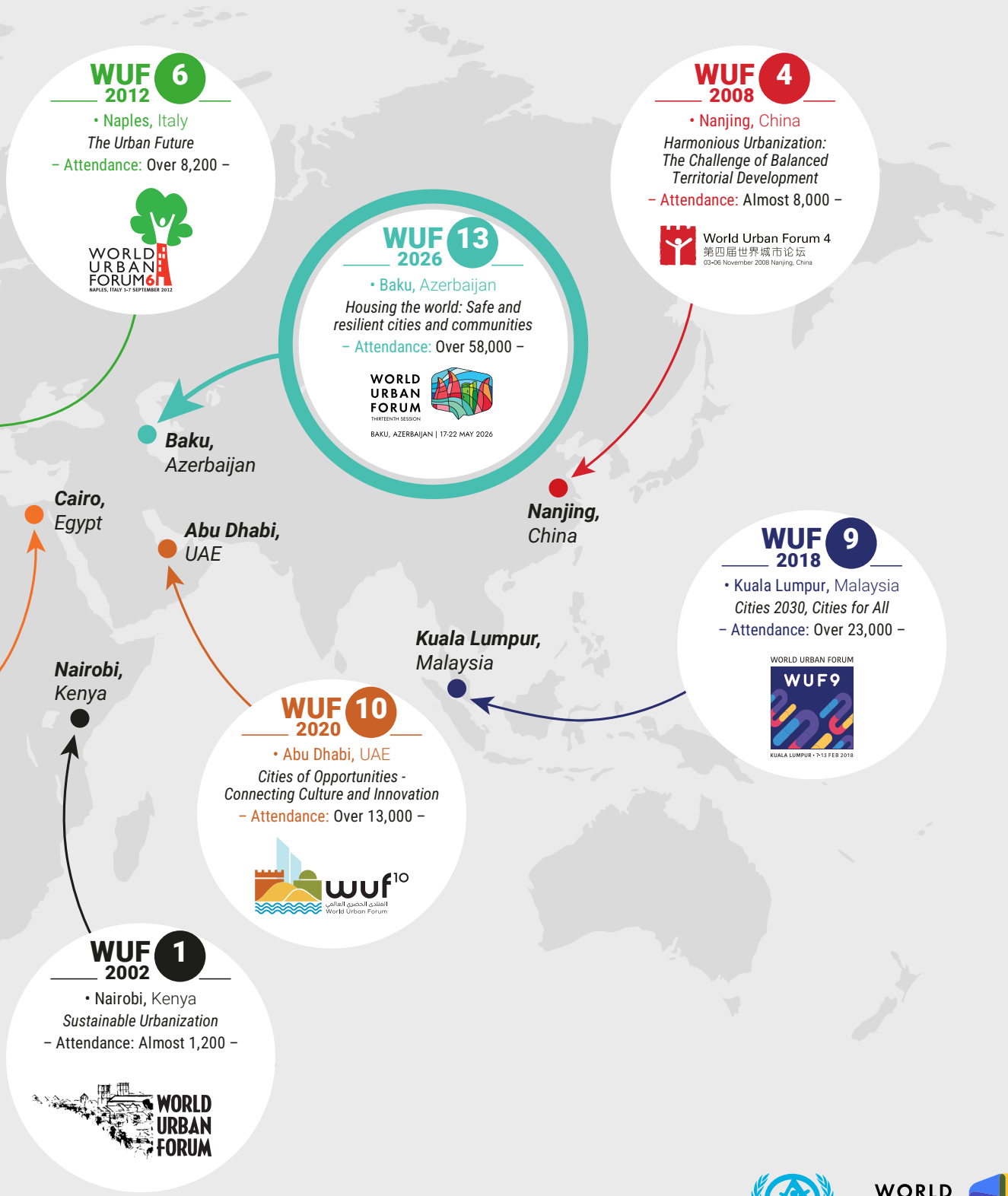
World Urban Forum Alumni Cities

FROM WUF1 TO WUF14



Note:
*In 2016, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development **(Habitat III)** was held in lieu of the eighth session of the World Urban Forum **(WUF8)**.*



UN-HABITAT

WORLD URBAN FORUM

FOREWORD

Message by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat

The World Urban Forum has come of age, as it continues to facilitate and amplify inclusive dialogue among stakeholders on the most pressing urban and housing issues as one of the United Nations leading non-legislative platforms.

It has been an honour to convene the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13), held from 17 to 22 May 2026 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Convened under the theme "Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities", WUF13 marked an important milestone for the World Urban Forum and the global housing and urban agenda. It placed the global housing crisis at the centre of discussions on sustainable urbanization and brought renewed urgency to one of the defining challenges of our time. It also made clear that transforming informal settlements and slums cannot wait given the far-reaching impacts across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Forum took place at a critical moment, in a year that marked both the halfway point in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the review of progress towards SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" at the High-level Political Forum.

WUF13 sent a clear message: the second decade of the New Urban Agenda must focus on accelerated implementation, stronger partnerships and measurable results for people and communities. It called on all stakeholders to move from commitments to delivery, and to place adequate housing, resilience and inclusion at the centre of sustainable urban development, the SDGs and broader global commitments to leave no one and no place behind.

Hosted for the first time in the Central Asia and South Caucasus region, WUF13 was the largest World Urban Forum to date in terms of attendance, bringing together more than 58,000 participants from over 6,000 stakeholder organizations across 176 countries. The Urban Expo was a major achievement of the Forum, attracting more than 100,000 visits and bringing together 260 exhibitors, innovators and solution providers from 92 countries. The strong United Nations system-wide presence at the event was also a key area of success, which had many innovations in the formats available to stakeholders to engage.

The Forum provided an important high-level platform for Member States through the full-day Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda, chaired by the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The Chair's Summary reinforced the need to integrate housing into national and local development strategies and connect it with land, infrastructure, services, mobility, jobs, public spaces, social protection and climate resilience. The forum was preceded by a strong stakeholder engagement process which was further cemented in Baku and now has become a key part of our work.

WUF13 culminated in the *Baku Call to Action*, a stakeholder-driven outcome that provides a shared framework for renewed political commitment to adequate housing and sustainable urbanization. The Call recognizes that housing is more than shelter. It is the foundation of dignity, inclusion, resilience, stability and opportunity. It calls for people-centred, inclusive and climate-resilient housing approaches, supported by stronger multilevel governance, increased investment and meaningful community participation.

The *Baku Call to Action* also reminds us that addressing the global housing crisis requires practical and urgent action on affordability, security of tenure, access to serviced land, informal settlement upgrading, climate resilience, and protection against forced eviction and displacement. Above all, it calls on us to place people at the centre of housing policy and delivery.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the city of Baku, all Member States, local and regional governments, partners, participants, exhibitors, volunteers and the many teams who contributed to the success of WUF13. Their commitment and collaboration made Baku a global meeting point for dialogue, partnership and action.

As we look beyond WUF13, our task is to carry forward the outcomes of Baku and translate them into practical solutions for people and communities. We must continue to build a critical mass of ideas, networks and practices that can accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda and advance adequate housing for all.

Together, we can transform housing and informal settlements, cities and communities into engines of opportunity, equity, resilience and sustainability, offering a better quality of life for all.

FOREWORD

Message by the Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SCUPA)

Hosting the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) from 17 to 22 May 2026 was a unique opportunity for Azerbaijan to contribute to shaping the next chapter of the global urban agenda. As the first World Urban Forum held in the South Caucasus and the Caspian region, it reaffirmed that the urban dialogue is strengthened by the diverse experiences of every region, each bringing unique perspectives to a more resilient and inclusive future. Welcoming the Forum to Baku was both an honour and a responsibility, reflecting our belief that strong partnerships are essential to building better cities for present and future generations.

The timing of WUF13 was especially meaningful. Convened in the year of the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda, the Forum coincided with an important milestone for Azerbaijan. By the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2026 was declared the Year of Urban Planning and Architecture, reaffirming our commitment to quality planning, architectural excellence and integrated territorial development as foundations for resilient and prosperous communities. These global and national priorities gave WUF13 a lasting significance.

At a time when cities are called upon to address climate change, housing needs, demographic shifts and rapid technological transformation, WUF13 reinforced the importance of dialogue, innovation and partnership. The introduction of the first-ever Leaders' Segment elevated the political dimension of the Forum, recognizing that sustainable urbanization is not only a local responsibility but a strategic priority for national governments and the international community.

As the host city, Baku reflected many of the values at the heart of WUF13. Its ability to embrace innovation while preserving a rich historical and cultural heritage illustrates that sustainable urban transformation is not about replacing the past, but building upon it.

WUF13 also provided an opportunity to share the experience of Azerbaijan in post-conflict recovery. Guided by the State Programme on Great Return and the principle of "Build Back Better", Azerbaijan has sought to transform post-conflict reconstruction into an opportunity for long-term, people-centred development. Rebuilding cities is not only about restoring physical infrastructure; it is about restoring livelihoods, hope and a sense of belonging. While every context is unique, the experiences presented in Baku demonstrated how integrated planning can support resilient recovery and offer valuable perspectives for post-crisis and post-conflict reconstruction.



Mr. Anar Guliyev

Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and WUF13 National Coordinator

The successful organization of WUF13 reflected a truly whole-of-government effort. Under the leadership of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, national and local authorities collaborated to deliver a Forum of the highest international standard. As the central authority responsible for urban planning and architecture, the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture worked closely with UN-Habitat and national stakeholders throughout the preparation and organization of WUF13.

WUF13 also demonstrated the growing strength of the Forum as the leading platform for sustainable urbanization. Breaking previous records, the Forum welcomed more than 58,000 participants and hundreds of exhibitors from across the globe. The organization of the first NGO Forum further reinforced the importance of civil society engagement.

As we look ahead, the legacy of WUF13 will be measured not only by the dialogue, but by the actions it continues to inspire. Azerbaijan launched the Baku Urban Award, the first award to be presented at WUF, to celebrate excellence in housing and urban development while promoting innovation and knowledge exchange.

Through the Letter of Intent signed with UN-Habitat, we launched an initiative to develop practical guidance based on the Baku Standards, creating a valuable resource for future host countries. WUF13 demonstrated that effective institutional coordination, broad stakeholder engagement and operational excellence are essential to delivering a global forum of this scale.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to UN-Habitat for its partnership throughout our shared journey to WUF13. As the World Urban Forum continues its journey, I wish success to the future host countries in building upon the achievements of Baku.

The thirteenth session of the
World Urban Forum

CHAPTER ONE

Executive summary

Held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 22 May 2026 under the theme "Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities", the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) was the largest World Urban Forum to date, bringing together more than 58,000 participants from 176 countries, including 9 Heads of State, 3 prime ministers, 110 ministers and 110 mayors. Taking place at the midpoint of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Forum provided a timely platform to accelerate global action on housing and sustainable urban development.



1.1
Background of the
World Urban Forum
pg. **02**

1.2
The thirteenth session of
the World Urban Forum
pg. **03**

1.3
Baku Call to Action
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1.1

Background of the World Urban Forum

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 and convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Urban Forum (WUF) has evolved into the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization. It serves as a high-level, open and inclusive platform for addressing the challenges of urbanization and their impacts on communities, cities, economies, climate and public policy. Held every two years, the Forum plays a central role in monitoring progress towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016 to guide sustainable urban development and promote inclusive, resilient and equitable cities.

The Forum seeks to raise awareness, strengthen collective knowledge and foster collaboration on sustainable urban development. It brings together Member States, local and regional governments, United Nations entities, civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders to exchange experiences, forge partnerships and advance solutions for the critical urban transformations shaping the future of people and the planet.



Baku Olympic Stadium in Baku, Azerbaijan.
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1.2
The thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum

WUF13 took place from 17 to 22 May 2026 at the Baku Olympic Stadium in Baku, Azerbaijan. Co-organized by UN-Habitat and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it was the first session of the Forum to be held in the Central Asia and South Caucasus region.



A view of Baku, Azerbaijan.
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Over six days, the Forum featured **564 activities**, including high-level segments, Assemblies, Dialogues, Roundtables and Special Sessions, alongside partner-led events across a wide range of formats, including Networking Events, One UN, SDGs in Action, Urban Cinema, Urban Library, Voices from Cities and the WUF Academy. WUF13 also hosted the largest Urban Expo to date. Spanning **34,200 square metres**, it brought together **260 exhibitors from 92 countries** and welcomed more than **100,000 visits.**

The year 2026 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III in Quito. To support its implementation and commemorate this milestone and support its implementation, WUF13 launched a dedicated Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda, bringing together ministers, government officials and other stakeholders to review progress and identify priorities for the decade ahead. Its outcomes, captured in the Chair's Summary, contributed to the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda convened by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2026 and to discussions on Sustainable Development Goal 11 at the 2026



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations delivering remarks at a Special Session.
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High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and informed the Secretary-General's 2026 quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.[1]

The WUF13 programme was designed to move the housing discussion from diagnosis towards implementation. Main sessions examined the global housing crisis from political, technical, community, financial and practical perspectives, while three new flagship platforms expanded the Forum's implementation focus. These included the WUF Academy, dedicated to learning and capacity development through training events, Roundtables, the Campus and online learning courses; the Practices Hub, which showcased innovative housing and urban practices through interactive sessions and a digital platform; and the Business & Innovation Hub, featuring curated sessions on innovation, investment and implementation, together with a Startup Pavilion.

WUF13 also significantly expanded global advocacy, regional mobilization and stakeholder engagement through a dedicated roadmap implemented across all UN-Habitat regions. More than 135 advocacy and mobilization activities were held in over 40 countries, directly engaging more than 55,000 people through information sessions, regional initiatives and global platforms. Stakeholder consultations informed both the programme and the *Baku Call to Action*, while national mobilization initiatives in Azerbaijan, including the Azerbaijan Urban Campaign, Baku Urban Week and the WUF13 Festival, brought WUF13 themes into universities, public spaces, cultural institutions, youth platforms and professional networks across the country.

The Forum strengthened its commitment to sustainability, accessibility and inclusivity through measures embedded across planning and delivery.

Sustainability measures included green electricity, demand-based power management, responsible procurement, circular catering and electric buses. Accessibility was addressed through audits, tactile paving, Quiet Rooms, captioning and sign language interpretation, while inclusivity was expanded through targeted sponsorship, inclusive programming, volunteer mobilization and digital access for participants unable to attend in person. This integrated approach helped reduce environmental impact, broaden participation and improve the participant experience.

Survey feedback suggests that WUF13 succeeded in meeting the expectations of participants. According to pre- and post-Forum surveys, respondents came primarily to gain knowledge, build partnerships and acquire practical skills. After the Forum, 91 per cent of respondents reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied, 92 per cent found the content relevant to their work, 93 per cent said they had improved their knowledge of housing, and 94 per cent said they were likely to attend a future World Urban Forum. Feedback also identified areas for continued improvement, including more action-oriented sessions, clearer follow-up mechanisms, easier navigation, improved accessibility, broader inclusion and practical tools for implementation.

1 The Chair's Summary of the Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda is available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2026/05/final_chair_summary_nua_ministerial_meeting_wuf_13.pdf.



Art installation outside the Urban Expo.
© **UN-Habitat**

WUF13 advanced a lasting legacy through its outcomes, platforms and host-country initiatives. The outcomes of WUF13 are reflected in three complementary documents: the *Baku Call to Action*, the *WUF13 Report* (this publication) and *WUF Perspectives*. The *Baku Call to Action* is a stakeholder-led outcome document that captures the key messages, priorities and practical actions emerging from discussions during WUF13 and throughout the preparatory process, the *WUF13 Report* provides an overview of the Forum's programme, participation and strategic highlights, and *WUF Perspectives* synthesizes participants' perspectives and the substantive insights emerging from discussions across the Forum.

Host-country legacy initiatives, including the Baku Urban Award and the Baku Standards for hosting WUF13, will help recognize practical housing and urban development solutions and document operational lessons from the Baku edition as a voluntary reference for future World Urban Forum hosts. Together, the outcomes and knowledge products of WUF13 support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, inform the implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, and contribute to regional and global intergovernmental processes on sustainable urbanization and housing.

1.3
Baku Call to Action

Launched at the closing ceremony of WUF13, the *Baku Call to Action* is the principal stakeholder-driven outcome document of the Forum. [2] For the first time in the history of the World Urban Forum, the outcome document was developed through sustained en-gagement with a broad range of UN-Habitat stakeholders. This inclusive and participa-tory process included dedicated consultations, guidance from a multi-stakeholder Ad-visory Group and the public release of a zero draft in the lead-up to WUF13, as well as discussions and recommendations emerging throughout the six-day Forum (see sec-tion 4.1).

The *Baku Call to Action* conveys a clear message: the global housing crisis has reached a critical juncture. It recognizes that the crisis is not accidental, but the result of deep structural, systemic and governance failures. Reaffirming that adequate housing extends far beyond the provision of shelter, the document calls for bold political commitment, strengthened partnerships and accelerated action to ensure adequate housing for all.



UN-Habitat Executive Director led a Global Stakeholder Dialogue ahead of WUF13.
© UN-Habitat

2 The full text of the *Baku Call to Action* is available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2026/05/wuf13_baku_call_to_action.pdf.

The Call to Action urges the international community to respond with the ambition and urgency that the scale of the challenge demands. It calls for housing to be reprioritized, guided by the stewardship of integrated housing policies, supported by organized multi-stakeholder action, long-term predictable financing, improved implementation capacity, multilevel governance, sustained public investment and measurable accountability mechanisms.

The document is organized around three thematic pillars that examine the underlying rights and structural drivers of the housing crisis, identify the key levers for addressing its immediate manifestations and outline pathways for transforming housing systems towards a more just, inclusive, resilient and sustainable future.

The *Baku Call to Action* provides a framework for continued collaboration beyond the Forum. It reinforces stakeholder engagement as a driving force for advancing the New Urban Agenda, accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving adequate housing for all.



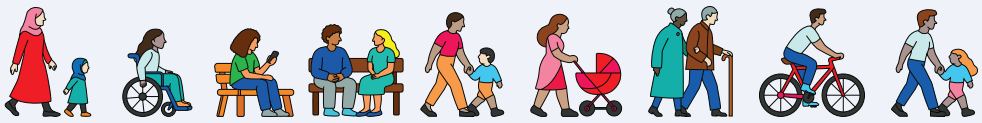
Artisan showcasing Azerbaijan's traditional stained glass craftmanship, Shabaka.
© UN-Habitat

CHAPTER TWO

WUF13 in numbers

Participation statistics and demographics

Total number of attendees



WUF13: 58,078

WUF12: **25,146**
(18,764 in-person participants + 2,059 online participants + 4,323 workforce + 394 volunteers)

WUF11: **17,003**
(8,085 in-person participants + 6,204 online participants + 2,714 workforce + 169 volunteers)

WUF10: **13,333**
(9,580 in-person participants + 3,753 workforce + 293 volunteers)

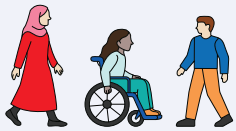
WUF9: **24,331**
(19,273 in-person participants + 5,094 workforce)



41,542
in-person participants



6,113
online participants

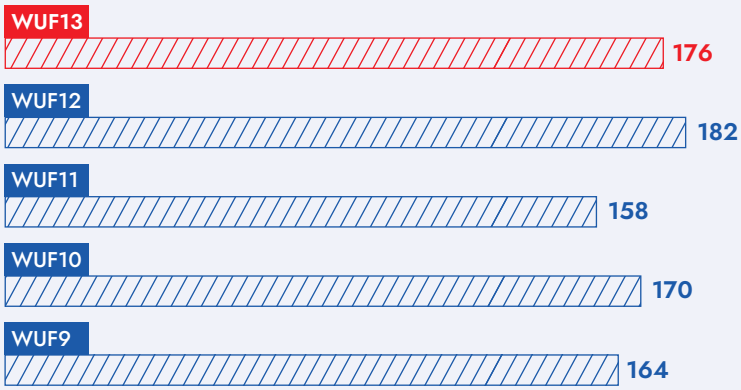


7,960
Workforce



2,463
Volunteers

Total number of countries represented (comparison with previous editions)

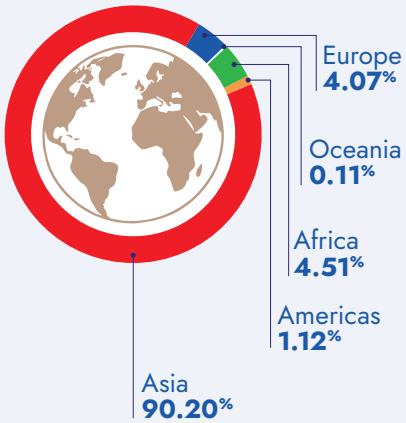


In-person attendance percentage:

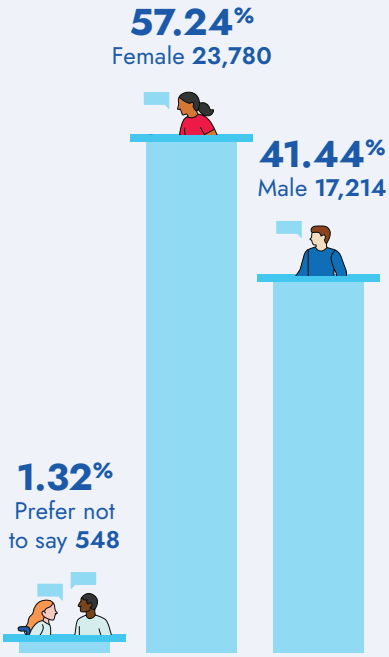
87.2%

(in-person attendance: 41,542;
online attendance: 6,113)

In-person participation by regions



In-person participation by gender



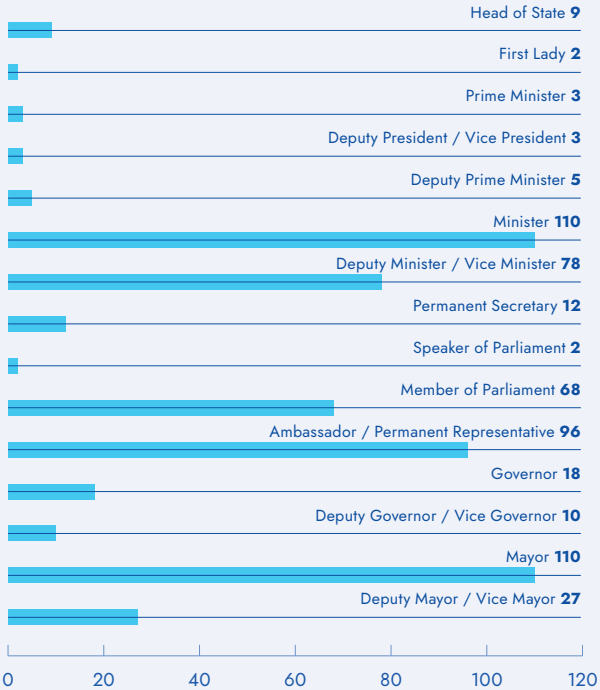
In-person participation by type of organization

Academia and research	41.8%
Civil society organization	15.5%
Foundation	2.9%
Intergovernmental organization	0.9%
Local and regional government	3.4%
Media	2.1%
National government	14.0%
Parliamentarian	0.3%
Private sector	17.4%
United Nations	1.7%

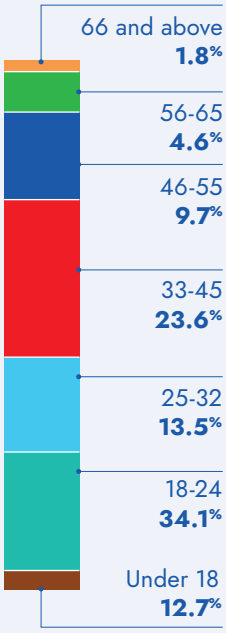
In-person participation by top 10 countries

Azerbaijan	81.97%
Türkiye	1.07%
Pakistan	0.93%
Saudi Arabia	0.91%
Russian Federation	0.88%
Kenya	0.73%
China	0.70%
India	0.66%
Nigeria	0.62%
Kazakhstan	0.59%

High-level participation statistics



In-person participation by age

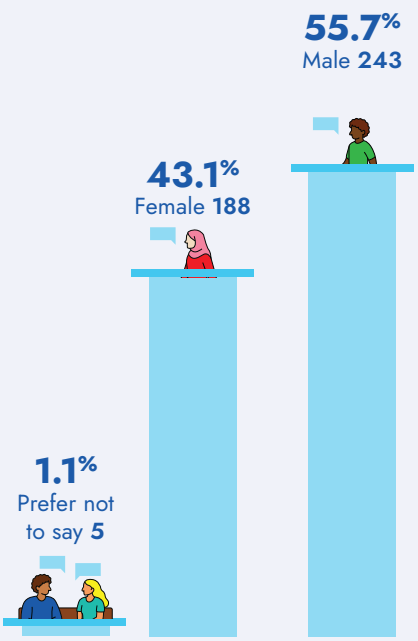


Main session speakers statistics and demographics

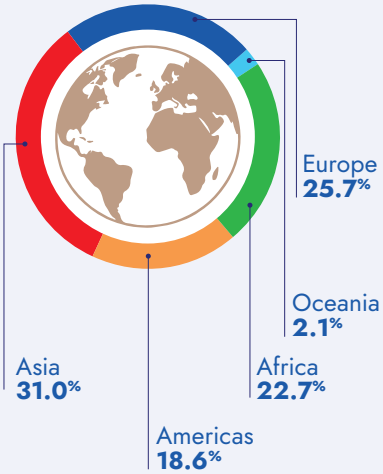
Total number of main session speakers:

436

By gender



By region



A total of

388

bilateral meetings took place alongside the official programme, bringing together partners and organizations from **47 countries**

By type of organization

Academia and research	33	7.6%
Civil society organization	82	18.8%
Foundation	10	2.3%
Inter-governmental organization	25	5.7%
Local and regional government	42	9.6%
Media	4	0.9%
National government	138	31.7%
Parliamentarian	9	2.1%
Private sector	37	8.5%
United Nations	56	12.8%

Number and type of events

Opening and closing ceremonies	2	WUF Academy events	43	Press Conference Centre events	13
Leaders Statement segment	1	Networking events	166	Caucus meetings	21
Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda	4	Voices from Cities	50	Practices Hub	11
Dialogues	6	SDGs in Action	33	Business & Innovation Hub	15
Assemblies	6	UN-Habitat Arena	18	WUF Academy Campus	51
Roundtables	12	Urban Cinema	17	Other events	16
Special Sessions	10	Urban Library	33	Flag raising and lowering ceremonies	2
One UN	32	Opening and closing press conferences	2	**Total number of events**	**564**

Urban Expo metrics

Total Expo area
34,200 sq m

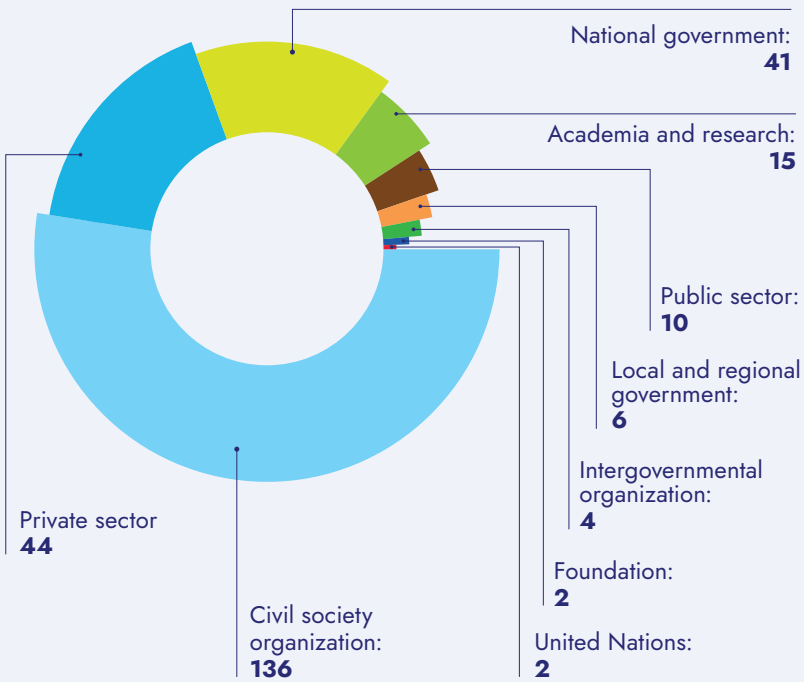
Net exhibition space:
10,219 sq m

No. of exhibitors:
260

Countries:
92

Total number of visits:
100,00+

Urban Expo partner types



Sustainability metrics of WUF13

100%
green electricity
used during the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum

Total emissions reductions:
9%
21,245.6 tCO_2e

Stakeholder engagement

Number of stakeholders engaged:
3,000+

Countries represented:
160+

Number of consultations organized:
50+

Global advocacy and regional mobilization

Number of advocacy and mobilizationactivities delivered:
135+

Number of stakeholders reached:
55,000+

Countries reached:
40+

Media impact

Media representatives accredited on site:
865

Estimated global earned media impressions:
200–500 million

Social media engagements during WUF13 week:
86,840

Participant experience



The thirteenth session of the
World Urban Forum

CHAPTER THREE

Programme overview





The WUF13 programme was designed to move the housing discussion from diagnosis towards implementation. Across high-level segments, main sessions, new flagship platforms, partner-led events, special events and the Urban Expo, participants examined the global housing crisis from political, technical, community, financial and practical perspectives.

Structured around the theme "Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities", the programme treated housing as a foundation for dignity, inclusion, resilience, economic opportunity and sustainable urban development. It brought together Member States, local and regional governments, United Nations entities, civil society, academia, the private sector, community representatives and other stakeholders to explore how commitments can be translated into action.

This chapter provides an overview of the main components of the WUF13 programme and highlights how they contributed to advancing adequate housing, implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the broader sustainable urban development agenda.

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Leaders Statement segment during the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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3.1

High-level segments

WUF13 introduced two high-level segments that strengthened political engagement with the Forum. The Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda, held on 17 May 2026, created a dedicated space for Member States to review progress ten years after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. The Leaders Statement segment, convened on 18 May 2026, brought Heads of State and Government into the Forum's opening ceremony to highlight the importance of housing and sustainable urbanization at the highest political level.

Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda

Convened under the chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda was introduced as a new element of WUF13. The meeting was closely aligned with the WUF13 theme, placing adequate housing at the centre of discussions on social inclusion, economic opportunity, climate resilience and sustainable urban development. With 110 ministers and 78 deputy ministers participating in WUF13, Member States used national statements to highlight progress in strengthening policy, legal and planning frameworks, while emphasizing the need to move from commitments to delivery at scale.

Opening ceremony of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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In addition to national statements, the meeting featured three thematic discussions. The first, on housing for social inclusion and ending poverty, examined how adequate housing can help reduce inequality, strengthen social and public housing systems, improve conditions in informal settlements and support groups most at risk of being left behind. The second, on housing for urban prosperity and opportunities for all, considered housing as a driver of economic growth and human development, including through stronger links with land management, infrastructure, transport, employment and local economic development. The third, on housing for environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development, focused on the housing-climate nexus, including low-carbon construction, resilient planning, informal settlement upgrading and stronger alignment between housing strategies and climate commitments.

As an outcome of the Ministerial Meeting, a Chair's Summary was produced to capture key messages from the national statements and thematic discussions. It highlighted housing as a central entry point for accelerating implementation of the New Urban Agenda and identified key priorities for the decade ahead, including stronger financing, multilevel governance, local capacity, integrated planning, data systems and account-ability. The Chair's Summary informed the *Baku Call to Action* and wider WUF13 out-comes, and carried ministerial messages forward to the High-level Meeting of the Unit-ed Nations General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda in July 2026.



Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda.
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Leaders Statement segment

The Leaders Statement segment was also convened for the first time in the history of the World Urban Forum. Championed by the host country and integrated into the opening ceremony, the segment aimed to elevate the political significance of WUF13 and highlight the role of leadership in advancing adequate housing and sustainable urbanization.



Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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Leaders Statement segment at WUF13.
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19 Heads of State, Heads of Government and high-level officials delivered statements, sharing national and regional experiences and highlighting the importance of the WUF13 theme. Leaders underscored the urgency of addressing housing shortages, inequality, rapid urbanization and climate pressures, while calling for practical action, stronger partnerships and renewed political commitment.

By bringing Heads of State and Government into the opening of the Forum, the segment reinforced WUF13 as a platform for political leadership in addition to stakeholder dialogue and technical exchange. Together with the Ministerial Meeting, it strengthened the high-level dimension of WUF13 and contributed to the momentum needed to advance the New Urban Agenda during its second decade of implementation.

3.2
Main sessions



Women's assembly of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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Main sessions formed the core of the WUF13 programme, providing spaces for high-level dialogue, stakeholder engagement and action-oriented exchange on the Forum theme, "Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities". Through Dialogues, Assemblies, Roundtables and Special Sessions, participants examined the global housing crisis from different perspectives and explored practical pathways to advance adequate housing, resilient communities and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Dialogues

Assemblies

Roundtables

Special Sessions



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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The thirteenth session of the
World Urban Forum



Dialogue session on "A new deal for housing finance" at WUF13.
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Dialogues

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The global housing crisis: What is the plan?

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Transforming informal settlements and slums for housing the world

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A new deal for housing finance



Dialogues

Dialogues were high-level sessions that provided a platform for reflection, exchange and action on the most pressing challenges facing cities and communities. Under the WUF13 theme, the six Dialogues brought together governments, experts, practitioners, communities and partners to identify pathways towards adequate housing for all.

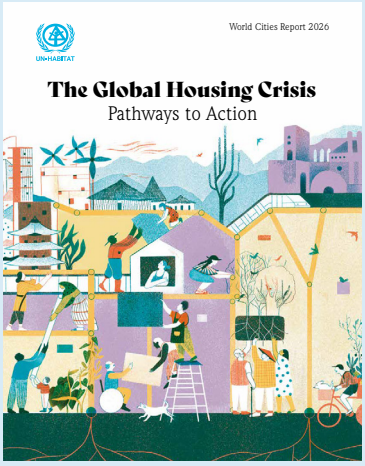
Setting the agenda for policy and action, the Dialogues positioned housing as a foundation for sustainable urban development and examined its connections with climate action, crisis recovery, economic development, financing, social inclusion and urban transformation.

Across the sessions, participants emphasized the need for integrated approaches, stronger partnerships and solutions adapted to local realities.

The global housing crisis: What is the plan?

This Dialogue addressed the growing global housing crisis and called for the urgent transformation of housing systems to respond to the needs of people and communities. Speakers emphasized that housing is not only about providing shelter, but is also closely connected to dignity, health, safety, opportunity and human rights. The discussion highlighted the interconnected challenges of inadequate housing, affordability, informal settlements, insecure tenure and exclusion across all regions.

World Cities Report 2026



Launched at WUF13, UN-Habitat's flagship World Cities Report 2026, titled *The Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action*, provided an evidence base for the Forum's discussions on housing. The report estimates that up to 3.4 billion people lack access to adequate housing and presents the crisis as both multidimensional and a failure of human rights. It unpacks the housing crisis along the five intersecting challenges of affordability, displacement, informality, climate resilience and inclusivity. It calls for a holistic response that places housing at the centre of public policy and combines public investment with integrated planning, multilevel and participatory governance, appropriate financing, stronger data and institutional capacity. Its findings reinforced the Dialogues' call for coordinated action addressing the structural causes of the crisis.

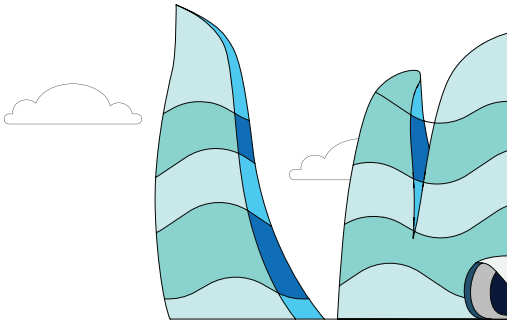


Participants attending Dialogue session.
© UN-Habitat

It called for holistic approaches that combine housing policy with land management, urban planning, infrastructure, climate resilience and financing, and for long-term strategies that bring together governments, communities, the private sector and other stakeholders to deliver adequate housing at scale.

Transforming informal settlements and slums

This Dialogue focused on transforming informal settlements into inclusive, connected and resilient communities. Participants highlighted that informal settlements should not be viewed only as challenges, but also as places of opportunity, innovation and social capital.





Dialogue session "Housing at the centre of crisis recovery and reconstruction."
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Discussions emphasized the need to move away from forced evictions and towards approaches based on recognition, secure tenure, participatory upgrading and access to services. Speakers underlined the importance of community-led solutions, stronger data systems and partnerships between residents, governments and institutions. The Dialogue reinforced the point that addressing informal settlements requires integrated strategies combining housing, infrastructure, livelihoods, financing and inclusive governance.

Housing at the centre of crisis recovery and reconstruction

This Dialogue explored the critical role of housing in responding to conflicts, disasters, displacement and climate-related crises. Participants stressed that rebuilding homes is not only about reconstructing physical structures, but also about restoring dignity, stability, livelihoods and social connections. Housing was presented as a central element of recovery strategies from the outset, supported by stronger governance, financing mechanisms and community participation. The Dialogue highlighted the importance of moving from short-term emergency responses towards long-term solutions that rebuild safer, more inclusive and resilient communities.

The climate-housing nexus

This Dialogue highlighted the strong interconnection between housing and climate action. Participants stressed the need to better integrate housing and climate policies, recognizing that homes and the built environment are both vulnerable to climate impacts and contributors to emissions. Discussions focused on integrating climate resilience, energy efficiency and sustainable construction into housing systems while maintaining affordability. Speakers shared solutions including sustainable materials, improved building standards, passive design, resilient infrastructure and locally adapted approaches. The Dialogue called for stronger alignment between climate and housing agendas to ensure that urban development is inclusive, low-carbon and resilient.

The social and economic power of housing

This Dialogue examined housing as both a social foundation and an economic driver. Participants emphasized that adequate housing supports health, education, livelihoods, productivity and social cohesion, while also contributing to economic development and job creation. Speakers highlighted the need to balance the economic value of housing with its social purpose, ensuring that housing systems prioritize people and inclusion. The discussion also addressed accessibility, care, gender equality and community participation in shaping housing policies. The Dialogue reinforced the point that investing in housing is an investment in stronger economies, more resilient communities and improved quality of life.





A new deal for housing finance

This Dialogue focused on transforming housing finance systems to deliver adequate and affordable housing at scale. Participants noted that existing financing models often fail to reach the people and communities most in need, requiring new approaches that combine public investment, private sector participation and innovative financing mechanisms. Discussions highlighted the importance of domestic financing systems, targeted subsidies, community-based finance, partnerships and stronger institutional frameworks. The Dialogue called for a new approach to housing finance that recognizes housing as a long-term investment in social stability, economic development and sustainable urban futures.

Dialogue session
"Transforming informal settlements and slums".
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Dialogue session
"The climate housing nexus".
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Participants taking photo with the WUF13 logo installation.
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The thirteenth session of the
World Urban Forum



Women's assembly at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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Assemblies

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Joint opening of the Assemblies

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Joint closing of the Assemblies



Assemblies

Assemblies, held prior to the official opening of the Forum, convened key stakeholder groups to bring diverse perspectives into global discussions on sustainable urbanization. Under the WUF13 theme, the Assemblies provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration and the development of stakeholder-driven solutions to address the global housing crisis. Across the sessions, participants emphasized the need to recognize housing as a foundation for dignity, inclusion, resilience and sustainable development.

Joint opening of the Assemblies

The joint opening highlighted the essential role of stakeholders in shaping inclusive and people-centred responses to the global housing crisis.

It emphasized that housing goes beyond physical structures and is deeply connected to safety, belonging, livelihoods, public services, climate resilience and social cohesion.

Representatives from the different Assemblies identified shared priorities, including the recognition of housing as a human right and a driver of dignity, opportunity and inclusion; stronger community participation, particularly by women, youth, grassroots groups and vulnerable communities; greater support for local and regional governments as key actors in implementation; more sustainable and climate-resilient housing approaches; and broader partnerships across governments, civil society, communities and the private sector to mobilize resources and accelerate action.

Grassroots and civil society organizations Assembly

The Grassroots and civil society organizations Assembly recognized grassroots organizations and civil society as essential actors in addressing housing challenges, particularly in informal settlements. Discussions emphasized the need to move away from displacement-based approaches and towards participatory upgrading, tenure security and community-led development. Participants highlighted local knowledge, community mapping and co-design processes as tools to strengthen inclusive urban planning. The Assembly called for stronger institutional support and financing mechanisms that enable communities to lead solutions for adequate, affordable and resilient housing.

Children and youth Assembly

The Children and youth Assembly highlighted the role of young people as partners and leaders in shaping the future of cities. Discussions focused on youth-responsive housing solutions, access to affordable housing, education, employment opportunities and participation in decision-making. Participants stressed that young people should not only be consulted but also actively involved in designing policies and solutions. The Assembly showcased youth-led innovation, data initiatives and climate action as key contributions to building safer, more inclusive and resilient communities.

World Assembly of local and regional governments

The World Assembly of local and regional governments emphasized the central role of local and regional governments in responding to the housing crisis and advancing sustainable urban development.



Joint closing of the Assemblies.
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Discussions highlighted the importance of stronger multilevel governance, increased local financing capacities and greater recognition of local authorities within national and global decision-making systems. Participants called for integrated approaches connecting housing with infrastructure, transport, climate resilience, public services and economic development. The Assembly reinforced the need for renewed multilateral cooperation that places local action at the centre of implementation.





World Assembly of local and regional government.
© UN-Habitat

Women's Assembly

The Women's Assembly focused on advancing gender-responsive housing and urban policies. Participants highlighted that the global housing crisis is not gender-neutral, and that women and girls in their diversity face intersecting barriers that prevent them from accessing adequate housing. Discussions emphasized that housing is the foundation of equality and inseparable from safety, decision-making, economic independence, access to services and participation in urban life. The Assembly called for structural transformation by embedding gender equality into housing systems, urban governance, finance, land policy, climate adaptation and reconstruction processes.

Business Assembly

The Business Assembly explored the role of the private sector in accelerating sustainable and affordable housing solutions. Discussions focused on mobilizing investment, strengthening public-private partnerships and supporting innovation across the housing value chain. Participants highlighted the importance of aligning business solutions with social impact, climate resilience and community needs. The Assembly emphasized that collaboration between governments, businesses and communities is essential to deliver housing at scale and build resilient urban futures.

Joint closing of the Assemblies

The joint closing brought together key messages and outcomes from the five Assemblies, reinforcing the importance of stakeholder leadership in advancing adequate housing and sustainable urban development. Participants reaffirmed housing as a foundation for dignity, safety, resilience, social cohesion and opportunity, requiring coordinated action across all sectors of society.



Children and youth Assembly.
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Representatives emphasized shared priorities including stronger multilevel governance, gender-responsive housing policies, community-led solutions, youth participation and increased collaboration with the private sector. The session called for moving beyond consultation towards meaningful partnerships in which local governments, women, youth, grassroots organizations, civil society and businesses are recognized as co-creators of urban solutions.

The closing reaffirmed that the outcomes of the Assemblies would contribute to the *Baku Call to Action* and wider global processes, including the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Participants stressed the need to translate commitments into implementation, strengthen accountability and maintain the momentum generated through the Assemblies throughout WUF13 and beyond.



Joint closing of the Assemblies
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Parliamentarians Roundtable.
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Roundtables

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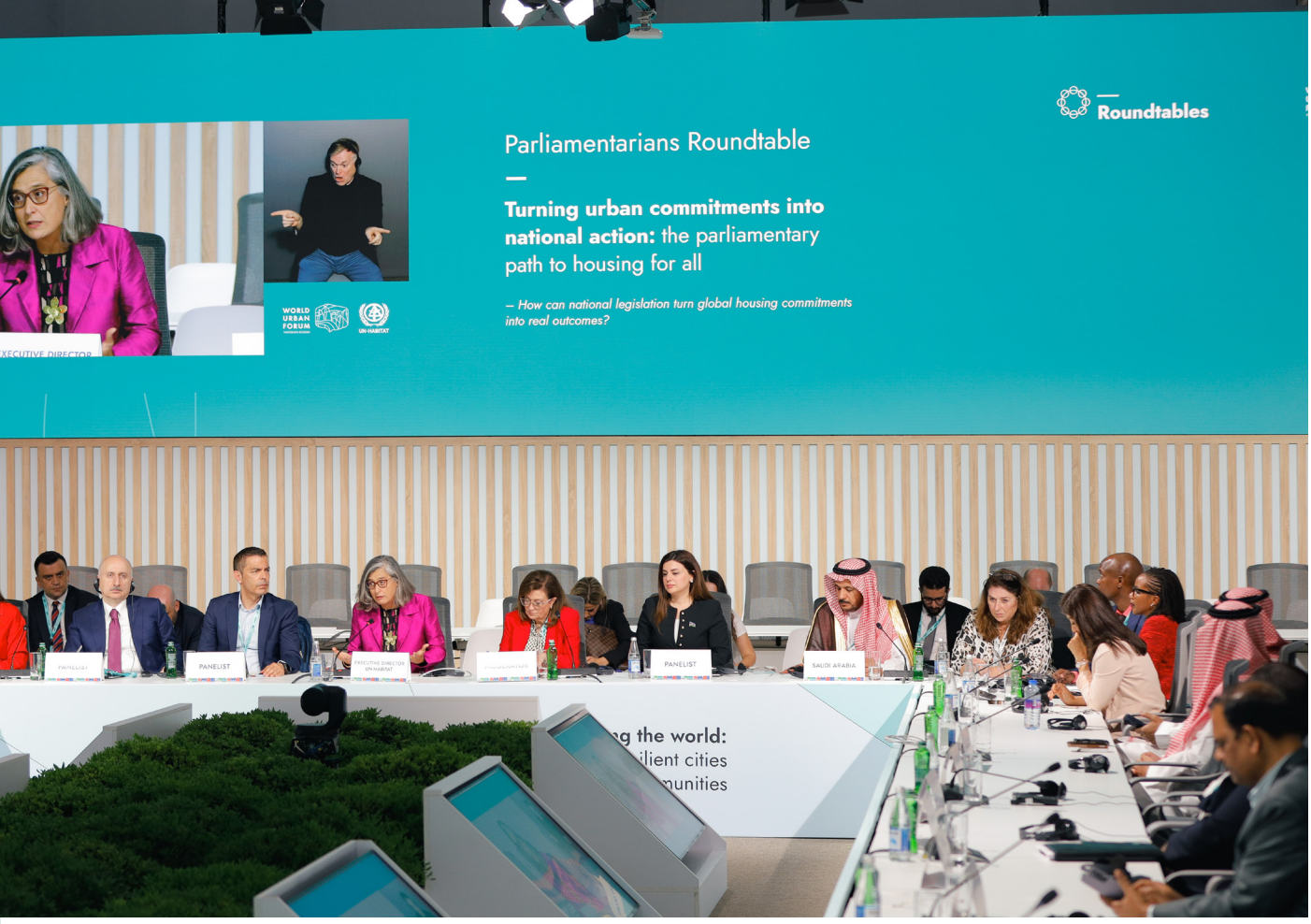

Roundtables

Roundtables at WUF13 served as action-oriented platforms, bringing together diverse stakeholder groups to exchange experiences, identify priorities and develop collective solutions to address the global housing crisis. These sessions provided spaces for peer-to-peer dialogue, enabling partners to share initiatives, research and practical approaches while strengthening collaboration towards safe, resilient and inclusive cities and communities.

The Roundtables emphasized the importance of partnerships, multilevel governance and inclusive participation in advancing adequate housing for all. They showcased the critical role of different stakeholder groups in translating global commitments into local action and contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Parliamentarians Roundtable

The Parliamentarians Roundtable explored the role of legislative bodies in transforming global urban commitments into national action. Discussions highlighted the importance of laws, budgets and accountability mechanisms in advancing adequate housing, climate action and sustainable urban development.



One UN Roundtable.
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Participants emphasized that parliamentarians serve as a bridge between global agendas and community needs by shaping policies on land, housing finance, urban planning and social inclusion. The Roundtable called for stronger parliamentary engagement, innovative financing approaches and legal frameworks that protect vulnerable communities and promote housing for all.

One UN Roundtable

The One UN Roundtable focused on strengthening coordinated action across the Unit-ed Nations system to advance adequate housing and resilient communities. Partici-pants linked housing outcomes to mobility, employment, social protection and access to services. Discussions highlighted the importance of integrated United Nations sup-port, stronger partnerships and coordinated financing mechanisms to assist Member States and local actors. The Roundtable reinforced the need for a unified approach that connects housing solutions with broader sustainable development outcomes. As a flagship event of the United Nations system-wide engagement track, it is discussed below in section 3.5.

Local and regional governments Roundtable

The Local and regional governments Roundtable highlighted the essential role of cities and territories in delivering adequate housing and resilient communities. Discussions emphasized that local governments are on the front line of responding to housing challenges, climate impacts, demographic changes and social needs. Participants called for stronger multilevel governance, increased access to financing and greater involvement of local authorities in decision-making processes. The Roundtable showcased innovative local solutions and stressed that sustainable urban transformation requires collaboration between all levels of government and communities.

Children and youth Roundtable

The Children and youth Roundtable focused on ensuring that young people are recognized as active contributors to the future of cities. Discussions emphasized that children and youth should not only be considered beneficiaries of urban policies, but partners in shaping housing systems, public spaces and communities. Participants highlighted youth leadership, innovation and participation as essential elements of inclusive urban development. The Roundtable called for greater investment in youth-led solutions, equitable access to opportunities and stronger mechanisms for meaningful participation in decision-making.

Gender equality and women's empowerment Roundtable

The Gender equality and women's empowerment Roundtable addressed the need for gender-transformative approaches to housing and urban development.

High-level discussions highlighted structural barriers to adequate housing rooted in discriminatory land and inheritance laws, exclusion from financing systems and the compounding trap of gender-based violence, where inadequate housing both causes and perpetuates abuse. Participants shared proven strategies, including whole-systems approaches linking housing, legal protection and social services; flexible community-managed finance; participatory land mapping; and empowering grassroots women-led organizations with genuine access to capital and decision-making. Speakers called for political prioritization, accountability, resourcing and disaggregated data to ensure adequate housing for all women.

Business Roundtable

The Business Roundtable explored how private sector engagement can contribute to delivering adequate housing at scale.

Discussions focused on unlocking private capital, strengthening investment conditions and developing partnerships that align economic opportunities with social impact. Participants emphasized that addressing the housing crisis requires collaboration between governments, investors, businesses and communities. The Roundtable highlighted the importance of predictable policies, innovative financing tools and risk-sharing mechanisms to mobilize resources for affordable and resilient housing.

Professionals Roundtable.
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Grassroots and civil society organizations Roundtable

The Grassroots and civil society organizations Roundtable highlighted the role of communities and civil society as drivers of inclusive urban transformation. Discussions emphasized that community-led initiatives provide practical responses to housing challenges and must be recognized and supported. Participants called for stronger partnerships, participatory planning, secure tenure and increased investment in locally driven solutions. The Roundtable reinforced the point that sustainable urban development requires placing communities at the centre of decision-making processes.

Academia and research Roundtable

The Academia and research Roundtable examined the role of knowledge, data and education in addressing the global housing crisis. Participants highlighted the need to bridge gaps between research and practice by strengthening collaboration between universities, policymakers, communities and practitioners. Discussions emphasized applied research, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing as essential tools for evidence-based decision-making. The Roundtable called for a stronger global research agenda that supports innovative and locally relevant housing solutions.

Academia and research Roundtable.
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Rights of Indigenous Peoples Roundtable.
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Professionals Roundtable

The Professionals Roundtable brought together experts from planning, architecture, engineering and other fields to explore their role in implementing sustainable urban solutions. Discussions emphasized the responsibility of professionals in translating global commitments into practical action through inclusive design, innovation and technical expertise. Participants highlighted the importance of participatory approaches, interdisciplinary collaboration and capacity-building to create sustainable, resilient and equitable human settlements.

Rights of persons with disabilities Roundtable

The Rights of persons with disabilities Roundtable focused on moving beyond accessibility towards fully inclusive housing and cities. Discussions emphasized that adequate housing cannot be achieved without universal design, more diverse participation and the recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities. Participants highlighted the need for inclusive policies, accessible infrastructure, disaggregated data and community-led solutions. The Roundtable called for disability inclusion to be mainstreamed across all aspects of urban planning and housing delivery.



Gender equality and women's empowerment Roundtable.
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Rights of older persons Roundtable

The Rights of older persons Roundtable explored how cities and housing systems can respond to ageing societies. Discussions highlighted the need to reframe housing as dignity and not just shelter, make universal design and age-friendly cities the default in urban planning, expand integrated care frameworks and cross-sectoral coordination, and mainstream the rights of older persons in discussions of housing finance, informal settlements and climate resilience. Speakers stressed that ageing is a present urban reality and that cities that fail to prepare today will face far greater costs in inequality, exclusion and fiscal pressure tomorrow. The Roundtable called for stronger policies that ensure older persons can live independently, safely and with dignity.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples Roundtable

The Rights of Indigenous Peoples Roundtable emphasized the connection between housing, land, culture, identity and self-determination. Participants highlighted that adequate housing for Indigenous Peoples cannot be separated from the protection of territories, traditions and relationships with nature, recognizing that Indigenous Peoples are at disproportionate risk of displacement. Discussions called for greater incorporation of Indigenous knowledge within the core of global urban policy and for increased participation and leadership in urban and territorial development. The Roundtable reinforced the importance of inclusive approaches that respect cultural diversity and protect the rights of Indigenous communities, in particular by embedding free, prior and informed consent at all stages of decision-making.



Children and youth Roundtable.
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Special Session "Housing at the Centre of Global Coalitions".
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Special Sessions

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Special Sessions

Special Sessions at WUF13 provided dedicated spaces to explore emerging priorities, innovative approaches and transformative solutions linked to adequate housing and sustainable urban development. Co-created with strategic partners, these sessions expanded the conversation beyond traditional urban themes by connecting housing with health, climate action, culture, financing, inclusion, resilience, circular economy, sport and community-led innovation.

Through interactive formats and diverse voices, the Special Sessions highlighted practical solutions, strengthened partnerships and explored new ways to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Housing at the centre of global coalitions

This session explored how global partnerships and international cooperation can accelerate action on adequate housing. Participants emphasized that housing is not only a physical structure and no longer solely a social policy issue, but a foundation for dignity as well as a strategic investment in economic growth, public health, climate resilience and social cohesion. The session concluded with a strong call to elevate adequate housing as a global development priority and position housing as a social and economic infrastructure essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerating implementation of the New Urban Agenda.



Stories from the climate frontlines.
© **UN-Habitat**

It also called for stronger coalitions among governments, financial institutions, communities and partners to mobilize resources and deliver inclusive housing solutions at scale.

Cities at the heart of connectivity: Urban reconstruction and regional cooperation

This session examined how cities act as hubs for connectivity, cooperation and sustainable development. Discussions highlighted the importance of linking infrastructure, transport, digital systems, energy and planning to create resilient and economically dynamic urban areas. Participants explored how reconstruction processes can promote regional cooperation, strengthen connections between communities and support long-term sustainable growth.

Pulse of healthy homes

This session focused on recognizing housing as a fundamental determinant of health, emphasizing that safe and adequate homes are the foundation of healthy people, communities and cities. Discussions explored how housing, neighbourhood environments and urban planning shape health outcomes, resilience and equity, through factors such as overcrowding, environmental quality, climate risks and access to essential services. Participants highlighted the importance of integrating health considerations into housing policies, urban planning and investments, and strengthening local governance and cross-sector collaboration across housing, health, transport and climate sectors.

Cities as playing fields.
© **UN-Habitat**



The session reinforced the need to position healthy housing as a cornerstone of preventive, inclusive and resilient urban development.

Building from the ground up: From resistance to alternatives

This session highlighted the role of community-led housing solutions in responding to the global housing crisis. Discussions focused on how grassroots initiatives, cooperatives and collective approaches can provide affordable, inclusive and resilient alternatives. Participants emphasized the importance of recognizing communities as active partners rather than beneficiaries, ensuring access to land, finance and decision-making processes. The session called for policies and partnerships that enable community-driven solutions to move from local initiatives to broader implementation.

Cities as playing fields

This session explored the role of sport, physical activity and active recreation as strategic tools for achieving sustainable urban development. Discussions highlighted that as cities continue to urbanize, integrating sport into urban policy, planning, budgets and everyday practice can help localize the Sustainable Development Goals and create healthier, safer, more inclusive and resilient communities. Participants emphasized that sport should be embedded within land-use planning, public space, mobility and neighbourhood development, rather than treated as a standalone sector or programme. The session showcased how institutionalizing cross-sector collaboration, supported by data, capacity-building and investment, can strengthen social cohesion and quality of life.

Rethinking cultural heritage and inclusive urban regeneration

This session explored how cities can protect cultural heritage while promoting inclusive and sustainable urban transformation and better housing outcomes. Discussions emphasized that historic areas are not static monuments, but living spaces that must evolve while safeguarding their identity and cultural value, and preserving community life. Participants highlighted the importance of balancing conservation with community needs, avoiding displacement and ensuring that regeneration processes benefit residents.



Rethinking Cultural Heritage and Inclusive Urban Regeneration.
© UN-Habitat

Inclusive Urban Resilience, Blue Economy and Sustainable Tourism.
© **UN-Habitat**



The session also called for culture and heritage to be more strongly integrated into urban development discussions, particularly in relation to housing, infrastructure, public space, local identity and the future of the New Urban Agenda. The session reinforced heritage as a driver of belonging, resilience and sustainable development, and highlighted the need for stronger collaboration between UN-Habitat, UN Tourism, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and partner governments to move from dialogue to practical action.

Closing the loop: Advancing waste management towards circular economy

This session addressed the transition from traditional waste management approaches towards circular economy models. Discussions focused on reducing waste generation, improving recycling systems and transforming production and consumption patterns. Participants highlighted innovative solutions, partnerships and local actions that support cleaner, healthier and more sustainable cities. The session emphasized circular economy as a key pathway for environmental protection and resilient urban development.

Stories from the climate frontlines

This session brought forward experiences from communities and cities directly affected by climate change. Discussions explored how climate impacts are reshaping homes, neighbourhoods and urban systems, particularly in vulnerable areas. Participants highlighted the importance of locally driven adaptation, accessible climate finance and partnerships that translate global commitments into concrete action. The session reinforced the need for people-centred approaches that support communities facing the realities of the climate crisis.

Inclusive urban resilience, blue economy and sustainable tourism in Small Island Developing States

This session explored the distinct urban challenges and opportunities facing Small Island Developing States. Discussions addressed climate risks, rising sea levels, land constraints and the need for resilient housing and infrastructure.

Participants highlighted the importance of integrating climate adaptation, sustainable tourism and blue economy approaches while building on local knowledge and community-led solutions. The session emphasized that island communities are not only vulnerable to climate impacts, but also leaders in resilience and innovation.

Africa Affordable Housing Compact: Deal room investor session

This session introduced to a global audience the Africa Affordable Housing Compact, a platform designed to tackle the affordable housing crisis in Africa. The session showcased delivery mechanisms for affordable housing in Africa by connecting policy commitments with investment opportunities. Discussions highlighted the role of the private sector in delivering affordable housing at scale while recognizing the continent's urban transformation as a major opportunity for innovation, investment and sustainable development. Participants explored financing mechanisms, investment-ready projects and partnerships required to deliver decent, affordable and climate-resilient housing solutions at scale.



Rethinking Cultural Heritage and Inclusive Urban Regeneration.
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3.3
New flagships



Practices Hub at the WUF13 Urban Expo.
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WUF13 introduced new flagship platforms to deepen the Forum's role in learning, implementation and partnership-building. The WUF Academy, the Practices Hub and the Business & Innovation Hub each responded to a different need within the housing agenda: strengthening capacity, showcasing proven solutions, and engaging innovation and investment actors. In doing so, they helped connect policy discussions with practical tools, real-world experience and partnerships that can support implementation beyond the Forum.

WUF Academy

Introduced at WUF13 as a dedicated track for knowledge, learning and capacity development, the WUF Academy brought together academia, training institutions, professional networks, policymakers and practitioners to strengthen the link between research, education and housing practice. Developed under the WUF13 theme, the Academy responded to growing capacity gaps in delivering adequate housing and sustainable urban development by creating a learning ecosystem within the Forum.

The Academy also reflected the importance of knowledge and capacity development in UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, which identifies research, data, digital innovation and capacity-building as key means of implementation.

It expanded the role of the World Urban Forum as a platform not only for dialogue, but also for practical learning, peer exchange and skills development.

Structured around four interconnected pillars, the WUF Academy connected training, research exchange, digital learning and innovation.

The first pillar focused on partner-led training and masterclasses. More than 40 masterclasses were delivered by universities, training institutions, international organizations, development agencies and professional networks, contributing to a programme of nearly 100 Academy events. The sessions addressed practical urban and housing challenges, including housing policy and finance, informal settlement upgrading, climate resilience, urban governance, land administration, urban data, digital transformation, municipal finance and inclusive planning. They enabled participants to acquire practical skills, engage with experts and exchange experiences across regions.

The second pillar was the WUF Academy Campus at the Urban Expo. Designed as an interactive space for learning, networking and innovation, the Campus brought together universities, research institutions and training organizations. Around 50 short academic lectures and innovation-led workshops took place at the Campus, structured around the six main Dialogues of WUF13. The space helped participants deepen engagement with the Forum's core themes while connecting researchers, educators, practitioners and urban professionals.



The WUF Academy.
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The Practices Hub.
© UN-Habitat

The third pillar highlighted digital learning and innovation as pathways to scale knowledge beyond the Forum. The Campus featured a Digital Learning Wall showcasing innovations in digital learning, including the UN-Habitat Learn platform, which offers more than 30 free, self-paced online courses. A key milestone was the launch of the Housing Primer, a mobile-based microlearning course developed by UN-Habitat and the United Nations System Staff College. The 20-minute course introduces adequate housing as a system and highlights the role different actors can play in advancing the right to adequate housing.

The fourth pillar centred on strategic dialogue between academia, research and professional practice, through the Academia and research Roundtable and the Professionals Roundtable (see section 3.2).

Discussions emphasized applied research, disaggregated and citizen-generated data, interdisciplinary education and professional training. The two Roundtables reinforced the importance of connecting knowledge production, professional standards and practical implementation.

By placing academia, training, digital learning and innovation within the WUF13 programme, the WUF Academy strengthened the Forum's capacity-development function and created a foundation for continued collaboration beyond Baku. Its outcomes will support UN-Habitat's work by expanding access to practical learning, strengthening partnerships with knowledge institutions and helping translate research and innovation into action for adequate housing and sustainable urban development.

Practices Hub

The Practices Hub was introduced at WUF13 as a flagship platform to showcase proven housing solutions from around the world. Moving beyond discussions of what should be done, the Hub created a space to examine how housing solutions are being delivered on the ground. Aligned with the Forum's theme, it enabled practitioners, policymakers and communities to exchange knowledge, learn from implementation experience and identify opportunities to adapt, replicate and scale successful approaches.

The Practices Hub demonstrated the breadth of solutions already addressing housing challenges globally. Through an open call for housing practices, the initiative received more than 200 submissions from across regions and stakeholder groups. A total of 171 practices from 84 countries were selected, representing a diverse range of interventions implemented at national, regional and local levels. The collection brought together contributions from governments and other organizations, reflecting the multi-stakeholder nature of housing delivery and the value of cross-sector collaboration.

The programme was curated to support peer-to-peer learning focused on implementation. Through 11 interactive sessions, 33 organizations working on housing issues aligned with the six WUF13 Dialogue themes exchanged lessons from diverse contexts. The discussions enabled participants to compare approaches to similar challenges, identify transferable solutions and explore the conditions required for replication and scaling.

They also moved beyond traditional knowledge-sharing formats by emphasizing implementation challenges, measurable results and pathways for policy uptake.

The Hub also introduced an interactive digital display that allowed WUF13 visitors to explore practices according to thematic priorities and contextual needs. By combining in-person exchanges with a searchable digital repository, the initiative improved access to implementation knowledge and provided a practical resource for identifying relevant examples and potential partners.

The strong response from submitters, speakers and participants demonstrated clear demand for practice-oriented discussions grounded in real-world experience.



Practices Hub: Housing for Post-Crisis Return Enabling Durable Solutions.
© UN-Habitat



Practices Hub: Resilient Housing Recovery: Practical Solutions for Climate Disasters.
© UN-Habitat

The Practices Hub contributed to WUF13 by placing implementation and solutions at the centre of the Forum's discussions and creating a structured mechanism to connect proven approaches with stakeholders seeking responses to housing challenges. In doing so, it reinforced the Forum's role not only as a platform for dialogue, but also as a catalyst for action.

The initiative engaged a broad range of stakeholders whose participation was critical to advancing housing solutions in different contexts. National and local governments shared policy and programme experience. Civil society organizations contributed community-based and inclusive approaches. Private sector actors showcased delivery and financing models, while academic and research institutions provided evidence and lessons for implementation. This diversity enriched discussions, strengthened networks and created opportunities for collaboration across sectors and regions.

The Practices Hub establishes a lasting knowledge asset for UN-Habitat and its partners. Featured practices will remain available through a continuously updated digital platform, creating an expanding repository of tested solutions that can inform policy development, programme design and capacity-building efforts. By documenting lessons learned, facilitating replication and strengthening global communities of practice, the initiative supports the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and advances UN-Habitat's priority of accelerating access to adequate, affordable and sustainable housing for all.

Business & Innovation Hub

The Business & Innovation Hub was launched at WUF13 as the first dedicated space at the World Urban Forum to bring private sector leadership, innovation and partnership together in a single platform. Built around showcasing business thought leadership, innovation and networking, the Hub responded to the WUF13 theme by giving business and innovation actors a structured role in discussions on adequate housing and sustainable urban development.

At the core of the Hub, the Business & Innovation Stage hosted 15 sessions co-curated with partners. Combining moderated dialogues, expert presentations and case-study showcases, the sessions explored practical solutions, implementation approaches and private sector contributions across the urban value chain. Three main areas of discussion emerged.

First, sessions highlighted the importance of financing the housing value chain. Examples from Canada, Nigeria and Rwanda showed that affordability is shaped not only by construction costs, but also by how finance, land and approval systems are structured. Participants examined approaches including housing accelerator mechanisms, pre-approved design catalogues, blended finance and government land contributions as ways to accelerate supply and reduce costs.

Second, the Hub positioned urban data as investment infrastructure. Discussions highlighted the role of local data in helping investors identify sites and assess risk, while building-related data was presented as critical to accessing green finance and addressing the emissions impact of the buildings and construction sector.



The Business & Innovation Hub.
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A child inspects an architectural model at the Urban Expo.
© UN-Habitat

Third, the sessions emphasized the role of small and medium enterprises as essential actors in housing and urban development. Recognizing that small and medium enterprises account for close to 90 per cent of businesses worldwide, participants identified access to finance and skills as key constraints and linked the discussion to the COP29 Baku Climate Coalition for SMEs' Green Transition.

The Startup Pavilion complemented the Stage by showcasing new technology and innovation across the housing and urban value chain. From 106 applications, 14 ventures representing 10 countries were selected based on real-world deployment and geographic balance. Their solutions ranged from self-healing and carbon-negative concrete to passive cooling materials, solar-integrated affordable housing, surplus-materials reuse platforms and AI-driven planning and mobility tools. A dedicated pitching session amplified these innovators, including youth entrepreneurs from Barbados, Egypt, Jamaica and other countries.

The Hub brought together a broad range of stakeholders, including global federations and platforms, housing finance institutions, national small and medium-scale enterprise and business agencies, chambers of commerce, intergovernmental and technical bodies, corporations, consultancies and early-stage ventures. This diversity reflected the whole-of-value-chain nature of housing delivery, where planning, financing, construction, innovation and scaling require collaboration across multiple sectors and levels.

The Business & Innovation Hub strengthens UN-Habitat's efforts to engage the private sector meaningfully and constructively in addressing the global housing crisis. It supports UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 by advancing collaboration with industry actors, mobilizing innovation and promoting partnerships that can help deliver adequate, affordable and sustainable housing at scale.

3.4

Partner-led events

Partner-led events are central to the World Urban Forum, reflecting its role as a platform that is shaped by partners as well as for them. These events enable stakeholders to contribute directly to the programme, share expertise, present local and regional experiences, build coalitions and bring diverse perspectives into global discussions on sustainable urbanization.

At WUF13, partner-led events created spaces for exchange, learning, advocacy, culture, networking and capacity development across a wide range of formats, including Networking Events, One UN events, SDGs in Action, Urban Cinema, Urban Library, Voices from Cities and WUF Academy events. They complemented the main sessions while expanding opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to the Forum theme and connect their work with the wider implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Partner-led events by region

Event type	Global	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Total
Networking Events	15	26	28	48	49	0	**166**
One UN	28	1	1	1	1	0	**32**
Press conference	0	0	1	0	4	0	**5**
SDGs in Action	1	4	6	12	10	0	**33**
Urban Cinema	0	3	3	5	6	0	**17**
Urban Library	4	5	5	8	11	0	**33**
Voices from Cities	4	7	16	9	14	0	**50**
WUF Academy	3	9	7	10	14	0	**43**
Total	**55**	**56**	**66**	**93**	**109**	**0**	**379**

Partner-led event application success rate

Event type	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications declined	Success rate
Networking Events	373	166	207	**44.5%**
One UN	56	32	24	**57.1%**
Press conference	27	9	18	**33.3%**
SDGs in Action	291	33	258	**11.3%**
Urban Cinema	58	17	41	**29.3%**
Urban Library	121	33	88	**27.3%**
Voices from Cities	312	50	262	**16.0%**
WUF Academy	194	43	151	**22.3%**

The call for partner-led events attracted more than 1,400 applications across eight event categories. Interest was particularly strong in Networking Events, Voices from Cities and SDGs in Action, which together accounted for more than two thirds of submissions. The response showed how strongly stakeholders wanted to shape the WUF13 programme and share their work through the Forum.



Partner-led event at the WUF13.
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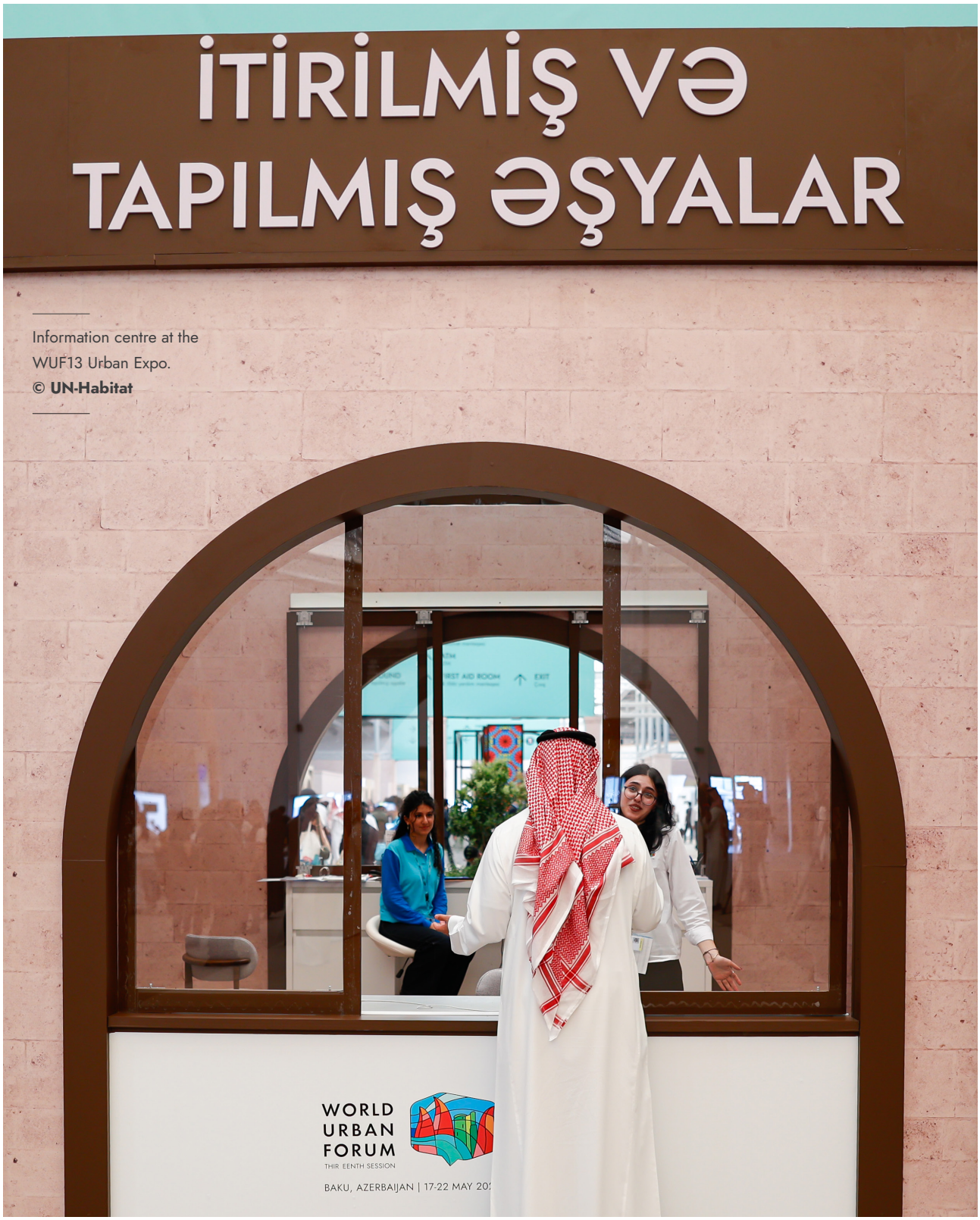

Information centre at the WUF13 Urban Expo.
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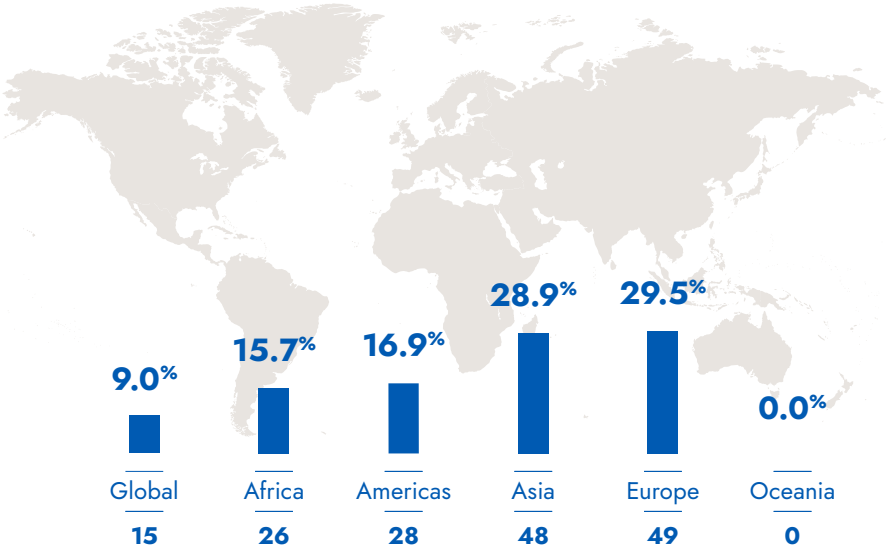
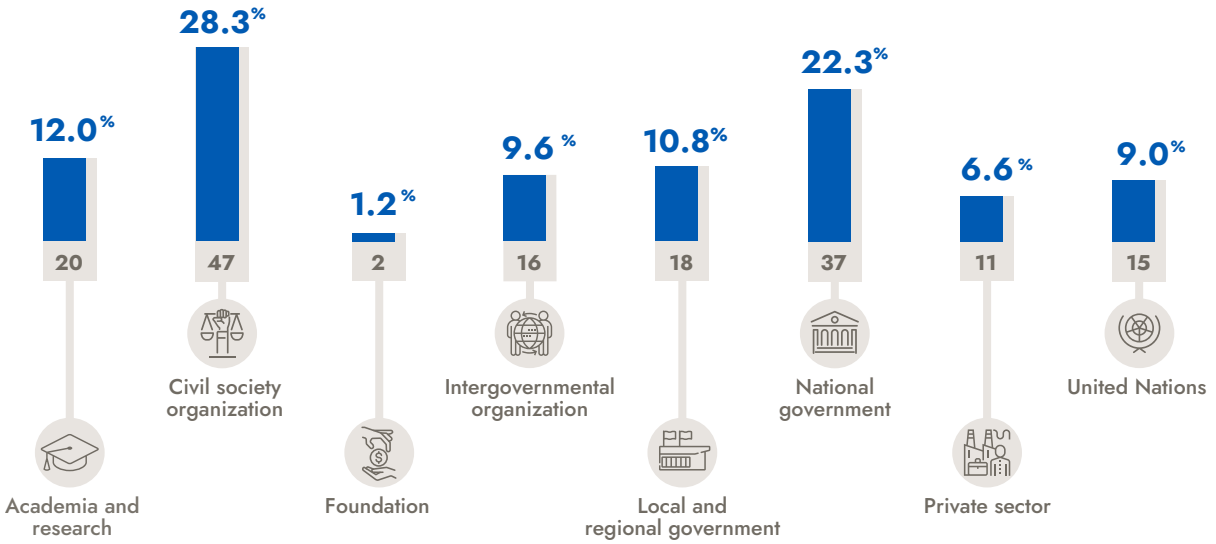
Networking events by region



Networking events

Networking Events provided dedicated spaces for participants to build connections across the global sustainable urbanization community. These sessions brought together thought leaders, activists, policymakers, investors, partners, practitioners and emerging champions to exchange ideas, share experience and identify areas for collaboration. By facilitating dialogue and relationship-building, Networking Events helped lay the foundation for partnerships and initiatives that support the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, advance the New Urban Agenda and contribute to more inclusive and resilient urban futures.

Networking events by partner type





Networking event at WUF13.
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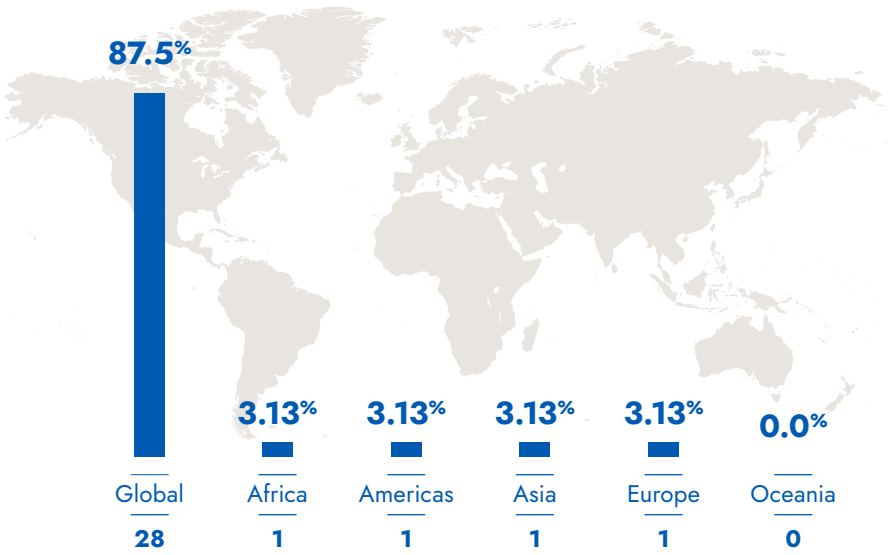
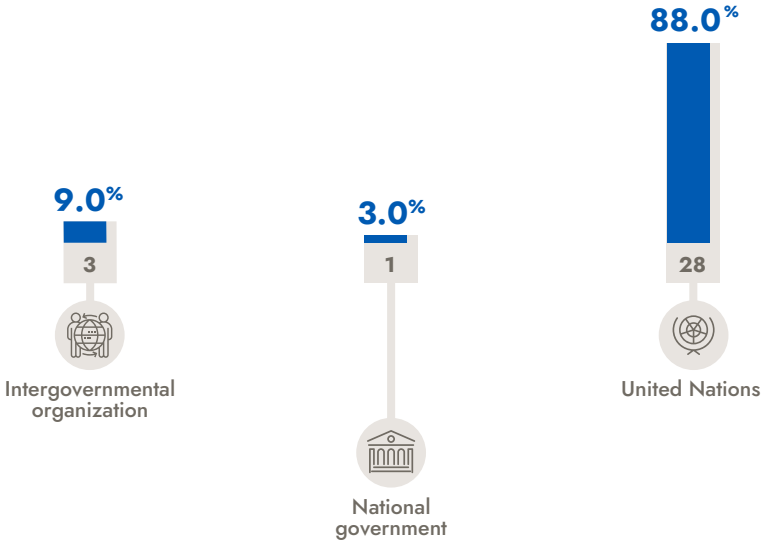
One UN events

One UN events by region



United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies remained a vital constituency at WUF13, connecting global policy commitments with action on the ground. One UN events showcased how the New Urban Agenda aligns with and supports the broader work of the United Nations system in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. These sessions highlighted synergies across mandates, strengthened collaboration across sectors and regions, and reinforced the United Nations system's shared commitment to leaving no one behind through coordinated support for sustainable urban development.

One UN events by partner type





One UN event: Beyond shelter adequate, safe, resilient housing for gender equality and womens empowerment in different housing contexts.
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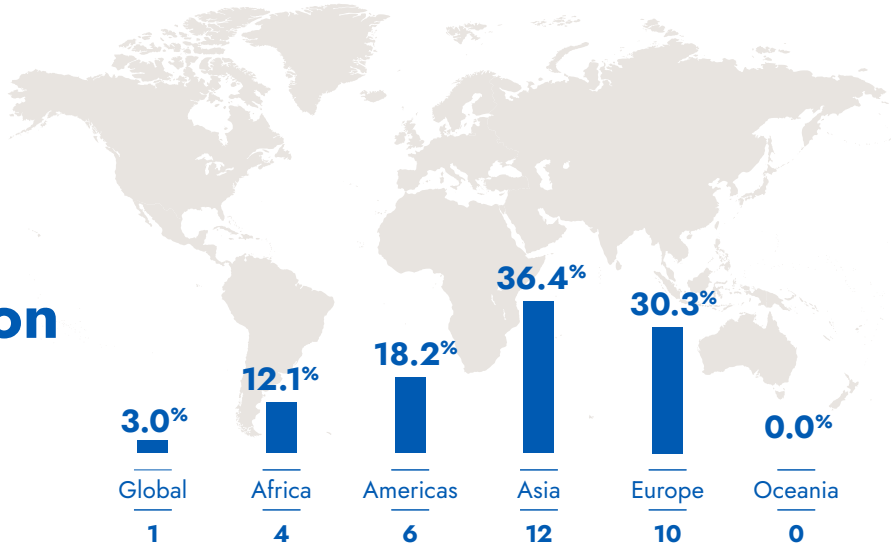
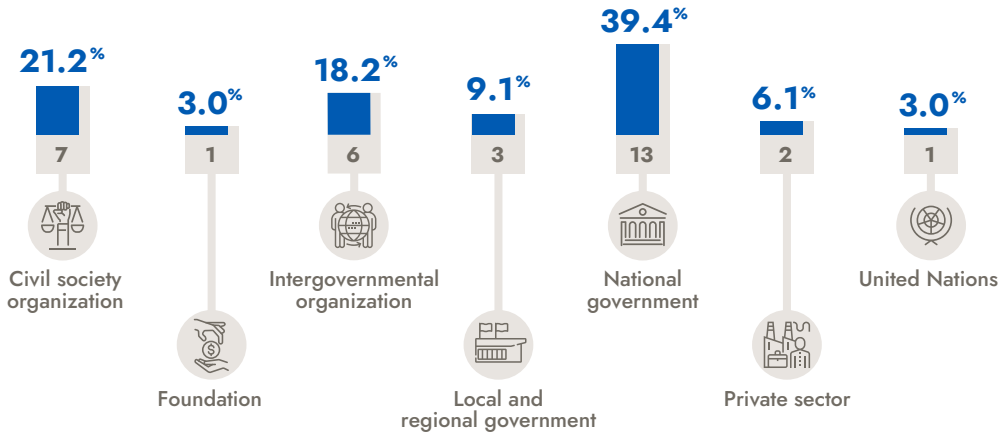
SDGs in Action events

SDGs in Action events by region



SDGs in Action events focused on the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of cities, communities and local actors in accelerating implementation. Building on the World Urban Forum's long-standing contribution to the localization of global agendas, these sessions explored how multilevel collaboration can translate commitments into practical, shareable, replicable and scalable initiatives. The events highlighted connections across culture, economy, society, environment and governance, reinforcing the importance of integrated approaches to sustainability, well-being, dignity and resilience.

SDGs in Action events by partner type





SDGs in Action event at WUF13.
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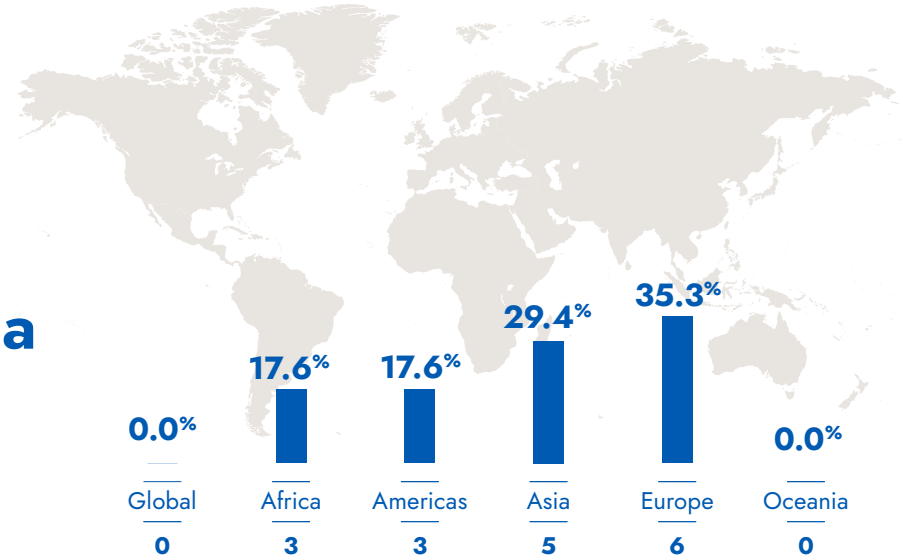
Urban Cinema events by region

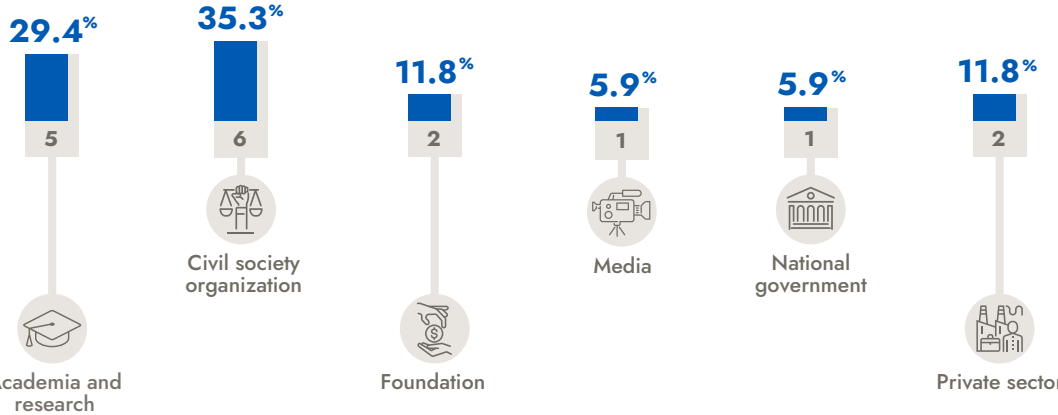


Urban Cinema events

Urban Cinema brought the cultural dimensions of urbanization to life through a curated selection of short films chosen through an open call. Screenings were accompanied by introductions from producers, actors or other contributors, followed by panel discussions or question-and-answer sessions that enabled audiences to explore the issues raised in greater depth. Through storytelling, film and dialogue, Urban Cinema offered an accessible way to examine housing, resilience, inclusion, climate action and everyday urban life.

At WUF13, the design of both Urban Cinema and Urban Library also reflected the Forum's sustainability objectives. For the first time, the spaces were conceived by local exhibition designers using vernacular, low-cost and low-CO_2e materials and construction techniques. In doing so, they demonstrated how Forum spaces themselves can model sustainable design and locally grounded innovation.

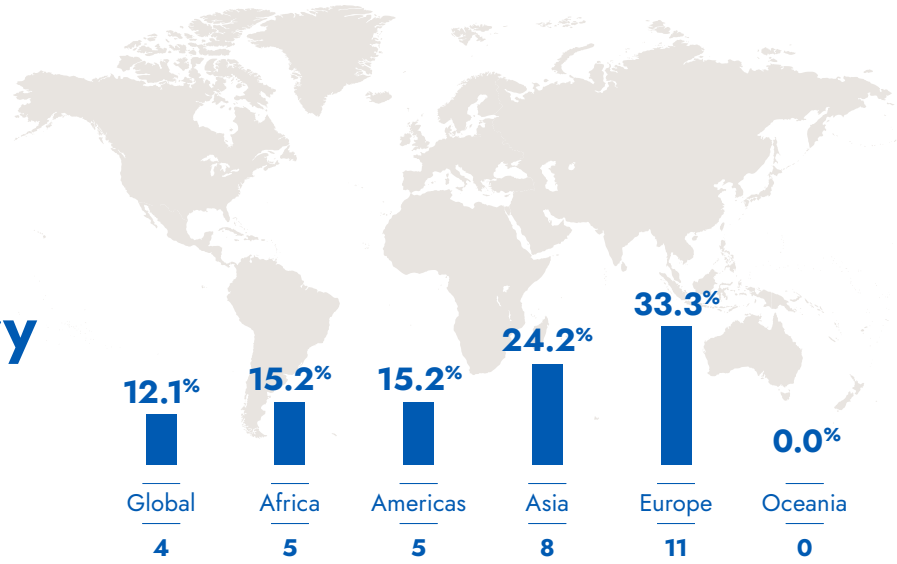
Urban Cinema events by partner type





Urban Cinema event at WUF13.
© UN-Habitat

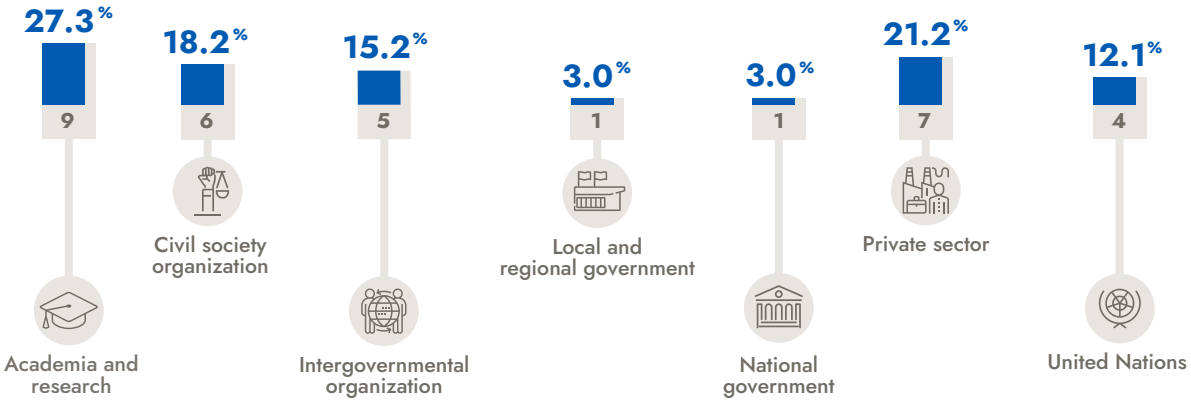
Urban Library Events by region



Urban Library events

Urban Library was reimagined at WUF13 as a curated platform for sharing knowledge products, including publications, books, research reports and other evidence-based resources. It provided a space for partners to present findings, explore implementation experience, launch publications and showcase community-driven outcomes. The sessions fostered dialogue and debate on sustainable urban development while helping connect research, policy and practice. By making knowledge products more visible and accessible, Urban Library contributed to informed discussion and supported the exchange of ideas relevant to international policy processes.

Urban Library events by partner type





Urban Library event at WUF13.
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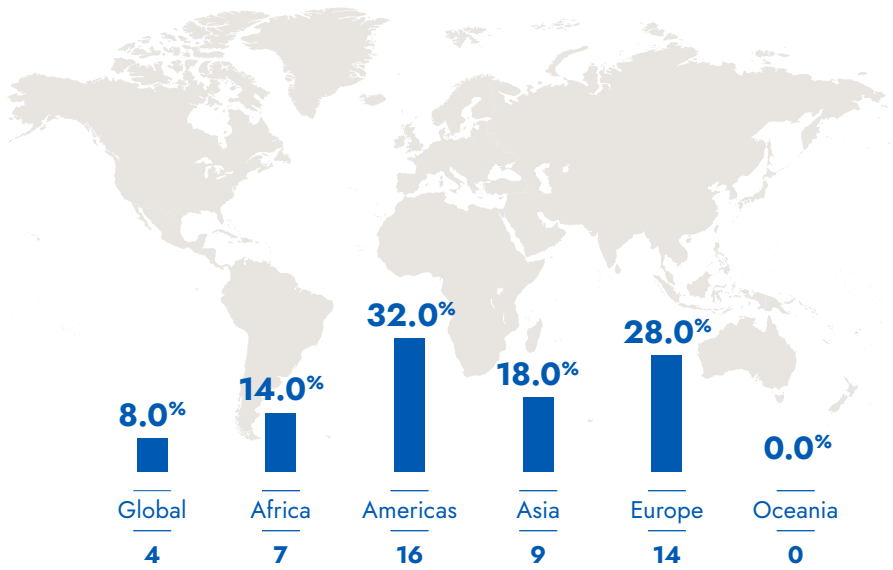
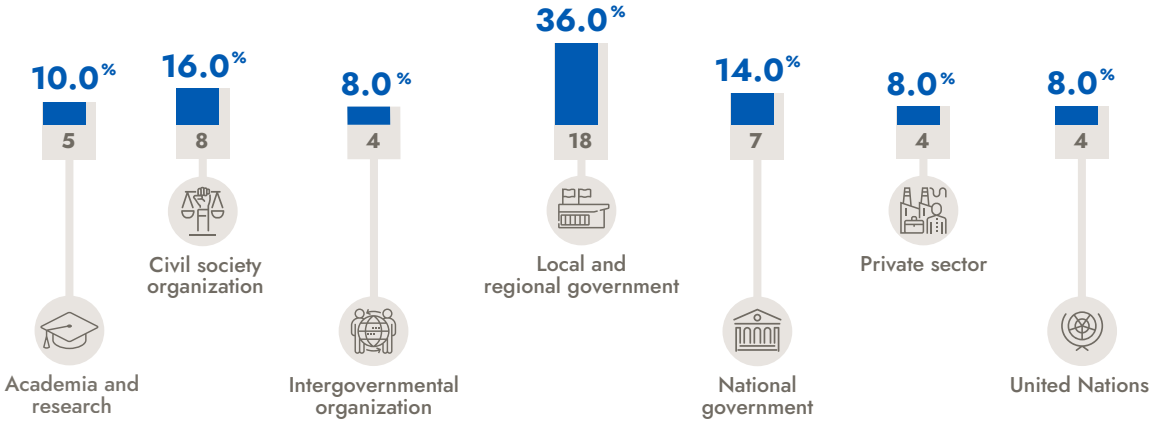
Voices from Cities events

Voices from Cities events by region



Voices from Cities events highlighted the perspectives of local leaders and stakeholders bringing direct experience to global urban debates. These sessions showcased urban challenges, local solutions and community priorities, while fostering city-to-city collaboration and peer learning. By engaging representatives from local governments, grassroots organizations, unions, entrepreneurs and other urban actors, Voices from Cities ensured that the experiences of people and communities on the ground helped shape approaches to sustainable urbanization. The events reinforced the role of local action in advancing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Voices from Cities events by partner type





Voices from Cities: Swimmable Cities - Swimmability as a catalyst for safe healthy.
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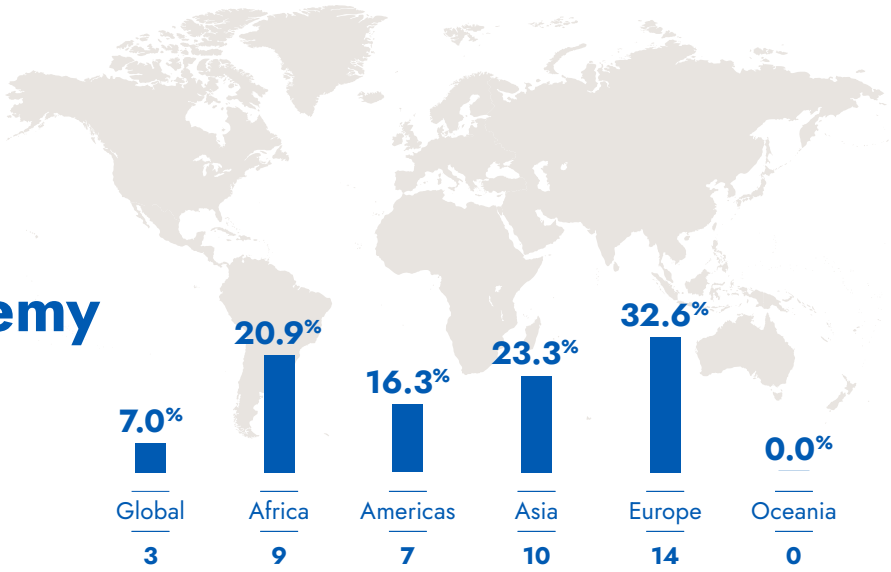
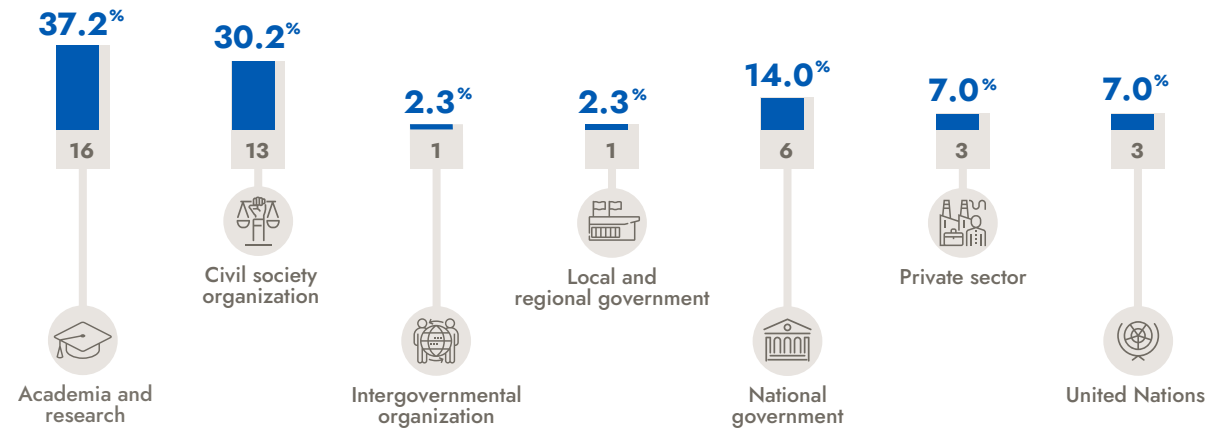
WUF Academy events by region



WUF Academy events

WUF Academy events formed the training and capacity development component of the broader WUF Academy platform. These sessions focused on the skills, knowledge, tools and methods needed to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. They brought together practitioners, experts, academics, policymakers and partners in interactive formats designed to support practical learning and peer exchange. By addressing areas such as housing, urban planning, climate resilience, governance, data, finance and inclusive development, WUF Academy events helped participants strengthen technical knowledge, exchange experience and identify approaches that can be applied in different contexts.

WUF Academy events by partner type



WUF Academy event at WUF13
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3.5

United Nations system-wide engagement

WUF13 strengthened the role of the World Urban Forum as a major United Nations platform for dialogue and collaboration on sustainable urbanization. Through a dedicated United Nations system-wide engagement track, the Forum brought together United Nations entities, Resident Coordinators, international financial institutions (IFIs), local governments and development partners to explore how coordinated action can accelerate progress on adequate housing, resilient communities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The engagement track was aligned with the WUF13 theme and with the priorities of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the New Urban Agenda, the Pact for the Future, the UN80 Initiative and the United Nations system's broader efforts to strengthen impact at country level. It positioned housing as a cross-cutting entry point for sustainable development, linking climate action, poverty reduction, social inclusion, economic opportunity, water security, resilience and local governance.



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Urban Expo.
© UN-Habitat

WUF13 achieved strong participation from across the United Nations development system. More than 1,000 United Nations participants registered for the Forum, alongside 11 Resident Coordinators from five regions and 14 senior United Nations representatives, including Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General. More than 30 One UN events were organized by United Nations entities throughout the Forum, demonstrating the breadth of system-wide engagement and reinforcing WUF13 as a platform for collective action on urban issues.

A defining feature of the WUF13 approach was the effort to move beyond agency participation to agency co-ownership. United Nations partners were invited not only to contribute to discussions, but also to help shape and deliver substantive parts of the Forum, including thematic sessions, the WUF Academy, One UN events and the One UN Roundtable. This approach helped strengthen collaboration across the United Nations system and positioned the World Urban Forum as a space where partners could connect their mandates around shared urban priorities.

The One UN Roundtable, organized in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Coordination Office, served as the flagship event of this engagement track. Under the theme "One UN for adequate housing and resilient communities: Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals through housing and urban solutions", the Roundtable brought together senior representatives of United Nations entities, Resident Coordinators, multilateral development banks, local government representatives and national stakeholders.



Volunteers exchanging in front of the SDG wheel at the Urban Expo.
© UN-Habitat

Participants discussed how housing can serve as an entry point for integrated development action and as an accelerator for multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

The Roundtable highlighted the need to move beyond sector-specific responses towards more coordinated, place-based solutions. Participants emphasized that housing outcomes are closely connected to climate action, poverty reduction, social inclusion, economic development, water security, resilience and local governance. They called for stronger integration of housing and urbanization priorities into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks under Resident Coordinator leadership, recognizing housing as a catalyst for achieving multiple development objectives at country level.The discussion also underscored the importance of SDG localization and the role of the Local2030 Coalition in translating global commitments into local action.

Participants highlighted the need for stronger partnerships with local and regional governments, as well as innovative financing approaches, including blended finance, pooled funding mechanisms and collaboration with international financial institutions and the private sector to address housing and infrastructure needs at scale.

Alongside the Roundtable, One UN events and knowledge-sharing activities showcased practical examples of United Nations collaboration on housing, climate resilience, social protection, livelihoods, data systems and local development. These sessions demonstrated how coordinated programming can generate benefits across sectors and how housing investments can contribute to broader development outcomes.

The engagement track created new opportunities to strengthen collaboration between UN-Habitat, the Development Coordination Office, Resident Coordinators, United Nations entities, international financial institutions and local governments. Its outcomes support efforts to embed sustainable urbanization more systematically within country-level planning and programming, strengthen the urban dimensions of Cooperation Frameworks and advance implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

By mobilizing the wider United Nations system around housing and sustainable urbanization, WUF13 reinforced UN-Habitat's convening role and demonstrated the value of the World Urban Forum as a platform for collective United Nations action. The engagement track laid a stronger foundation for continued collaboration beyond Baku and for positioning sustainable urbanization as a shared priority across the United Nations system.



Dedicated One UN room at WUF13.
© UN-Habitat

3.6 Special events

WUF13 also hosted two special events convened by UN-Habitat and partners: a roundtable on housing finance and a session on housing and the urban impacts of the crisis in the Middle East.

International Financial Institutions (IFI) Roundtable

The IFI Roundtable "From global housing finance to local affordable housing action: Leveraging global development and subnational finance", was jointly convened by UN-Habitat and the World Bank Group at WUF13. The session advanced a structured dialogue between international financial institutions and the United Nations system on how global financing commitments can better support city-level housing delivery, where institutional and capacity constraints are often most acute.

The Roundtable built on momentum from WUF12 in Cairo, where UN-Habitat and the World Bank launched the IFIs Working Group on Sustainable Urbanization. At WUF13, the Working Group moved from its founding mandate towards a more operational agenda, translating high-level commitments into practical pathways for collaboration on housing and subnational finance.

The session convened senior representatives from institutions critical to closing the housing finance gap, including the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the OPEC Fund for International Development, İLBANK, UNOPS, the Government of France and the United Nations Resident Coordinator system.

Three priority areas emerged from the discussion. First, participants emphasized the need for integrated housing investments that connect finance with land, infrastructure, governance and implementation capacity. Second, they highlighted the importance of strengthening subnational finance and municipal



Art installation showcasing sustainable urban design at the NGO Forum during WUF13.
© **UN-Habitat**

readiness, including the ability of cities to prepare, structure and manage projects that can attract development finance. Third, participants called for approaches that move beyond traditional construction-focused models and better respond to incremental, informal and locally grounded housing systems.

The Roundtable identified practical actions to help translate these priorities into implementation. These included building municipal creditworthiness, developing bankable project pipelines, aligning finance with incremental and informal housing approaches, coordinating land and infrastructure planning, and strengthening multilevel collaboration. Two formal outcomes were agreed: an operational agenda for IFI–UN-Habitat collaboration across the project cycle and actionable pathways to improve city access to development finance.

Beyond WUF13, the outcomes reinforce UN-Habitat's role as a technical and convening partner for international financial institutions across the housing and urban development project cycle, from upstream diagnostics and project preparation to safeguards, implementation support and monitoring. The IFIs Working Group will help sustain momentum through continued engagement, including through climate and housing finance dialogues and regional development bank forums. By linking global finance with local delivery, the Roundtable contributed to making housing finance more inclusive, integrated and responsive to the needs of cities and communities.

The Middle East crisis and its global housing and urban impacts

The special event "The Middle East crisis and its global housing and urban impacts", examined how conflict in the Middle East is affecting housing systems not only in the immediate region, but also across wider global contexts. Organized by UN-Habitat with support from the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, the session brought together field testimonies, country perspectives and analytical evidence to explore how the crisis is reshaping access to adequate and affordable housing.

The meeting built on UN-Habitat's preliminary assessment of the ways in which the crisis is destabilizing access to adequate and affordable housing. The assessment identified several transmission channels, including geographic risk concentration, credit stress, supply-chain disruption and remittance pressures. The session confirmed that the crisis is acting as a multiplier of existing housing vulnerabilities, affecting countries and communities differently depending on their exposure, institutional capacity and pre-existing urban conditions.

Field testimonies and country perspectives were central to the discussion. Contribu-tions from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon and the State of Palestine highlighted direct or near-direct conflict exposure, recovery needs and post-conflict urban challenges. Perspectives from Somalia and Sri Lanka illustrated how global shocks linked to conflict can compound existing vulnerabilities, including the strain of cyclone recovery, fragile urban housing markets and rising costs

linked to supply chains and financing. These examples helped connect UN-Habitat's analytical framework with lived governmental, municipal and community experience.

A key message from the meeting was that the impacts of conflict on housing extend beyond physical destruction. Participants emphasized that housing loss also affects identity, social cohesion, land rights, cultural heritage, livelihoods and community continuity. The discussion highlighted the need to understand housing as part of a wider urban ecosystem, where damage to homes, services, infrastructure, local economies and social networks can undermine recovery and resilience.

The session also underlined the importance of stronger institutions, flexible financing and rapid response mechanisms in reducing displacement and supporting recovery. Examples from Bahrain and Sri Lanka showed how preparedness, institutional coordination and targeted support can help mitigate the urban impacts of shocks and strengthen resilience in affected communities.

Beyond WUF13, the meeting provided UN-Habitat with practical priorities for strengthening its work on crisis-responsive housing policy and resilient urban recovery. These include further developing housing-impact analysis to capture urban ecosystem damage, cultural heritage loss, and psychological and social disruption alongside physical destruction. The discussion also reinforced the value of broadening housing affordability analysis to include residual income considerations, such as energy costs, transport costs and access to livelihoods.

The outcomes of the meeting will inform UN-Habitat's efforts to identify housing-sector stress points caused by conflict and global shocks, and to develop measures that can reduce immediate pressures while strengthening the resilience of affected urban areas. In doing so, the session supported a shift from post-crisis damage assessment towards earlier, more anticipatory engagement on housing, recovery and urban resilience.



MINURVI Working Group session at WUF13.
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3.7

Urban Expo

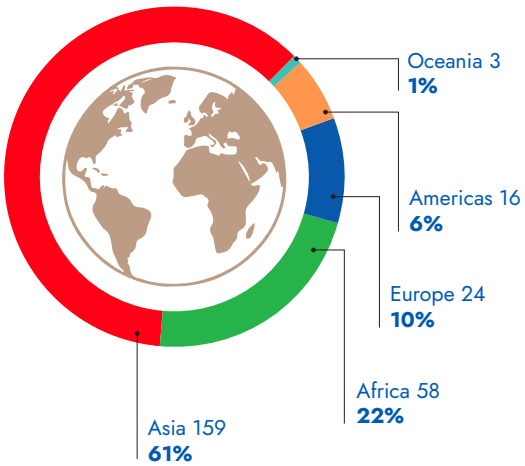
Urban Expo at a glance

Total Expo area:
34,200 sq m

Net exhibition space:
10,219 sq m

Visits:
100,00+

Exhibitors by region

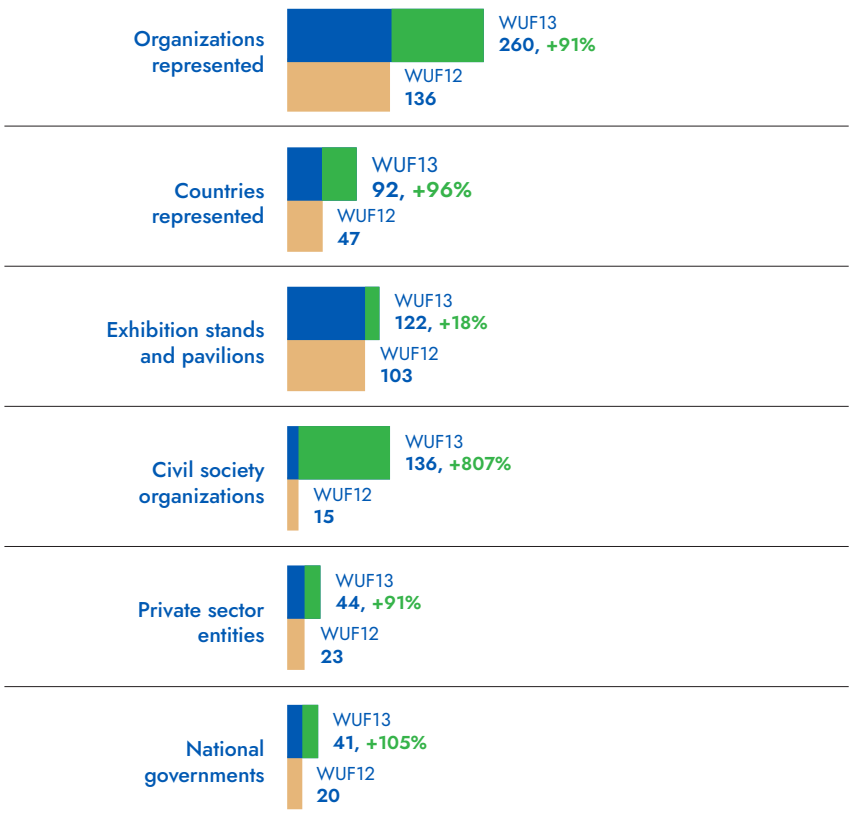


Exhibitors by partner type

Academia and research	(15) **6%**
Civil society organization	(136) **52%**
Foundation	(2) **1%**
Intergovernmental organization	(4) **2%**
Local and regional government	(6) **2%**
National government	(41) **16%**
Private sector	(44) **17%**
Public sector	(10) **4%**
United Nations	(2) **1%**

Spanning 34,200 square metres, the WUF13 Urban Expo was the largest and best-attended edition to date. It became one of the most dynamic areas of the Forum, registering more than 100,000 visits and offering participants an immersive space to explore real-world responses to the global housing crisis.

Growth from WUF12 to WUF13



The Expo attracted record participation, with particularly strong growth in the representation of civil society organizations, national governments and private sector actors. The breadth of participation reflected the multi-stakeholder character of WUF13 and demonstrated the growing demand for practical exchange on housing solutions, climate resilience, digital innovation, accessibility, social inclusion and sustainable urban development.

More than an exhibition area, the Urban Expo functioned as an interactive environment featuring national pavilions, institutional displays, community-led initiatives, startup innovations and knowledge platforms – all showcasing diverse solutions to urban challenges.

The visitor experience was supported by a spatial design that functioned like a public city space. Wide corridors, seating areas, cafés, vegetation and informal networking zones allowed participants to move easily through the Expo while creating opportunities for exchange. The WUF13 Boulevard, a 2.5-hectare open-air public space, served as a central connector for networking, public interaction and movement between different exhibition areas.

WUF13 also introduced and expanded several dedicated spaces within the Expo, including the Business & Innovation Hub, WUF Academy Campus, Civil Society Organizations Cluster and Practices Hub. These platforms increased visibility for startups, academia, civil society organizations and implementation-focused partners, helping make the Expo more inclusive and action-oriented. The Urban Library and Urban Cinema further enriched the experience by connecting knowledge, culture and public dialogue.

The scale, diversity and design of the WUF13 Urban Expo reinforced its role as a central platform for showcasing urban solutions, building partnerships and connecting policy discussions with implementation. By bringing together governments, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academia, communities and international partners, the Expo demonstrated how the World Urban Forum can translate the global conversation on sustainable urbanization into visible, practical and engaging experiences.

3.8

UN-Habitat Pavilion and Arena

The UN-Habitat Pavilion was a central highlight of the Urban Expo at WUF13. Conceived as a curated space exploring the meaning of "Housing the world", it presented UN-Habitat's perspective on the Forum theme through exhibitions, installations, dialogue and interactive experiences. The Pavilion approached housing both as the need for shelter and as a shared responsibility for the world people inhabit together.

The Pavilion guided visitors through the scale and urgency of the global housing crisis, the evolution of global urban development and the need for collective action. It highlighted the impact of UN-Habitat's work across regions and introduced key corporate initiatives, including UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the World Urban Forum, Urban October, the New Urban Agenda and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All. It also showed where UN-Habitat works across the globe, helping visitors connect the organization's normative, operational and convening roles with action on the ground.

The design drew inspiration from structures found in nature and human history, from the spiral of a shell to the form of galaxies and historic architectural patterns. The spiral served as the organizing concept, symbolizing growth, interconnectedness and the relationship between individual housing needs and planetary responsibility. The spatial concept also reflected Baku's contemporary architecture, including the fluid forms associated with the city's landmark buildings.



UN-Habitat Arena.
© UN-Habitat



UN-Habitat Arena.
© **UN-Habitat**

At the heart of the Pavilion, the UN-Habitat Arena provided a dedicated stage for dialogue and exchange. It hosted sessions linked to UN-Habitat's mandate and the WUF13 programme, including climate adaptation, nationally determined contributions, community-led housing, SDG localization, water, crisis response, the New Urban Agenda, the review of Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Baku Urban Award and the launch of UN-Habitat's flagship World Cities Report. These events allowed partners, experts and participants to share knowledge, discuss practical approaches and explore collaboration on housing and sustainable urban development.

The Pavilion and Arena strengthened UN-Habitat's visibility at WUF13 and provided a focal point for engagement with Member States, partners, practitioners and the public. They showed how the World Urban Forum can support institutional outreach, showcase results and build partnerships for work beyond the Forum.

3.9

Programme contribution to WUF13 outcomes

Across its high-level segments, main sessions, flagship platforms, partner-led events, special events, the Urban Expo, and the UN-Habitat Pavilion and Arena, the WUF13 programme showed the breadth and urgency of the global housing challenge. It also demonstrated that housing cannot be addressed through a single sector or level of government alone. Discussions connected housing with land, infrastructure, climate resilience, finance, public services, displacement, informality, social inclusion and local economic development, reinforcing the need for integrated and people-centred approaches.

The programme moved beyond diagnosis by highlighting practical pathways for implementation. Sessions and platforms brought forward policy experiences, community-led approaches, technical expertise, financing models, private sector innovation and locally grounded solutions from different regions and contexts. This helped position WUF13 not only as a space for dialogue, but also as a platform for learning, partnership-building and action.

The diversity of programme formats also strengthened participation. High-level segments elevated political commitment; Dialogues, Assemblies, Roundtables and Special Sessions created spaces for focused exchange; partner-led events expanded the range of voices and expertise; and the Urban Expo and UN-Habitat Pavilion and Arena translated urban ideas into visible, interactive and accessible forms. The programme reflected the role of the World Urban Forum as an open platform where governments, cities, communities, professionals, civil society, academia, the private sector and international partners can shape the global urban agenda.



UN-Habitat's flagship report World Cities Report 2026 was unveiled during WUF13. **© UN-Habitat**

The priorities and messages emerging from the programme informed the wider outcomes of WUF13, including the *Baku Call to Action*, *WUF Perspectives* and follow-up discussions on the New Urban Agenda. They also reinforced the central message of the Forum: adequate housing is fundamental to dignity, resilience, inclusion and sustainable urban development, and must be placed at the centre of implementation in the decade ahead.

WUF Perspectives

Drawing on sessions across the full WUF13 programme, *WUF Perspectives* will provide an in-depth analysis of the discussions and perspectives shared during the Forum, reading those conversations as a unique global knowledge base on housing. The forthcoming publication will capture participant testimonials and contributions from main sessions, flagship platforms, partner-led events and other programme components, representing diverse stakeholder groups and regions. Supported by AI-enabled analysis of event transcripts alongside qualitative interpretation, it will identify key messages, emerging trends and areas of convergence and divergence related to housing, complementing the *Baku Call to Action* and the *WUF13 Report*.



Roundtable session at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat

The thirteenth session of the
World Urban Forum



CHAPTER FOUR

Advocacy, mobilization and engagement

WUF13 was shaped by an extensive process of stakeholder engagement, advocacy, mobilization and communications before the Forum opened in Baku. These efforts helped build visibility, broaden participation, strengthen political support and ensure that the Forum reflected priorities emerging from local, national, regional and global urban constituencies.

This chapter brings together the different strands of that process: stakeholder consultations that informed the programme and the *Baku Call to Action;* global and regional mobilization led by UN-Habitat; national initiatives implemented with the host country; and communications and media outreach that extended the Forum's visibility across audiences and platforms.



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4.1 Stakeholder engagement and shared priorities

For more than two decades, the World Urban Forum has been recognized as an inclusive platform where governments, local and regional authorities, civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders come together to shape the global urban agenda. Stakeholder engagement is therefore not an accompanying activity but a defining feature of the Forum. At WUF13, an expanded engagement process enabled stakeholders to contribute to the design of the programme, shape the Forum's outcome document and strengthen collaboration beyond the six-day event.



Stakeholders discussing during the Professionals Roundtable at WUF13.
© UN-Habitat

Stakeholder engagement at WUF13 brought the perspectives and experiences of communities, cities, networks and institutions into global discussions on housing and sustainable urban development. It provided a platform to connect local realities with global priorities at a time when the housing crisis is increasingly shaped by affordability pressures, climate risks, displacement, informality and widening inequalities.

In the lead-up to WUF13, UN-Habitat undertook an unprecedented, structured process to broaden participation and strengthen stakeholder contributions before and during the Forum. The process enabled stakeholders to co-design pathways for participation and contribute to the development of sessions, content and outcomes aligned with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

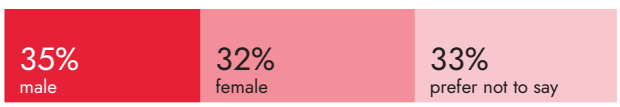
The engagement process brought together a broad range of stakeholder constituencies and was organized around the WUF13 Assemblies and Roundtables, complemented by dedicated consultations with utilities, service providers, climate organizations and other key partners.

Stakeholder engagement in numbers

3,000+
Stakeholders engaged

160+
Countries represented

Gender distribution



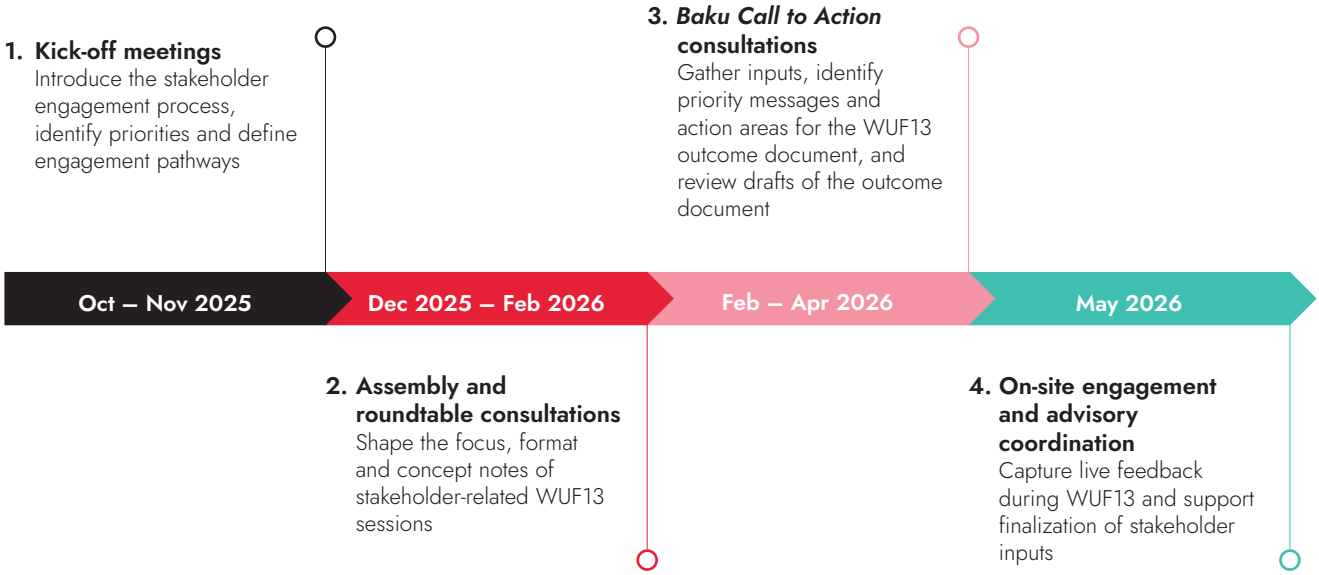
50+
Consultations, including advisory engagements

All United Nations regions
United Nations regional groups represented

11+
utilities and service providers
Stakeholder groups engaged

Implemented between October 2025 and May 2026, the process progressed through four phases, combining consultations, working groups and on-site engagements, supported by global stakeholder dialogues and targeted coordination meetings.

Stakeholder engagement timeline



Multiple consultations sessions with global stakeholders were held ahead of WUF13 to inform the Baku Call to Action.
© UN-Habitat



The consultation process was designed as part of a broader framework of stakeholder engagement opportunities. These included the Global Stakeholder Forum, Global and Regional Stakeholder Dialogues, Urban Thinkers Campuses and contributions to global urban monitoring and reporting, including the 2026 midterm review of the New Urban Agenda and the triennial review of Sustainable Development Goal 11 during the 2026 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Key priorities emerging from consultations

Across the consultation process, stakeholders consistently emphasized the need to move beyond diagnosing the global housing crisis towards practical, scalable and locally grounded solutions. While perspectives varied across stakeholder groups, eight common priorities emerged.

- **Practical solutions and concrete action:** Stakeholders called for action from the ground up, with greater emphasis on addressing practical local challenges and scaling solutions that can be adapted across different contexts.
- **Global solidarity and stakeholder engagement:** Stakeholders emphasized the need to renew political commitment to adequate housing and sustainable urbanization amid shrinking public housing budgets, declining housing affordability and increasing reliance on market-based approaches. Many viewed UN-Habitat as a key platform for aligning local priorities with Member State agendas and global commitments, while strengthening stakeholder voices and collective advocacy.
- **Housing, land and tenure security:** Stakeholders reaffirmed housing as a human right and called for stronger action to address insecure tenure, forced evictions, informality and exclusion from land and housing systems.
- **Climate resilience and environmental sustainability:** Stakeholders called for housing approaches that respond to climate risks and disasters, draw on nature-based solutions and support environmentally conscious urbanization.
- **Governance and multilevel coordination:** Discussions highlighted the role of legal frameworks, housing governance, decentralization, parliamentary action, local government mandates and accountable delivery systems.

- **Housing finance and affordability:** Stakeholders emphasized predictable, inclusive and de-risked financing models, stronger public investment, targeted subsidies and better alignment between affordability and delivery systems.
- **Inclusion, rights and equity:** Women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, older persons and grassroots groups called for intersectional, participatory and rights-based approaches.
- **Data, knowledge and implementation capacity:** Academia, professionals and practitioners emphasized evidence-based policymaking, capacity development, professional standards and stronger knowledge-to-policy pathways.

Stakeholder engagement extended beyond programme design to the co-creation of the Forum's principal outcome document, the *Baku Call to Action*. For the first time in the history of the World Urban Forum, stakeholders were able to contribute to the document before and during the Forum through dedicated consultations, a multi-stakeholder Advisory Group and the public review of a zero draft. Throughout WUF13, the Advisory Group met regularly to review stakeholder inputs and messages emerging from Forum discussions, helping to ensure that the final document reflected diverse perspectives from across the global urban community.

This approach expanded participation across constituencies and enhanced the Forum's relevance by ensuring stakeholder priorities informed Assemblies, Roundtables and the



Women's caucus session at WUF13.
© UN-Habitat

Baku Call to Action. The participatory stakeholder engagement process strengthened ownership of the *Baku Call to Action* and the Forum's outcomes, setting a model for future World Urban Forum cycles.

Beyond WUF13, the process laid a stronger foundation for stakeholder engagement across UN-Habitat's work. It expanded stakeholder networks and partnerships, strengthened collaboration with focal points, enriched the stakeholder database and generated valuable insights to support future engagement.

Building on this momentum, UN-Habitat will continue engaging stakeholders through follow-up processes linked to the 2026 High-level Political Forum, the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, Urban Thinkers Campuses and preparations for the fourteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF14). These efforts will help institutionalize stakeholder engagement across the World Urban Forum cycle and strengthen the link between stakeholder recommendations, partnerships and implementation.

Participants cheering on the outcomes emerging from the Women's Assembly.
© UN-Habitat



4.2

Global advocacy and regional mobilization

The road to WUF13 was shaped by a comprehensive global advocacy and mobilization strategy designed to build visibility, participation and political support. Rather than promoting WUF13 as a single event, UN-Habitat approached the Forum as a global process. Through coordinated action involving Headquarters, regional and country offices, the host country and strategic partners, the campaign connected global messages with regional and national priorities, engaged diverse stakeholder groups and encouraged broad participation across all regions.

The advocacy and mobilization effort had three main objectives: to raise awareness of WUF13 and its theme; to encourage participation from governments, local and regional authorities, United Nations entities, civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders; and to strengthen political support for housing, sustainable urbanization and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The road to WUF13 in numbers

Indicator	Figure
Advocacy and mobilization activities delivered globally	135+
Stakeholders reached and engaged	55,000+
Countries reached	40+
UN-Habitat regions mobilized	6
Multilingual information sessions	23
Regional and country-led initiatives	36

Global advocacy efforts

A structured "Road to WUF13" approach was implemented through international events, information sessions, regional initiatives and targeted outreach. These activities helped position WUF13 within wider global discussions on housing, climate action, resilience, financing, inclusion and sustainable development, while ensuring that the Forum remained visible throughout the preparatory period.

More than 135 advocacy and mobilization activities were implemented worldwide, reaching more than 55,000 stakeholders across more than 40 countries and all six UN-Habitat regions. Activities included information sessions, participation in global and regional platforms, exhibitions, workshops, presentations, diplomatic briefings, media engagements and stakeholder dialogues.

A total of 23 multilingual WUF13 information sessions were delivered in the six official languages of the United Nations, together with Azerbaijani. These sessions engaged more than 1,200 participants and provided governments, United Nations partners, regional stakeholders and prospective participants with practical information on the Forum, programme developments and opportunities for engagement.

WUF13 was also promoted through 76 international and regional conferences, forums and high-level meetings. These platforms enabled UN-Habitat and its partners to integrate WUF13 messages into ongoing policy discussions and demonstrate the relevance of the Forum to broader debates on housing, climate change, resilience, urban finance, innovation and sustainable development.

The global advocacy effort was supported by targeted diplomatic outreach. Briefings with Member States and diplomatic representatives in Baku, Nairobi, Geneva and New York provided opportunities to present the Forum's objectives, encourage high-level participation and strengthen political ownership of WUF13.

Media engagement also supported the advocacy effort by helping journalists and media organizations understand the relevance of WUF13 to regional and global urban development debates. This approach was further localized through regional online media briefings organized in collaboration with UN-Habitat regional offices, enabling regional and local media to connect the Forum's theme with urban challenges and pri-orities in their own contexts. Detailed media results and campaign performance are presented in section 4.4.



Media briefing held at Baku, Azerbaijan ahead of WUF13.
© UN-Habitat

Regional and country-level mobilization

Regional and country-level mobilization translated the global advocacy strategy into context-specific engagement, with national and regional urban forums serving as key platforms for building momentum towards WUF13. Through a whole-of-house approach, UN-Habitat Headquarters worked closely with regional and country offices to connect WUF13 with regional priorities, political opportunities and local stakeholder needs. In total, 36 regional and country-led initiatives engaged more than 6,300 participants through national urban forums, regional platforms, workshops, awareness campaigns, policy dialogues, missions, exhibitions, media engagements and partner mobilization activities.

In Africa, mobilization was structured as a continuum linking national urban forums, regional dialogue and global engagement. The Regional Office for Africa used national platforms to raise awareness of WUF13, encourage participation and strengthen national ownership of Africa's urban agenda. These included the Kenya National Urban Forum, which provided a platform for national consensus-building and prioritization on sustainable urbanization and affordable housing; the South Africa National Urban Forum, which culminated in the Durban Declaration and linked national priorities to the second Africa Urban Forum (AUF2) and WUF13; the fourth Malawi Urban Forum, which strengthened dialogue on urban governance, local government capacity and resilient human settlements; and the tenth Ethiopian Cities Forum, which brought together more than 150 municipalities to exchange experience on urban management, innovation and city competitiveness.

AUF2, convened from 7 to 10 April 2026 in Nairobi, served as the flagship regional platform for Africa's preparation for WUF13. It brought together 12,760 registered delegates from 88 countries, including representatives from 41 African Member States, and 34 ministers and heads of delegation. Through more than 80 sessions and events, AUF2 consolidated national urban priorities into a common African agenda and provided the basis for the Nairobi Declaration. The declaration guided African participation at WUF13 and was reflected in the *Baku Call to Action*. AUF2 also served as a validation platform for the *State of African Cities Report 2026*, which was later launched at WUF13.



Participant posing at the WUF13 booth at the Second Africa Urban Forum in Nairobi, Kenya.
© UN-Habitat

Africa's mobilization also included diplomatic engagement, regional stakeholder dialogues, media outreach and targeted briefings. The Annual Africa Diplomatic Corps Retreat engaged more than 55 diplomatic representatives in Nairobi and Addis Ababa, while a Regional Stakeholder Dialogue held on 15 January 2026 brought together governments, local authorities, development partners, academia, civil society and urban practitioners to discuss housing finance, affordable housing, informal settlements, climate resilience and urban data. Country and thematic engagements also included the Senegal SDG Localization Platform launch, a joint mission with Azerbaijan to Ethiopia, a Sierra Leone city-to-city mission, Cameroon World Habitat Day and World Cities Day celebrations, a Somalia/Hargeisa mission and meetings, a Democratic Republic of the Congo mission and meetings, the Kenya Housing Stakeholder Forum and a diplomatic briefing organized by the Government of Kenya. At WUF13, African participation included 26 ministers and deputy ministers, 9 ambassadors, more than 40 members of parliament and more than 15 mayors. More than 40 events and sessions were organized by African institutions, while 34 African institutions exhibited at the Urban Expo.

In Asia and the Pacific, country-level mobilization was delivered through dedicated WUF13 events in at least seven countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. These included the "On the Road to Baku" awareness event in Kabul; the third Cambodia Urban and Housing Forum; multi-partner workshops and Regional Director engagements in Lao People's Democratic Republic; Housing Mongolia and Learning from the World; the Myanmar Housing Dialogue Towards WUF13; the Nepal Roundtable on Access to Housing; and the International Housing Conference in Pakistan. These country-level events reached well over 900 direct participants and helped connect WUF13 with national priorities such as affordable housing, climate resilience, urban regeneration, informal settlement upgrading, municipal finance and inclusive governance.



Diplomatic briefing on WUF13 held in Geneva.
© **UN-Habitat**

Asia-Pacific mobilization also used regional platforms and senior-level engagement to integrate WUF13 messages into wider policy discussions. WUF13 was promoted through the Regional Partners Forum in Bangkok, the eighty-first and eighty-second sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the Pacific Urban Forum. A WUF13 media briefing in English drew 129 participants from media outlets across the region, while a virtual briefing to the heads of Resident Coordinator Offices carried WUF13 messages to senior United Nations country-level leadership. Line ministry briefings were also completed across 16 countries with UN-Habitat presence.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, WUF13 mobilization combined country-level events, regional platforms and virtual outreach. The Regional Office promoted the Forum at the Habitat Latam Forum in Guadalajara, Mexico, in August 2025; World Cities Day in Bogotá, Colombia, in October 2025; and the Cities and Regions Hub at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. The Bogotá and Belém events also featured WUF13 information points. Virtual outreach included a regional town hall ahead of COP30, information sessions in Spanish and Portuguese in January 2026, and a regional stakeholder dialogue held in Spanish in April 2026. The Office also briefed the Ministry of Cities of Brazil on WUF13 and undertook outreach at the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in Santiago, Chile.



WUF13 booth at the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **© UN-Habitat**

In the Arab States region, mobilization combined country-level events, thematic dialogues, virtual outreach, ministerial briefings and media engagement. Country-level activities included a WUF13 session at the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development, a workshop at Damascus University on WUF13 and the broader urban agenda in the Syrian Arab Republic, a roundtable discussion at the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development in Egypt, and the Cairo Urban Run on 21 April 2026, which, in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee, engaged more than 600 participants. The Regional Office also supported proposal development and institutional participation in Morocco, including academic and youth-led initiatives, a WUF Academy masterclass proposal, participation by the Direction Générale des Collectivités Territoriales and a One UN partner-led session proposal on sustainable and resilient reconstruction using local materials and traditional techniques.



Online regional media briefing for the Arab States.
© UN-Habitat

Egypt Urban Week, held from 18 to 23 April 2026, served as a flagship thematic platform under the Cairo-to-Baku roadmap. It combined in-person and online events, including thematic webinars on alternative tenure, heritage regeneration and inclusive housing, and engaged more than 400 participants from government, civil society organizations and the private sector, with speakers and participants from across the Arab region. The Arab States region also widened access through virtual information sessions, including a regional partner-led event proposal-writing workshop with nearly 300 participants, Arabic-language information sessions on the Urban Expo and online participation opportunities, and an online regional media briefing that engaged more than 70 journalists.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, mobilization included country-level promotion events, regional urban dialogues, virtual information sessions and targeted institutional briefings. Country-level activities included a WUF13 information session with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Tajikistan, a WUF13 United Nations Country Team briefing in Georgia, a WUF13 promotion event co-organized with the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Ukraine, and a WUF13 media briefing during the thirteenth Global Baku Forum. The Regional Office also delivered engagement presentations during the Danube Region Urban Forum, the Serbia National Urban Forum and the Tashkent Urban Forum, helping connect regional priorities and experiences with the WUF13 process. Further outreach included information sessions with the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Türkiye and İLBANK, virtual information sessions for Ukrainian partners, Resident Coordinator briefings and sector-ministry briefings.

Alongside these regional efforts, UN-Habitat's New York Office engaged diplomatic and multilateral audiences ahead of WUF13. Its activities included a briefing for the Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, participation in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Partnership Forum's discussions on Sustainable Development Goal 11 and side events at the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. At the ECOSOC Youth Forum on 16 April 2026, the Office also took part in a WUF13 advocacy event with Azerbaijan.

These efforts showed the value of UN-Habitat's field presence in broadening participation and strengthening political ownership of WUF13. By linking national urban forums, regional platforms, ministerial engagement, diplomatic outreach, media briefings and partner mobilization, regional and country offices helped ensure that WUF13 reflected a wider range of urban experiences, priorities and implementation pathways.

4.3

National mobilization in Azerbaijan

WUF13 was not limited to the six days of the Forum. In the months leading up to the event, national mobilization initiatives developed by the host country in collaboration with UN-Habitat brought the Forum's themes into universities, public spaces, cultural institutions, youth platforms and professional networks across Azerbaijan. These efforts helped broaden participation, strengthen national ownership and create a foundation for continued action on sustainable urban development beyond the Forum.

Azerbaijan Urban Campaign

Ahead of WUF13, the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UN-Habitat launched the Azerbaijan Urban Campaign to generate interest in the Forum and broaden national engagement on sustainable urban development. Designed as a nationwide platform for dialogue, collaboration and action, the campaign sought to give WUF13 a lasting impact by involving institutions, communities and citizens across Azerbaijan.



Azerbaijan Urban Campaign launch event at Baku.
© **UN-Habitat**

Running from October 2025 to May 2026, the campaign brought together government bodies, universities, youth groups, civil society, professional associations, cultural organizations and private companies. More than 20 organizations officially joined the campaign, forming a diverse coalition in support of WUF13's objectives.

The campaign mobilized more than 4,500 participants through 27 activities, including forums, conferences, workshops, exhibitions, youth programmes, design studios, public talks and community projects. These activities addressed themes closely aligned with the WUF13 agenda, including housing, urban resilience, public space, climate action, heritage conservation, urban innovation and community participation.

A key contribution of the campaign was expanding urban development discussions beyond traditional policy circles in the lead-up to WUF13. Students, researchers, architects, planners, community leaders and young people contributed ideas, presented local experiences and explored the future of the cities and communities of Azerbaijan. Youth engagement – through hackathons, design studios, leadership programmes and youth-led discussions – was especially prominent. This helped make urban issues more accessible to a wider audience and strengthened public understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing cities. In doing so, the campaign also strengthened partnerships across sectors, as universities collaborated with government agencies, youth groups engaged with urban planners, and cultural and community organizations brought new perspectives to urban development discussions.

By the time WUF13 opened in May 2026, many organizations and individuals in Azerbaijan had already engaged with the Forum's themes through local initiatives and events. As a result, WUF13 was experienced not only as an international conference hosted in Azerbaijan, but also as a platform through which local stakeholders could share their experiences, ideas and ambitions with a global audience.

The Azerbaijan Urban Campaign demonstrated how a World Urban Forum can inspire national dialogue before the Forum begins and leave a foundation for continued collaboration after it concludes. The networks, partnerships and shared sense of purpose developed through the campaign represent an important contribution to sustainable urban development in Azerbaijan.



Azerbaijan Urban Campaign launch event at Baku.
© UN-Habitat

Baku Urban Week

From 11 to 17 May 2026, Baku Urban Week brought the Azerbaijan Urban Campaign into the streets, public spaces, universities and cultural institutions of the host city. Held in the final week before WUF13, it featured 50 activities across Baku and served as the culmination of the national campaign launched in preparation for the Forum.

Baku Urban Week was designed as a citywide platform for participation rather than a single conference-style event. Its programme combined public discussions, workshops, exhibitions, study visits, cultural events, youth initiatives and walking-based activities that allowed participants to explore urban issues through the experience of the city itself.

In this way, the week connected the global themes of WUF13 with the everyday spaces, heritage, mobility systems, neighbourhoods and public life of Baku.

The programme addressed issues central to the urban development priorities of Azerbaijan and the WUF13 agenda, including housing, public space, heritage, urban resili-ence, youth engagement, mobility, gender equality, integrated urban development and the future of cities. Activities included urban quests at Sea Breeze, walkability events in Baku, architecture graduation exhibitions and urban dialogues, workshops on art, ar-chitecture and human-centred urban design, discussions on micromobility and urban planning, and events on women as drivers of inclusive cities.

Baku Urban Week also used cultural and experiential formats to broaden public engagement. Participants joined heritage and architectural tours, theatre and discussion events, photography activities, exhibitions by young artists, an eco-art event, and public conversations on the relationship between heritage, community and contemporary urban life. Site visits and study tours, including to Sea Breeze and the Alat Free Economic Zone, helped connect discussion of sustainable urbanization with concrete places, projects and development choices.

Youth and learning were prominent throughout the week. Activities included a Model United Nations conference, student dialogues, school garden initiatives, youth house discussions, UrbanLab 13, design activities on virtual cities and events focused on sustainable and resilient human capital.



WUF13 advocacy materials distributed at the Baku Climate Action Week.
© UN-Habitat

These formats gave students and young people opportunities to examine the future of cities not only as a policy issue, but as a field for design, creativity, leadership and civic participation.

The week engaged a broad range of participants, including experts, academics, students, architects, artists, civil society organizations, government representatives, community members and international visitors. Universities, youth organizations, cultural institutions and professional associations helped shape the programme, demonstrating the role of partnerships in making urban issues accessible to wider audiences.

By opening up discussion beyond formal meeting rooms, Baku Urban Week helped prepare the city for WUF13 and encouraged deeper engagement with its themes, fostering a city-wide conversation about public space, heritage, mobility, inclusion, culture and the future of urban life.

WUF13 Festival

The WUF13 Festival, also referred to as the WUF13 Roadshow, extended Forum outreach beyond the capital and brought WUF13 themes to communities across Azerbaijan. Held from 30 April to 13 May 2026, the Festival travelled through Guba, Lankaran, Gabala, Sheki, Mingachevir, Ganja, Khankendi and Sumgayit before culminating in a final event in Baku. Across the nine host cities, the Festival engaged more than 115,000 people.

The Festival was built around a two-part daily format. During the day, higher education institutions in the host cities convened information sessions on WUF13. These sessions introduced participants to the objectives of the Forum, the principles of sustainable urban development and the urbanization priorities of Azerbaijan. They also created space for students, academics and local stakeholders to discuss how global urban challenges relate to their own cities and communities.

In the evening, the Festival moved into open-air public programmes designed for wider community participation. These events included interactive activities, educational games, presentations and public discussions. Rather than limiting engagement to specialist audiences, the Festival used accessible formats to introduce residents to contemporary urban themes, including sustainable urban development, inclusive urban environments, innovative urban solutions and cities of the future.

The roadshow format was important. By travelling across different regions of the country, the WUF13 Festival helped ensure that awareness of the Forum was not concentrated only in Baku. Each city became a local entry point into the WUF13 conversation, allowing residents, students, local authorities, media and community members to connect the Forum's international agenda with their own urban experiences and aspirations.



Urban cinema event at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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The Festival also helped translate the WUF13 theme into public-facing activities. Through a mix of learning sessions and public events, participants were invited to con-sider what safer, more resilient, inclusive and human-centred cities could mean in prac-tice. The programme attracted audiences across age groups and created opportunities for residents to engage with ideas about the future of urban living in accessible and participatory ways.

The Festival was supported by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architec-ture, executive authorities in the host districts, nine higher education institutions across the host cities, local media outlets and local residents. This broad local involvement helped strengthen national ownership of WUF13 and contributed to public awareness of sustainable and inclusive urban development across Azerbaijan.

In addition to the Azerbaijan Urban Campaign, Baku Urban Week and the WUF13 Fes-tival, the Forum also generated two host-country legacy initiatives. The Baku Urban Award is a biennial mechanism to recognize and promote housing and sustainable development solutions, while the Baku Standards document operational lessons for future WUF hosts' voluntary reference. Both initiatives are discussed in chapter 7.

4.4 Communications and media outreach

Communications for WUF13 significantly increased the Forum's global visibility, foregrounded housing as a defining global challenge and broadened engagement beyond traditional urban audiences. The campaign positioned adequate housing as a critical enabler of sustainable development, particularly in the context of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda, held shortly after WUF13.



Journalist doing livestreaming during WUF13.
© **UN-Habitat**

The campaign was built around a simple, consistent narrative: housing is not only about shelter, but a foundation for dignity, inclusion, climate resilience, economic opportunity and sustainable urban development. This framing connected the WUF13 theme with issues affecting people and communities worldwide, including affordability, informal settlements, displacement, land and tenure, climate risks, urban resilience and access to basic services.

Through strategic media engagement, digital communications, multimedia storytelling, livestreaming and partner amplification, the campaign translated complex urban policy discussions into accessible, people-centred stories. It helped demonstrate why housing matters to governments, cities and communities, while extending the reach of WUF13 before, during and after the Forum.

The UN-Habitat communications team worked closely with regional and country offices, the host country's communications and broadcasting teams, United Nations partners and media organizations to disseminate messages through different platforms. This collaborative approach strengthened the global reach of WUF13 and amplified regional perspectives.

Media outreach

WUF13 attracted global media coverage with reports focusing on housing, urban resilience, climate change and sustainable urban development. Media materials helped journalists to connect the global housing crisis with local and regional realities.

A total of 1,267 media representatives registered for WUF13, including 1,046 from Azerbaijan and 221 international media representatives. During the six days of the Forum, 865 media representatives were physically present at the venue in Baku, including 768 Azerbaijani and 97 international media representatives.

A distinguishing feature of WUF13 media outreach was a series of eight media briefings held in the lead-up to the Forum. These included briefings in Nairobi, Geneva and Baku and online briefings for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, a WUF13 media briefing was held at the Global Baku Forum and a media training session was organized at ADA University in Baku.

The host country played a significant role in media outreach and in raising the overall visibility of WUF13. Early engagement with national media leaders helped equip Azerbaijani journalists with background on WUF13, the global housing agenda and key urbanization issues. Throughout the campaign, the host country supported international media through strategic partnerships and organized media tours before and during the Forum. The host country also supported 27 journalists from the Global South to travel to Baku and report on the Forum and broader urban development issues.

WUF13 featured international and national media partners, including broadcasters, news agencies and specialized urban platforms. These partnerships expanded the Forum's reach across different audiences. A full list of media partners is included in the annex.



Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat being interviewed by media at WUF13.
© UN-Habitat

Media coverage extended across major international outlets, including Anadolu Agency, Euronews, CNN Türk, BBC, AFP, EFE, ANSA, TASS, Kazinform, UZA (Uzbekistan), IRNA, Xinhua News Agency, The Times of India, and Nation Media Group and The Standard (Kenya).

National media also played an active role in covering the Forum. On the opening day alone, local television stations aired 700 news items, while online media published more than 5,000 stories on WUF13, demonstrating exceptional national engagement and illustrating the Forum's communications impact.

Overall, earned media coverage – unpaid news coverage across international, regional and national outlets – is estimated to have generated between 200 million and 500 million impressions.

Social media and multimedia campaign

The social media campaign supported WUF13 across the full promotional period, with activity increasing in the lead-up to and during the Forum. World Urban Forum social media channels were used to promote registration, highlight programme opportunities, explain the Forum theme, amplify stakeholder voices and share outcomes from Baku.

Across the full campaign period from September 2025 to May 2026, World Urban Forum social media channels reached 991,373 people, generated 557,825 video views and recorded 199,935 engagements.

During the Forum week, social media engagement increased sharply. From 17 to 22 May, World Urban Forum channels reached 228,967 people through real-time promotion and coverage of key programme moments, with Instagram stories surpassing 1 million views.

Participants taking selfie at WUF13.
© UN-Habitat



Social media reach during WUF13 week

Metric	UN-Habitat channels	WUF channels
Reach	378,843	228,967
Video views	115,214	60,157
Engagements	54,956	31,884
Follower growth	+1,429	+3,319

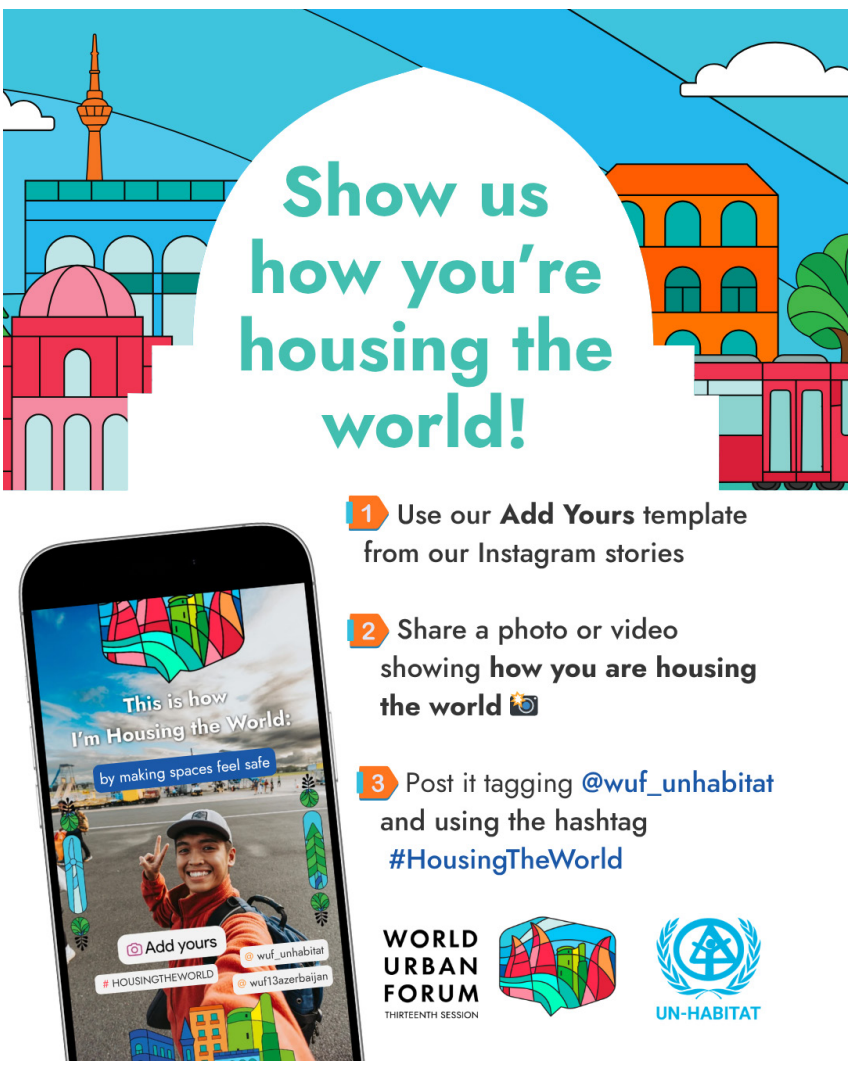
Over the same period, reach on UN-Habitat corporate channels rose by more than 200 per cent, to 378,843 people, and engagements increased by nearly 400 per cent.

The campaign used participatory and leadership-driven content to broaden public engagement. The "This is how I am housing the world" Instagram campaign invited audiences to share stories on how they contribute to shaping sustainable cities and communities. It mobilized 866 contributors, transforming the Forum's housing message into a participatory digital conversation.

The "Voices for WUF" video campaign, supported by partners including the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, brought together influential leaders, policymakers and urban practitioners to explain why housing matters and why urgent action on the global housing crisis cannot wait. These formats helped connect institutional messaging with personal commitments, public voices and calls for action.

Hashtag performance reflected the reach of the campaign's main messages. Across the full reporting period for World Urban Forum channels, the strongest-performing hashtags included #WUF13, #HousingTheWorld and #RoadToBaku, showing that the campaign connected the Forum's identity, theme and lead-up mobilization across digital channels.

The WUF13 social media campaign has successfully boosted engagements during the event week.
© UN-Habitat



Hashtag performance

Hashtag	Reach
#WUF13	1,114,203
#HousingTheWorld	898,392
#RoadToBaku	709,648
#Baku2026	157,331
#WUF14	31,451

United Nations system-wide and partner amplification

Amplification across the United Nations system and partner networks extended the visibility of WUF13 beyond UN-Habitat's own channels. UN News stories in all six official United Nations languages, as well as in Kiswahili, Hindi and Portuguese, provided multilingual coverage of key messages on housing and sustainable urban development. Official United Nations social media accounts promoted WUF13 content, bringing the Forum's messages to wider global audiences across United Nations digital platforms.

WUF13 content was further amplified by United Nations entities, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, as well as strategic partners such as the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, United Cities and Local Governments and Cities Alliance. These efforts broadened the Forum's reach and strengthened engagement across diverse audiences.

Local media conducting livestream at WUF13.
© UN-Habitat



4.5
Sustaining momentum beyond Baku

The road to WUF13 demonstrated the value of sustained engagement and mobilization across the full Forum cycle. Stakeholder consultations shaped the Forum's priorities and outcome document; global advocacy and regional mobilization broadened participation and political support; national initiatives connected the Forum with communities across Azerbaijan; and communications and media outreach extended the visibility of WUF13 beyond the venue.

The whole-of-house approach strengthened collaboration across UN-Habitat, deepened engagement with regional and country partners and expanded the network of stakeholders connected to the World Urban Forum. It also helped ensure that WUF13 priorities were embedded in wider policy discussions before the Forum and could continue to inform follow-up processes after Baku.

The partnerships, networks, advocacy platforms and communications channels developed on the road to WUF13 provide a foundation for continued engagement in support of the *Baku Call to Action*, implementation of the New Urban Agenda and preparations for WUF14. They also underline the importance of sustained mobilization between Forum sessions, so that the World Urban Forum remains a catalyst for political commitment, partnership-building, public engagement and action for sustainable urban development.



WUF13 preparation event in Baku, Azerbaijan.
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CHAPTER FIVE

Delivering an inclusive, accessible and sustainable Forum

WUF13 placed sustainability, accessibility and inclusivity at the centre of Forum planning and delivery. These principles guided decisions across venue operations, resource management, transport, procurement, digital systems, participant services, programming and outreach. Rather than treating them as separate workstreams, WUF13 sought to integrate environmental responsibility, universal access and meaningful participation across the full event experience.



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Art installation depicting sustainable urban development at the Urban Expo.
© UN-Habitat

This chapter examines how those commitments were translated into practice. It brings together the measures that shaped the delivery of WUF13: sustainability systems to reduce environmental impact and strengthen institutional capacity; accessibility measures that supported participation by persons with disabilities; inclusivity efforts to broaden representation and reduce barriers; volunteer mobilization as a core part of participant services; and digital tools that expanded access for participants unable to attend in person.



5.1 Sustainability

Sustainability was embedded in WUF13 as both a strategic ambition and an operational requirement. In line with the WUF Sustainability Strategy, sustainability considerations were integrated across the event lifecycle, from planning, procurement and venue preparation to live operations, dismantling and post-event legacy.

The approach brought together environmental management, climate action, accessibility, health and safety, responsible procurement, digitalization, community engagement and knowledge transfer within a common governance framework.

WUF13 sustainability framework



Inclusivity, accessibility and safety
Ensuring accessible venues and services, inclusive participation and robust safety systems



Sustainable venues and resource management
Focusing on energy efficiency, water stewardship, circular materials and waste diversion



Legacy & local impact
Creating a meaningful and measurable legacy while reducing negative impacts of the event



Carbon management and climate action
Full GHG accounting and initiatives to reduce the event's carbon footprint

Sustainability data dashboard

Area	Key result
Electricity used during the Forum	100% green electricity
Temporary power zones	13
EU Stage IIIA-compliant generators	48
Estimated emissions avoided against the 50% generator-load scenario	6,661,303 kg CO_2e
Fuel recovered after the event	117,380 litres
Paper meal vouchers avoided	Approximately 336,000
Reduction in paper use for meal entitlements	Approximately 90%
Electric buses operating at peak	154
Distance covered by event buses over eight days	Approximately 245,000 km
Daily bus trips at peak	1,398
Food ingredients sourced locally	More than 85%
Plant-based and vegetarian menu items	68.75%
Packaging meeting sustainability criteria	More than 95%
Water-refill stations	200
Catering waste diverted from landfill	100%
Safety inductions delivered	11,951
Employees trained on ISO 20121	341
Overall participant satisfaction	94% satisfied or very satisfied

Resource-efficient venue and operations

WUF13 placed strong emphasis on reducing resource use across venue operations. During the Forum, the venue was powered entirely by green electricity, reducing emissions associated with purchased electricity and supporting the event's broader carbon-management commitments.

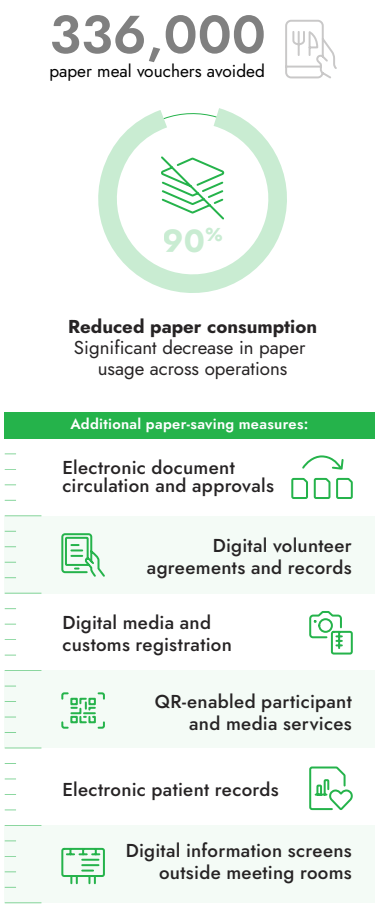
Temporary power infrastructure was organized across 13 operational zones, allowing power supply to respond to the requirements of individual areas rather than maintaining uniform capacity across the whole venue.

A total of 48 EU Stage IIIA-compliant generators were deployed. Actual fuel consumption was substantially lower than forecast, with demand-based power management estimated to have avoided 6,661,303 kg CO_2e against a modelled 50 per cent generator-load scenario. After the event, 117,380 litres of unused fuel were recovered, preventing unnecessary consumption and supporting resource-recovery commitments.

Resource efficiency also extended to water, paper and administrative systems. Sensor-operated faucets within existing facilities released water only when required, while sensor-based heating, ventilation and air-conditioning controls helped limit unnecessary

energy use. The use of glass façades and semi-transparent roofs increased natural light while maintaining thermal comfort and supporting the operational function of temporary and permanent spaces.

Paper Avoidance



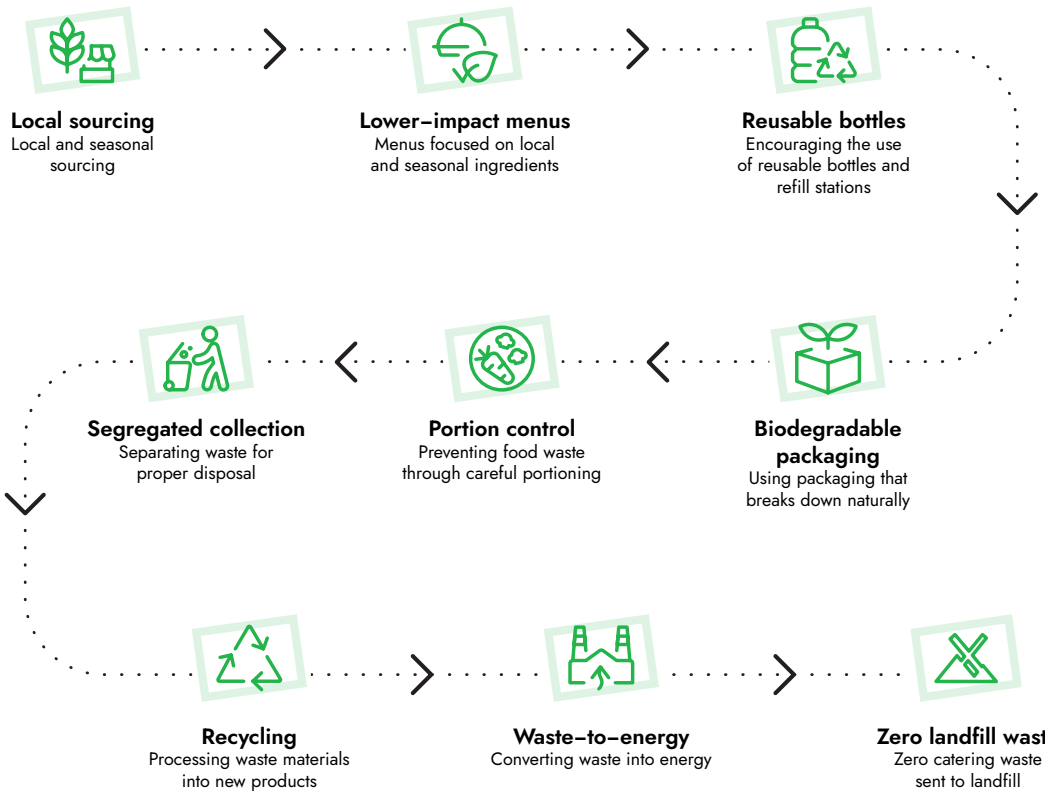
Digitalization helped reduce paper consumption across several event processes. The electronic meal-entitlement system validated volunteer and workforce meals through accreditation-badge scanning, avoiding the production of approximately 336,000 paper vouchers and reducing paper use for this process by an estimated 90 per cent. Additional paper-saving measures included electronic document circulation and approvals, digital volunteer agreements and records, digital media and customs registration, QR-enabled participant and media services, electronic patient records and digital information screens outside meeting rooms.

Procurement decisions prioritized durability, reuse, responsible sourcing and residual value beyond the Forum. Workforce uniforms, reusable bags, high-visibility vests, metallic water bottles and operational equipment were selected for extended use rather than short event-specific lifespans. Computers, network infrastructure, power-supply units, office equipment and selected furniture were rented and returned after the Forum, extending the useful life of existing assets and reducing the need to purchase equipment solely for temporary use. Venue design and construction followed a similar principle, prioritizing rented, reusable and recoverable materials where practicable.

Circular waste management and responsible catering

Waste management at WUF13 was implemented through an integrated model covering prevention, source segregation, collection, transport optimization and material recovery. Colour-coded bins were deployed throughout the venue, with operational systems in place to coordinate collection and traceability. Recyclable materials were separated for recovery, while residual non-recyclable waste was directed to controlled waste-to-energy treatment rather than conventional landfill disposal.

Circular catering journey



Catering vendors operated under a defined sustainability framework combining environmental requirements, food safety, resource efficiency and waste prevention. More than 85 per cent of food ingredients were procured locally, while poultry, meat and vegetables were supplied entirely by local providers. Local and seasonal procurement shortened transport distances, reduced dependence on long cold-chain operations and heavy packaging, and supported domestic producers.

Lower-impact menu choices were also prioritized. Plant-based and vegetarian dishes accounted for 68.75 per cent of total menu offerings, helping reduce the overall carbon, land and water intensity of food provision while providing broader choices for a diverse international audience.

WUF13 also sought to reduce single-use plastics. Catering vendors were required to use biodegradable utensils and packaging, while recyclable, reusable and certified biodegradable alternatives were prioritized. More than 95 per cent of packaging materials complied with the prescribed sustainability criteria.

The venue included 200 water-refill stations, double the initial target of approximately 100. Reusable WUF13 bottles were distributed to personnel and participants, increasing access to drinking water while reducing demand for single-use plastic bottles.

Food-waste prevention was supported through demand forecasting, menu planning, portion control and responsible-consumption messaging. Organic waste that could not be avoided was collected and transferred for appropriate recovery or treatment. Waste points were located throughout the venue to support source segregation and frequent collection. As a result, 100 per cent of catering-related waste was diverted from landfill, according to the WUF13 sustainability report.

Low-carbon mobility and logistics

WUF13 transport planning prioritized safe, accessible and efficient shared mobility while reducing reliance on private vehicles. This approach combined electric public transport, route optimization, shared logistics and hybrid vehicles.

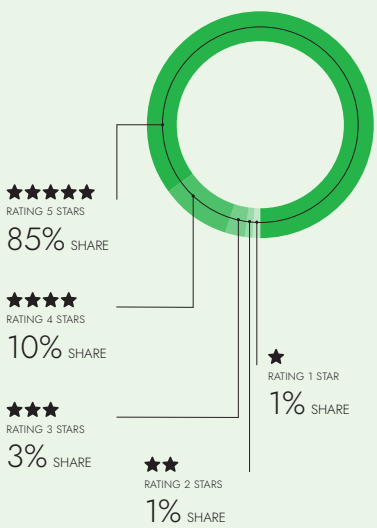
In cooperation with BakuBus, free transport was provided from more than 10 hubs across the city, together with airport connectivity. At peak operation, 154 fully electric, high-capacity buses were in use and service was scaled up to 1,398 bus trips per day. Over eight days, the fleet travelled approximately 245,000 kilometres, supporting the objective of enabling 60 per cent of delegate mobility through public transport.

Logistics operations further reduced transport-related impacts through planned delivery schedules, consolidated shipments, combined common-destination deliveries and route optimization. Daily coordination and real-time information exchange allowed resources and vehicles to be reassigned in response to changing priorities, reducing empty journeys and unnecessary fuel consumption.

Sustainable mobility dashboard



Transport satisfaction pie chart:



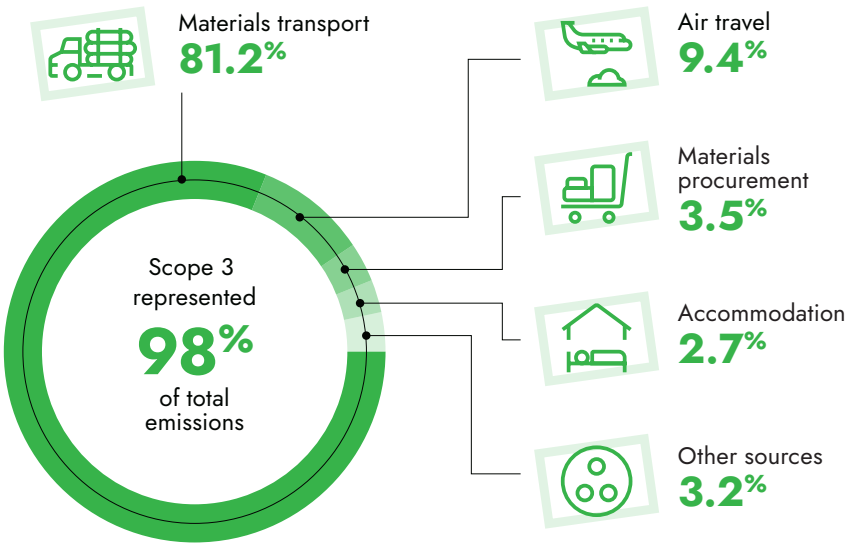
Carban footprint and climate action

WUF13's assessed greenhouse gas emissions totaled **210,230 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e)** across planning, delivery and dismantling. Post-event activities accounted for **61%** of the footprint, largely due to dismantling temporary installations and transporting materials.

Scope	What it covers	WUF13 examples	Emissions
Scope 1	Direct emissions from sources the organizer controls	Fuel burned for temporary power	**1,564 tCO_2e**
Scope 2	Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy	Purchased electricity used at the venue	**2,900 tCO_2e**
Scope 3	Other indirect emissions across the event's value chain	Materials transport, participant flights, accommodation, procurement and waste	**205,766 tCO_2e**

Scope 3 represented 98% of total emissions. Materials transport was the largest source at 81.2%, followed by air travel (9.4%), materials procurement (3.5%) and accommodation (2.7%).

WUF13 emissions by source



WUF13's reduction measures saved an estimated **21,245.6 tCO_2e**, about **9%** of the baseline footprint. The use of hydrotreated vegetable oil and the purchase of renewable electricity contributed the largest share of these savings.

Governance, standards and performance

WUF13's sustainability management system was guided by internationally recognized standards covering quality management, occupational health and safety, environmental management, anti-bribery management, event sustainability management and sustainable procurement.

Standards supporting WUF13

ISO **9001:** 2015	ISO **45001:** 2018	ISO **14001:** 2015	ISO **37001:** 2016	ISO **20121:** 2024	ISO **20400:** 2017
Quality Management	Occupational Health and Safety	Environmental Management	Anti-Bribery Management	Event Sustainability Management	Sustainable Procurement



Water refill stations at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat

ISO 20121 provided the central framework for integrating sustainability into governance, procurement, stakeholder engagement, operations, accessibility, monitoring and improvement. Following a two-stage audit by an independent certification body, the WUF13 Operations Company received ISO 20121 certification. Evidence was collected across operational departments, and 341 employees received targeted training to support the standard's practical application.

Legacy beyond the Forum

WUF13's sustainability ambition extended beyond the event period. Legacy initiatives were selected for their potential to create lasting environmental, social, educational and institutional value for future events and host communities.

WUF13 sustainability legacy portfolio

Knowledge and education	· A Dictionary for Cities · Karabakh University sustainable project-management training · Inclusive Cities panel
Environmental action	· Tree planting · Bird-nesting installations
Institutional change	· AZS ISO 20121:2026 · WUF13 OpCo–AFFA knowledge exchange
International and regional cooperation	· Baku Continuity Coalition · SPECA Forum of Cities · Baku Urban Award

These initiatives included *A Dictionary for Cities*, developed as an accessible urban-literacy resource; a tree-planting and bird-nesting initiative supporting urban greening and biodiversity; sustainable project-management training for Karabakh University students; an Inclusive Cities panel in Khankendi; and an awareness partnership between the WUF13 Operations Company and the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA).

The adoption of AZS ISO 20121:2026 represented an important institutional legacy, aligning the WUF13 sustainability approach with international sustainable-event management practice. The standard provides a replicable basis for integrating sustainability into future event planning, implementation and evaluation.

The sustainability measures introduced at WUF13 show how environmental responsibility, operational efficiency and social value can be integrated into the delivery of a major international event. While the final greenhouse-gas assessment will provide a more complete picture of the Forum's carbon footprint, the measures implemented in Baku provide practical lessons for future World Urban Forums and other large-scale events.



Waste separation bins at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat



Participants using electric golf cart at WUF13.
© **UN-Habitat**

5.2
Accessibility

Accessibility at WUF13 was planned as a condition for meaningful participation, not as a stand-alone service. From the early stages of preparation, the Forum sought to identify and remove physical, digital, communication, sensory and attitudinal barriers that could prevent persons with disabilities from participating independently and with dignity.

This approach was formalized through the WUF13 Accessibility Strategy, which translated the Forum's commitment to inclusion and universal design into practical responsibilities across the event lifecycle. The strategy addressed accessibility audits, procurement, venue design, transportation, digital platforms, communication, workforce training, emergency preparedness, programming, participant services, monitoring, evaluation and legacy. It provided a common framework for UN-Habitat, the WUF13 Operations Company, venue and construction teams, service providers, public authorities and accessibility specialists.

The strategy was translated into a programme of infrastructure improvements, participant services, operational procedures and capacity-building activities. Accessibility considerations were integrated into permanent and temporary infrastructure, official and partner-led programming, and the complete participant journey, from registration and travel planning to arrival, venue navigation, session participation and departure.

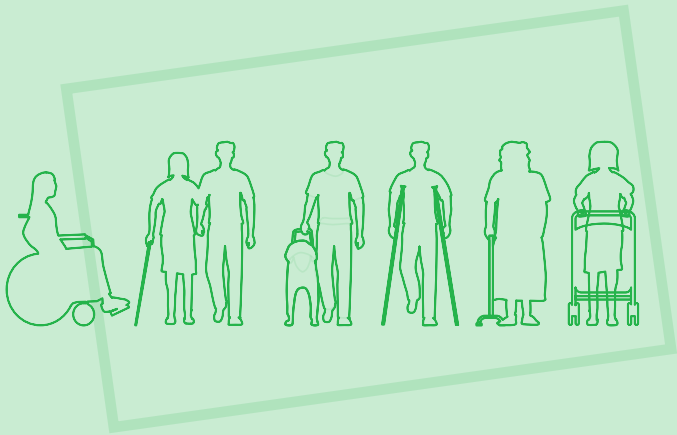


Accessibility infrastructure and operations at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat



Accessibility infrastructure and operations at the Urban Expo.
© UN-Habitat

WUF13 **accessibility** at a glance



204
City facilities and visitor destinations

800
Venue and programme accessibility checkpoints reviewed

220
Accessible ramps installed

3,000
Metres of tactile paving

12
Temporary accessible toilets

40
Reserve wheelchairs

50
Induction loop systems

2
Quiet rooms

3
Guide and service dog relief areas

1
Veterinary room

4,200+
Staff, volunteers, contractors and operational personnel trained

1,021
Recorded participant-support interactions during the Forum

0
Formal accessibility complaints recorded

Planning accessibility from the outset

A central feature of the WUF13 approach was the early identification of barriers before venue construction and operational arrangements were finalized. Between November 2025 and January 2026, the Accessibility Team conducted a city-wide audit of facilities and services that participants were likely to use during their stay in Baku. In total, 204 facilities and destinations were assessed, including hotels, restaurants and cafés, museums, shopping malls, religious sites and tourist attractions.

The findings demonstrated both available options and significant gaps in the wider city environment. They were compiled into an accessibility database and incorporated into the accommodation and visitor-information sections of the WUF13 website, enabling participants to make more informed travel and accommodation decisions based on verified information. An initial accessibility audit of the Baku Olympic Stadium was also undertaken, with identified barriers and proposed technical solutions communicated to the venue design and construction teams.

Accessibility requirements were also incorporated into procurement. Specialist equipment and services were sourced for Quiet Rooms, tactile navigation, Braille information, audio navigation, captioning, sign language interpretation, guide dogs, wheelchairs and participants with non-visible disabilities. These measures helped ensure that accessibility needs were considered in advance rather than addressed only once participants arrived.

Creating an accessible venue and participant journey

Accessibility requirements were integrated into venue design, construction, temporary infrastructure and operational planning. Implementation was continuously monitored, with identified deficiencies documented and referred to the responsible teams for correction.

A total of 220 accessible ramps were installed at entrances, exits, emergency exits, stage-access points and key circulation and service areas. The venue included 12 temporary accessible toilets, and accessible seating plans were prepared for meeting rooms. Approximately 10 per cent of seating capacity in each meeting room was designated for persons requiring accessibility accommodations. The Opening and Closing Ceremony Hall included 36 wheelchair positions and 8 designated positions for participants with hearing impairments.



Accessibility infrastructure and operations at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat

Independent navigation was supported through approximately 3,000 metres of tactile paving, Braille-integrated room and door signage, a tactile map at the principal entrance, audio navigation and high-contrast markings on transparent doors, ramp edges, stairways and level changes. Accessible routes and temporary infrastructure were checked daily to ensure that new barriers were not introduced through crowd-control measures, furniture, equipment or operational changes.

Two Quiet Rooms were established for participants requiring a reduced-stimulation environment. They were equipped with soft seating, weighted blankets, sensory and fidget materials, puzzles, books and other sensory-support resources. Mobility assistance included 40 reserve wheelchairs, wheelchair maintenance and emergency repair services, and portable charging facilities for powered mobility devices.

Accessibility infrastructure was also provided for participants travelling with guide and service dogs, including three relief areas and a dedicated veterinary room. These measures were accompanied by information on the admission of guide dogs at the venue, on official transportation and at relevant hotels and visitor destinations.

Accessible transportation was addressed as part of the complete participant journey. The official transport network included accessible shuttle buses, accessible taxis, public transport options and dedicated airport-to-hotel and hotel-to-venue arrangements. An airport service point provided information and support, while dedicated taxi vouchers were made available to permanent wheelchair users and participants with visual impairments for airport, hotel and venue transfers. Accessible pick-up and drop-off areas were positioned close to step-free entrances and connected to accessible pedestrian routes.

An accessible venue by design



Audio technology

50 induction loops,
4 wireless microphones
in every meeting room



Physical access

220 ramps, **3,000m** tactile paving,
12 accessible toilets, **40** wheelchairs





Support facilities

3 guide-dog relief areas,
1 veterinary room,
1 tactile map



Seating and spaces

36 ceremony wheelchair positions,
8 hearing-access positions,
2 Quiet Rooms

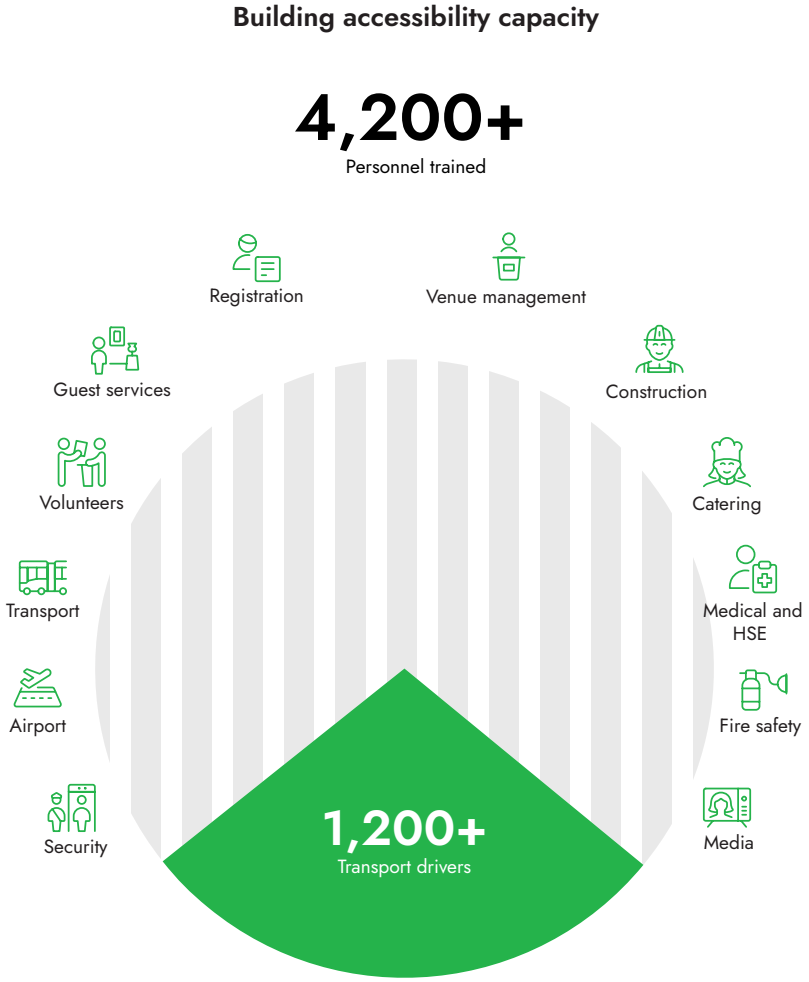
Accessible information, communication and support

The accessibility of information was treated as essential to allowing participants to plan their attendance and request support in advance. Accessibility information was published through the official WUF13 website, the UN-Habitat WUF13 Accessibility webpage, dedicated FAQ sections, social media, printed materials and Braille formats. Participants could contact the Accessibility Team through dedicated email and WhatsApp channels before and during the Forum.

The WUF13 website underwent an accessibility review based on Web Content Accessibility Guidelines principles. Improvements included clearer content structures, plain language, enhanced colour contrast, greater compatibility with screen readers and a visible accessibility widget. The review process included user testing by a person who is blind using screen-reader technology, with feedback informing adjustments to navigation, readability and usability.

Communication accessibility included International Sign Language, Azerbaijani Sign Language and Communication Access Realtime Translation captioning. A total of 50 induction loop systems were available across ceremonies, Dialogues, Roundtables, Special Sessions, press conferences, United Nations meeting spaces, registration areas and accessibility service points. Captioning was available across approximately 80 per cent of event programming, while sign language interpretation was provided across sessions, including Azerbaijani Sign Language during the opening and closing ceremonies.

Building accessibility capacity



A major component of preparation was investment in people. Between March and May 2026, more than 4,200 staff, volunteers, contractors and operational personnel received accessibility-related training. The training was adapted to the responsibilities of different functional areas, including transport, security, airport services, volunteers, guest services, registration, venue management, construction, catering, medical and health, safety and environment teams, fire safety and media. Approximately 1,200 transport drivers received accessibility and disability-awareness training, creating knowledge that can continue to benefit passengers beyond the Forum.

Emergency preparedness was also approached through both infrastructure and practical training. Emergency exits were reviewed for accessibility, routes were connected to ramps with handrails, high-contrast visual markers and accessible signage improved visibility, and audio navigation was programmed to identify accessible emergency exits. Two evacuation carriers were procured, and three fire and evacuation simulations were conducted between November 2025 and May 2026 with the participation of persons with disabilities.

Accessibility in action

During WUF13, two accessibility service points operated across the venue, supported by a structured management and escalation system. A dedicated accessibility team worked across the venue with 32 trained accessibility volunteers.

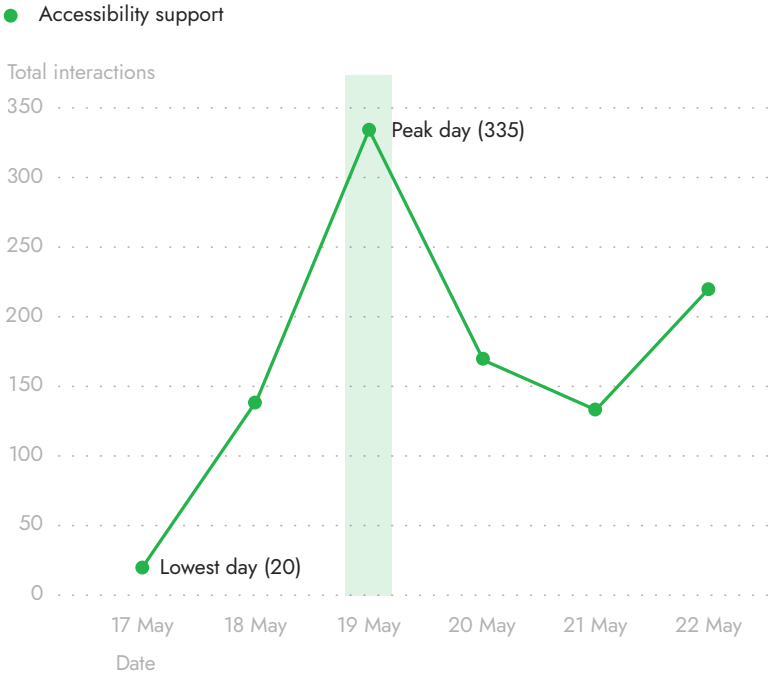
Volunteers assisted participants with navigation, mobility, information, communication-service coordination, Quiet Room access, transportation connections and other individual support requirements.

All requests were recorded in an Accessibility Service Log, covering wheelchair allocation, accessible transportation, induction loops, Quiet Room use, Sunflower bracelets, audio navigation, volunteer assistance and general accessibility support. Across the operational period, 1,021 participant-support interactions were recorded, with the highest number taking place on 19 May.

Approximately 800 individual accessibility checkpoints were monitored across the venue and programme spaces before and during Forum operations. Checks covered ramps, handrails, doors, tactile paving, accessible toilets, service locations, meeting rooms, podiums, seating plans, equipment and participant circulation. Daily inspections were carried out before the venue opened, and reports were submitted at the end of each operational day to support corrective action and continuous improvement.

Accessibility was also incorporated into official and partner-led programming. Room layouts were reviewed for step-free access, wheelchair positions, accessible tables and clear sightlines to screens and interpreters, helping participants engage more fully in Forum discussions.

Daily accessibility support interactions (17–22 May)





International Sign Language, Azerbaijani Sign Language and Communication Access Realtime Translation captioning were provided for all WUF13 main sessions.
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Lessons and legacy

WUF13 assessed accessibility through both technical compliance and lived experience. Evaluation drew on infrastructure inspections, service logs, help-desk records, transport requests, daily reports, volunteer and staff observations, photographic evidence and direct participant comments. Feedback received through help desks, personal interac-tion, media interviews and social media was generally positive, particularly in relation to venue accessibility, sign language interpretation, communication support and the responsiveness of accessibility personnel. No formal accessibility complaints were recorded during or after the Forum. Participant feedback also pointed to areas for con-tinued improvement, including clearer assistance, stronger wayfinding and further support for participants requiring additional services (see chapter 6).

Beyond the event itself, WUF13 produced an institutional and community legacy. Training strengthened the knowledge of staff, contractors and service providers whose work extends beyond the Forum. Airport, transport, security, construction and opera-tional teams gained practical experience in accessible service delivery, infrastructure and emergency response. The presence of guide dogs was particularly important in a context where many stakeholders had limited prior experience of guide-dog access and appropriate interaction protocols.

Accessibility materials were also transferred for continued community use. Tactile maps, Braille materials and tactile-paving resources were donated to organizations representing persons with visual impairments, while books, sensory puzzles, fidget toys and other Quiet Room materials were donated to autism-support centres.

Several measures represented important innovations for WUF13, including dedicated veterinary services for guide dogs, Hidden Disabilities Sunflower identifiers, wheelchair maintenance and repair, and portable charging for assistive devices. Together with the Accessibility Strategy, operational procedures, checklists, data systems and accessibility reporting, these measures created a practical evidence base for future World Urban Forum hosts and other international events, helping accessibility move from individual accommodations towards a consistent institutional standard.

WUF13 demonstrated that accessibility is most effective when it is planned early, adequately resourced, informed by lived experience and integrated across all operational functions. The most important accessibility achievement was not a single ramp, service or technology, but the establishment of a coordinated system in which infrastructure, information, people and procedures worked together to support participation.

Accessibility Help Desk at the registration area.
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5.3 Inclusivity

Inclusivity was one of the defining principles of WUF13, guiding strategic planning, participant outreach, programme development and on-site delivery. Building on the commitment of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind, the Forum sought to reflect the diversity of urban realities by bringing forward voices that are too often underrepresented in global policy discussions.

To support this objective, UN-Habitat developed a dedicated inclusivity strategy well in advance of the Forum. The strategy provided a framework to reduce barriers to participation, promote balanced representation and ensure that stakeholders could contribute meaningfully regardless of gender, age, geography, socioeconomic background or circumstance. WUF13 integrated inclusivity across speaker selection, sponsorship, programme design, communications, accessibility and participant services.

Simultaneous interpretation was provided in all UN official languages and Azerbaijani.
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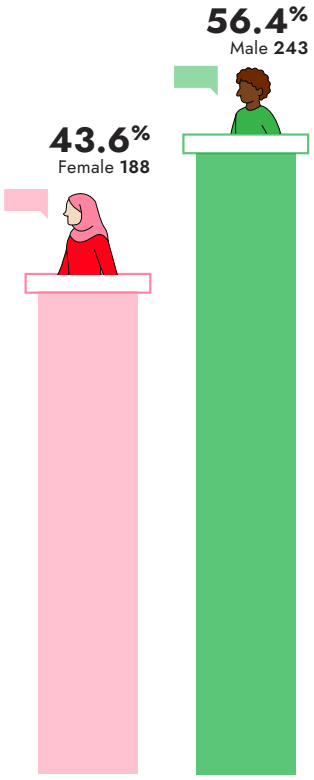
A Forum reflecting diverse urban voices

A diverse community of participants and speakers

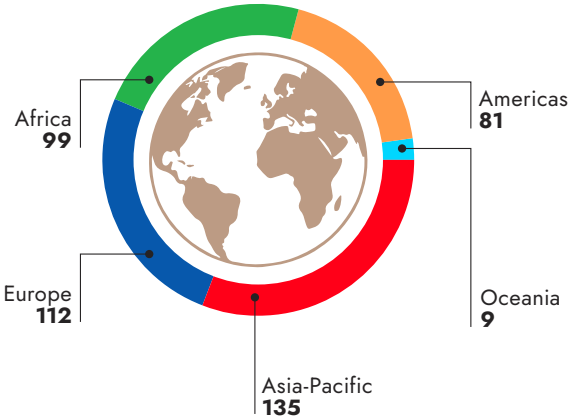


Speakers
436

Speaker participation by gender



Speaker participation by regions



The near gender balance among speakers reflected WUF13's commitment to inclusive and equal participation, ensuring that different genders were represented not only as attendees but also as experts, decision makers and leaders shaping urban policy. The broad geographical distribution of speakers also helped ensure that discussions reflected diverse urban contexts, from rapidly urbanizing cities and Small Island Developing States to least developed countries and established metropolitan regions.

Special attention was given to identifying speakers whose lived experience complemented technical expertise. Community leaders, youth representatives, women human rights defenders, Indigenous leaders, local government officials, civil society organizations, academia, grassroots organizations and practitioners were included alongside ministers, mayors and international organizations, enriching discussions with practical perspectives from the ground.

Expanding participation through targeted support

Meaningful inclusivity requires more than open registration. Many stakeholders face financial, institutional and logistical barriers that prevent participation in global conferences. To address this, WUF13 expanded participation through targeted sponsorship and outreach, with priority given to participants from least developed countries, women leaders and practitioners, youth representatives, Indigenous Peoples, persons from vulnerable and marginalized communities, civil society organizations, grassroots and community-based organizations, and local authorities with limited financial resources.

These efforts helped ensure that the Forum benefited from perspectives that are frequently absent from international policy dialogues. Outreach campaigns also reached beyond traditional audiences by engaging stakeholders through regional offices, partner networks, youth organizations, local governments and civil society platforms.

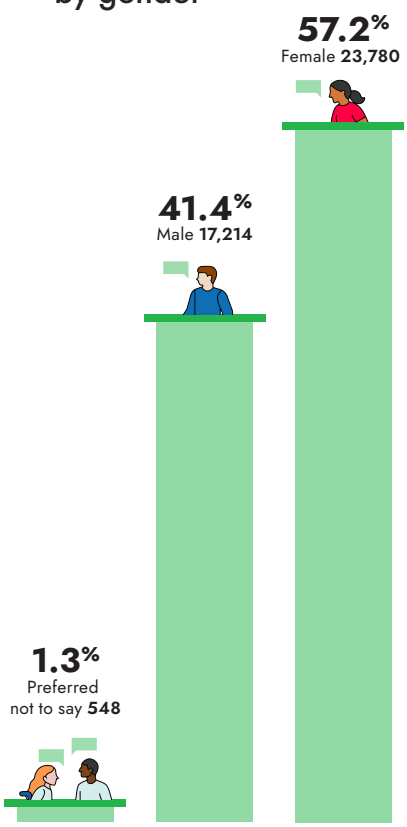
Inclusive participation at scale

Participants

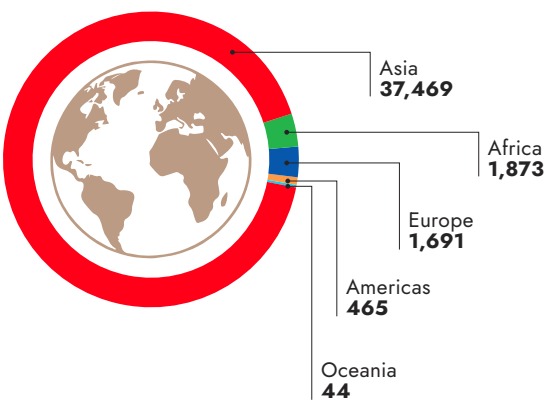
41,542



In-person participation by gender



In-person participation by regions





Urban cinema event at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat

Beyond the overall number of participants, WUF13 demonstrated that inclusivity is measured by who has the opportunity to engage, contribute and influence outcomes. The strong participation of women reinforced the Forum's commitment to gender-responsive urban development and inclusive decision-making.

Inclusive programming

Inclusivity was also embedded in the programme architecture. WUF13 created dedicated spaces for different communities to articulate priorities, share experiences and contribute to the global urban agenda. These included the Children and youth Roundtable, the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Roundtable, the Gender equality and women's empowerment Roundtable, the Rights of older persons Roundtable and the Rights of persons with disabilities Roundtable, among others.

These sessions ensured that the perspectives of underrepresented groups informed broader discussions across the Forum. They helped make the programme more representative of the full diversity of urban experiences and strengthened the link between global policy discussions and the realities of communities on the ground.

Inclusivity also extended beyond dedicated sessions. Programme organizers were encouraged to develop balanced panels reflecting diversity in gender, geography, age, institutional background and professional experience. Sessions brought together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, civil society organizations, local governments, community leaders and private sector representatives, helping bridge the gap between global policy frameworks and local implementation.

At the operational level, inclusivity was supported through coordination with accessibility, logistics and participant services teams to reduce barriers and create an environment in which all participants could engage meaningfully.

A stronger and more representative Forum

Through a dedicated inclusivity strategy, targeted sponsorship, diverse speaker representation, inclusive programming and dedicated platforms for underrepresented groups, WUF13 strengthened the representative character of the Forum.

The lessons from WUF13 reflect the premise on which the inclusivity strategy was built: that inclusive participation strengthens decision-making, enriches dialogue and supports more human rights-based and implementable urban solutions. As the Forum continues to evolve, inclusivity will remain central to ensuring that the global conversation on sustainable urbanization reflects the people and communities it seeks to serve.



Rights of Indigenous Peoples Roundtable at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat

5.4

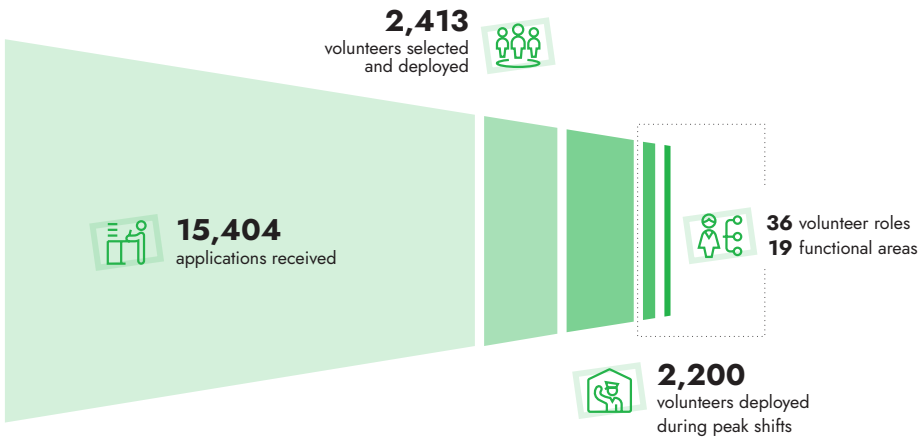
Volunteer mobilization and participant services

Volunteers formed one of the largest operational workforces supporting WUF13. From welcoming participants and guiding movement across the venue to supporting accessibility, sustainability and programme delivery, they contributed to both the efficiency of the Forum and the quality of the participant experience.

Through a structured process of recruitment, training, deployment and recognition, WUF13 transformed strong public interest into a volunteer workforce of 2,463 people working across 19 functional areas and 36 roles.

Interest in volunteering for WUF13 was substantial. A total of 15,404 applications were received, including 1,420 international applications. Following a review and interview process, 2,463 volunteers were selected and confirmed, representing 16 per cent of all applicants. According to operational data, 98 per cent of the selected volunteers completed their full assignments, indicating a high level of commitment among the final volunteer cohort.

WUF13 volunteer programme at a glance



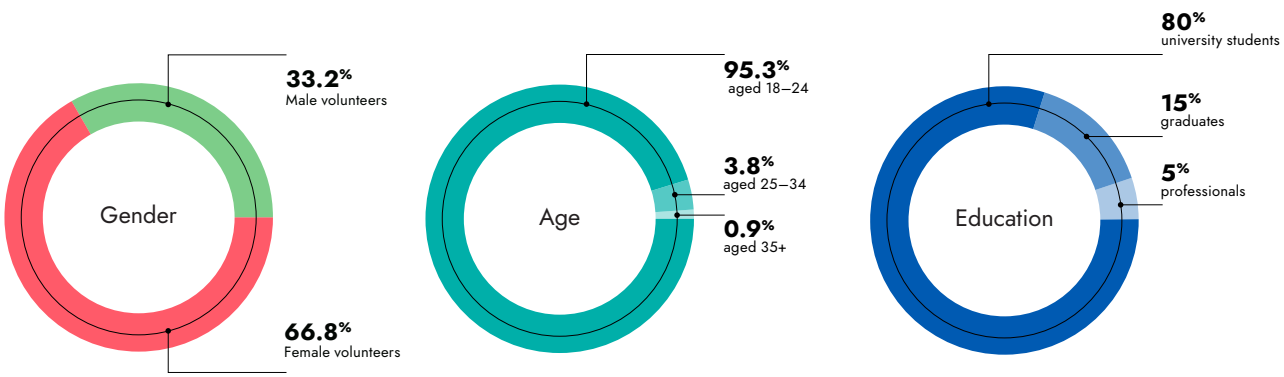
Recruitment funnel

Recruitment stage	Number	Conversion
Applications received	15,404	100%
Candidates invited to interviews	10,500	68.2% of applicants
Candidates interviewed	Approximately 7,700	73.3% of those invited
Volunteers selected and deployed	2,463	16% of applicants
Volunteers completing their full assignments	2,413	98% of those selected

The programme was strongly anchored in youth participation and local ownership. Most volunteers were Azerbaijani nationals, while 90 international volunteers also participated, adding an intercultural dimension to the programme. Women represented more than two thirds of the volunteer workforce, and university students made up the majority of volunteers. Most volunteers were aged 18 to 24, reflecting the programme's important role in engaging young people in the Forum and the broader sustainable urban development agenda.

Training was central to preparing active and reserve volunteers for a complex international event. The programme followed a progressive model combining general orientation, role-specific preparation and venue-based familiarization. In total, 193 sessions delivered approximately 352 hours of training, covering United Nations values, sustainability, accessibility, operational responsibilities and practical venue procedures. Volunteers who completed all three stages received approximately 7 hours and 45 minutes of preparation.

Who were the WUF13 volunteers?



The volunteer learning journey

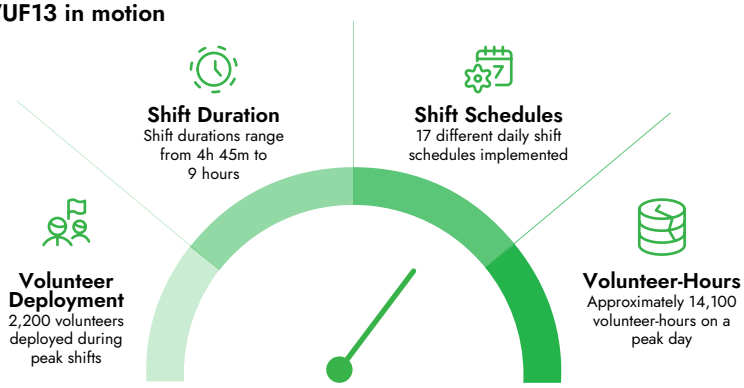


During WUF13, volunteers supported programme, venue and participant services across the Forum. Around 2,200 volunteers were deployed during peak shifts, contributing approximately 14,100 hours of service on a peak day. Their work helped ensure that participants could navigate the venue, access information, attend sessions and engage with the Forum in a welcoming and well-coordinated environment.

Accessibility was integrated throughout the volunteer training programme. Approximately 5,000 candidates were introduced to accessibility during general training, around 200 volunteers participated in a dedicated accessibility seminar, and approximately 1,800 received further accessibility guidance during venue-specific training. Thirty-two volunteers were deployed in accessibility-support roles, helping strengthen assistance for participants requiring additional support.

Volunteers also supported the implementation of WUF13 sustainability commitments. Sixteen volunteers were assigned to sustainability-related actions, including waste management, awareness activities, sustainable mobility guidance, water stations and other green initiatives.

WUF13 in motion





Volunteers supporting WUF13 values

Accessibility



Accessibility training

5,000 volunteers introduced to accessibility through general training



Dedicated seminar

200 volunteers attended a dedicated seminar



Venue guidance

1,800 volunteers received venue-specific accessibility guidance



Support roles

32 volunteers deployed in direct accessibility-support roles

Sustainability



Sustainability assignments

16 volunteers focused on sustainability initiatives namely: Awareness activities; Sustainable mobility;Water stations



Waste management

Volunteers managed waste effectively: including the From Waste to Art throughout the event.

The contribution of volunteers will be recognized through certificates for active and reserve volunteers. By including reserve volunteers, the programme acknowledges that readiness and participation extended beyond those ultimately assigned to operational shifts.

The volunteer programme leaves behind a substantial pool of young people with experience in international event delivery, participant services, accessibility, sustainability and United Nations values.

Volunteer supporting delegates at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat

5.5
Digital access, livestreaming and app engagement

Digital access expanded the reach of WUF13 by enabling remote engagement with a significant number of programme sessions, complementing on-site participation and making the Forum more accessible to participants who were unable to attend in per-son. For participants facing financial, logistical, institutional or other barriers to travel, hybrid delivery, livestreaming, interpretation, recordings and virtual engagement tools helped widen access to Forum discussions beyond Baku. These tools formed part of the Forum's broader inclusivity approach.

WUF13 sessions were livestreamed and available on-demand, supporting wider access to Forum programming, with UN Web TV registering 60,055 live and on-demand views.

The WUF13 app also supported digital engagement during the Forum by helping par-ticipants navigate the programme, access information, connect with other attendees and follow sessions online. According to the Webex Events analytics data, the WUF13 app recorded 1,777 active attendees, 283,988 engagement actions and more than 131,000 minutes open, equivalent to approximately 2,184 hours of use.

Engagement was concentrated during the main Forum dates, with an average of 943 daily active users and a peak of 1,069 active users. The most-used features included the programme, attendee directory, social timeline and maps, reflecting the app's role in supporting schedule planning, networking and on-site navigation. The app also recorded 1,330 livestream access actions, alongside more than 20,000 profile views, 16,900 recorded connections and 2,300 conversations.

Digital access and app engagement at a glance

Area	Result
UN Web TV live and on-demand views	60,055
WUF13 app active attendees	1,777
Engagement actions	283,988
Minutes open	More than 131,000
Approximate total use time	2,184 hours
Average daily active users	943
Peak active users	1,069
Livestream access actions through the app	1,330
Profile views	More than 20,000
Recorded connections	16,900
Conversations	2,300

By supporting remote access, on-site navigation, livestream participation and participant-to-participant connections, digital tools helped extend the reach and inclusivity of WUF13. They also demonstrated the importance of treating digital participation not only as a communications function, but as part of the Forum's delivery model and participant experience.



All WUF13 main sessions were livestreamed through UN WebTV.
© UN-Habitat

5.6
Delivery lessons and operational legacy

The delivery of WUF13 showed how sustainability, accessibility, inclusivity, volunteer mobilization and digital access can be integrated into the planning and operation of a major international event. These measures helped reduce environmental impact, support participation, improve participant services and extend access to Forum discussions beyond the venue.

The experience also demonstrated the value of early planning, cross-functional coordination and practical systems that connect infrastructure, people, technology and participant support. Sustainability measures depended on procurement, logistics, venue management and digital systems. Accessibility required coordination across design, transport, communications, staff training and on-site services. Inclusivity was supported through speaker selection, sponsorship, programming, participant services and digital access. Volunteers helped translate these commitments into daily support for participants.

WUF13 also introduced MIND (Meet. Invite.Notify.Deliver), a digital invitation and follow-up system that further digitalized preparations for the Forum. Using 16 approved invitation templates, the system supported the issuance and monitoring of invitations to more than 6,000 delegates and more than 400 speakers, while strengthening coordination across UN-Habitat teams. Its subsequent use for other UN-Habitat events represents a practical operational legacy of WUF13.

While participant feedback points to areas for continued improvement, WUF13 provides a practical evidence base for future World Urban Forums. The systems, data, tools and experience generated in Baku can inform future planning and help ensure that future sessions continue to strengthen sustainability, accessibility, inclusivity and access for all participants.



Volunteers support at the UN-Habitat shop during the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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The thirteenth session of the
World Urban Forum

CHAPTER SIX

Participant experience and feedback

Participant feedback provides an important perspective on how participants experienced WUF13. Following the overview of the programme, mobilization efforts and delivery systems, this chapter examines participant expectations before WUF13, levels of satisfaction after the Forum, perceived learning and networking outcomes, and areas identified for future improvement.



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Understanding expectations before the Forum
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Strong satisfaction and learning outcomes
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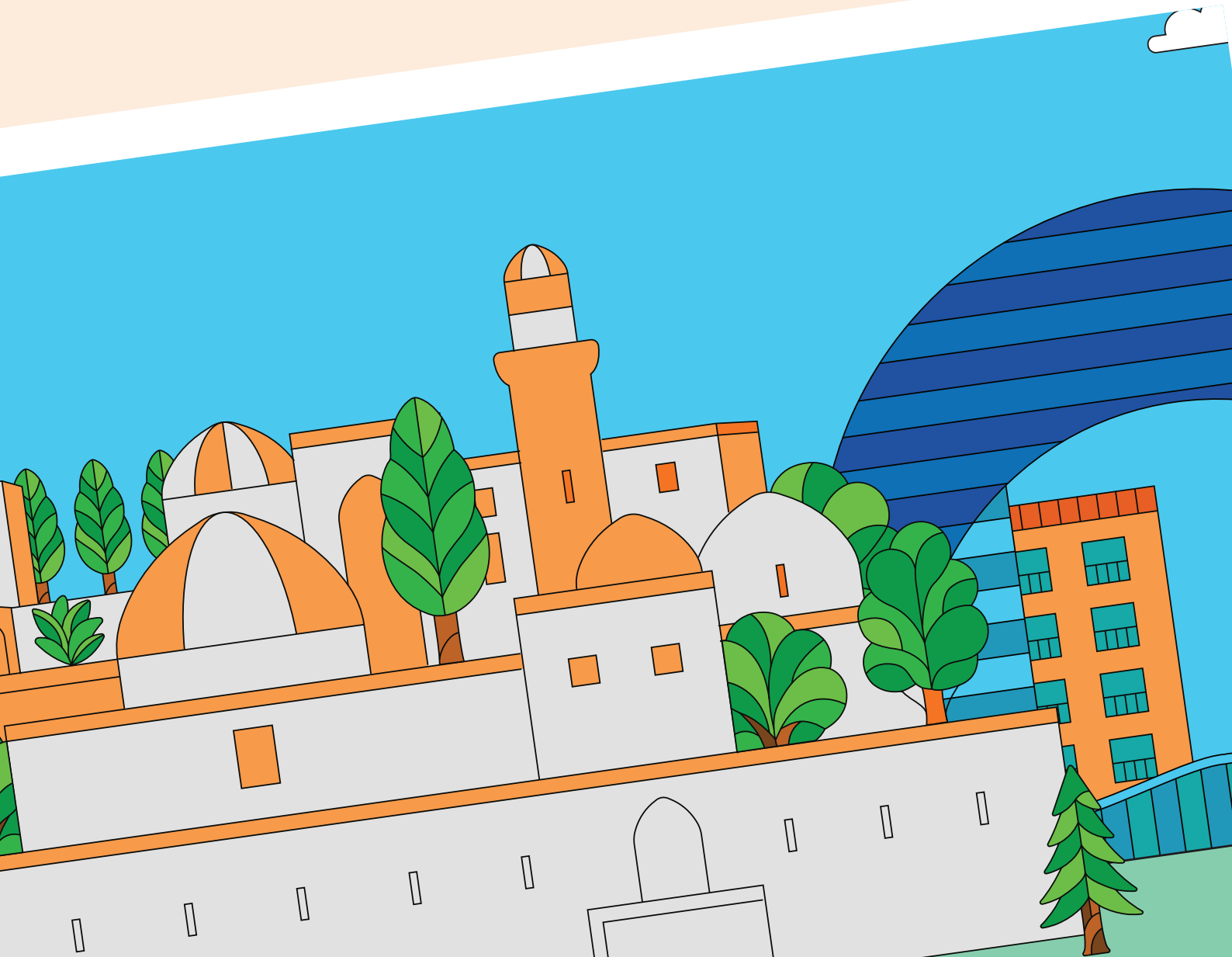
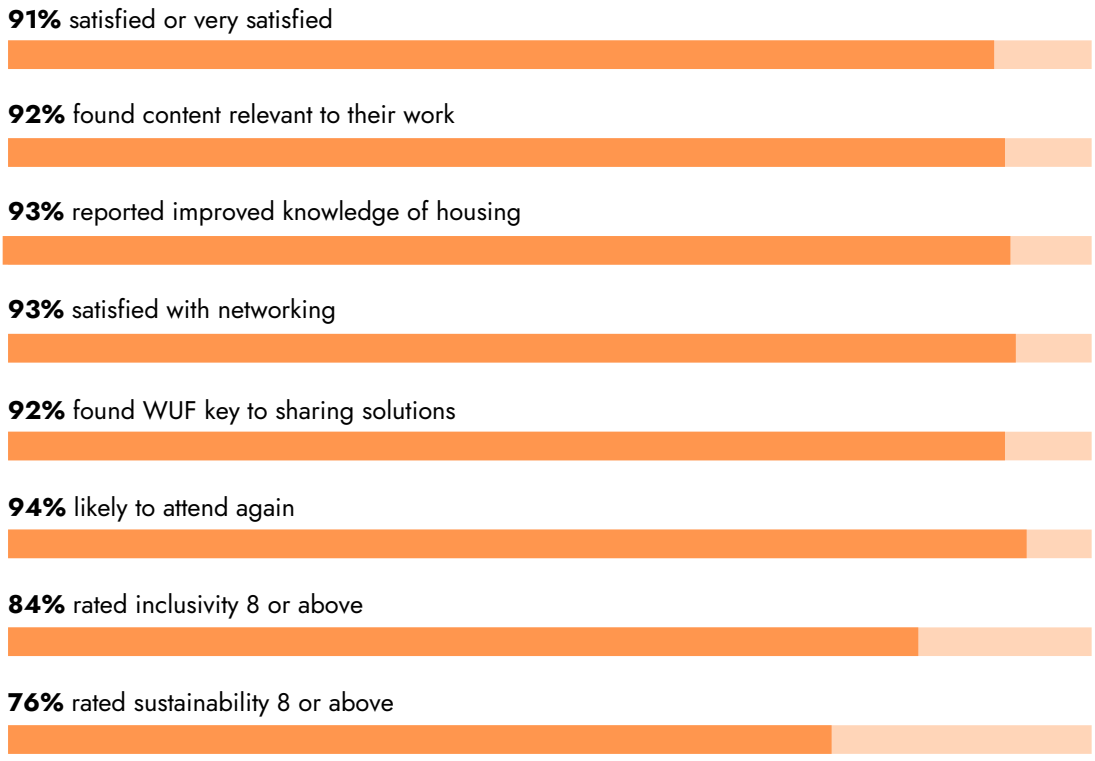


Findings in this chapter are based on two participant surveys, one conducted before and one after the Forum. The pre-Forum survey gathered 1,343 responses and captured participants' motivations, interests and perceptions of the housing challenge in the days leading up to WUF13. The post-Forum survey gathered 555 responses and collected feedback on satisfaction, learning, relevance, inclusivity, sustainability, networking and priorities for future editions. Response totals varied by question, from 1,278 to 1,343 in the pre-Forum survey and from 287 to 555 in the second, and each percentage in this chapter reflects the share of the total respondents who answered the relevant question. The results should be read as participant feedback rather than as a representative evaluation of all WUF13 participants.

The results suggest that WUF13 attracted a large first-time audience, met participant expectations and generated clear guidance for future Forums. Respondents came primarily to learn, connect and gain practical skills, and left with a strong sense of the Forum's value as a platform for knowledge exchange, networking and action on sustainable urbanization.

Participant experience at a glance



6.1

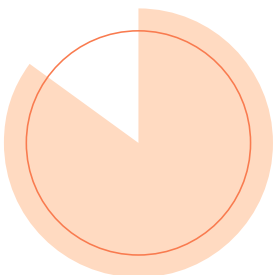
Understanding expectations before the Forum

The pre-Forum survey showed that WUF13 reached a broad and largely new audience. Most respondents were attending the World Urban Forum for the first time, indicating the Forum's continued ability to attract new participants into the global urban conversation. The survey also reflected the Forum's appeal to both local and international audiences: 50 per cent of respondents were residents of Azerbaijan and an additional 45 per cent were visiting the country for the first time.

Pre-Forum survey



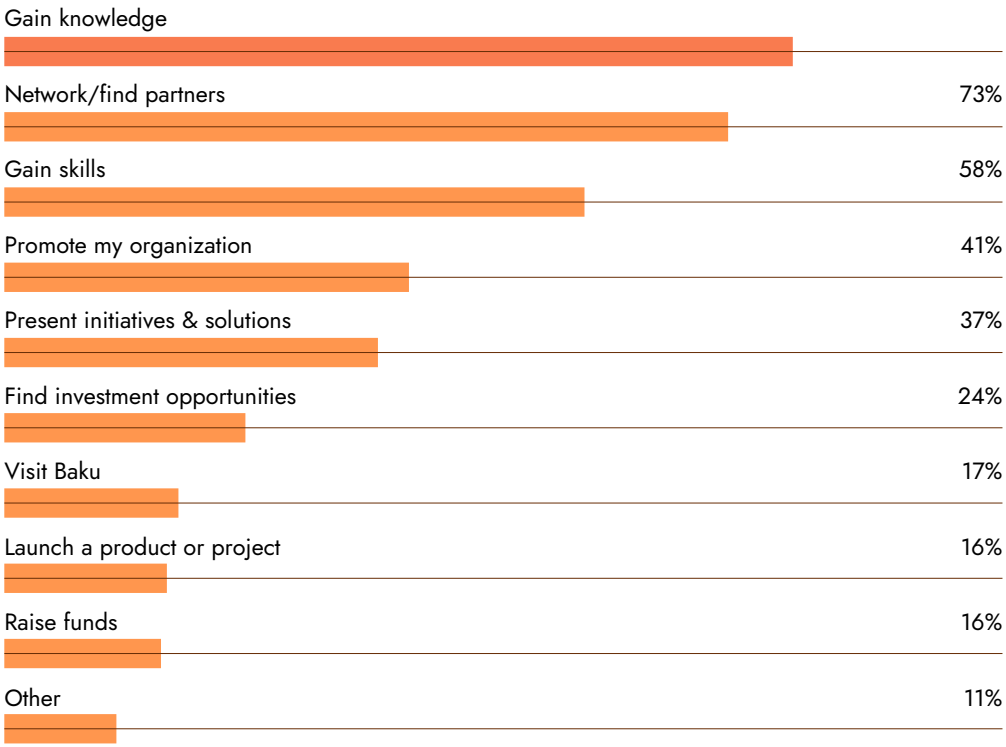
1,343
Number of responses:



85%
First-time WUF participants

Participants came to WUF13 with clear and practical expectations. Their top motivations were to gain knowledge, network with new partners and acquire skills. Many also aimed to promote the work of their organizations or present initiatives and solutions. Commercial and resource-driven goals, such as raising funds, finding investment opportunities or launching new products, were less frequently ranked among participants' main reasons for attending.

Why respondents came to WUF13

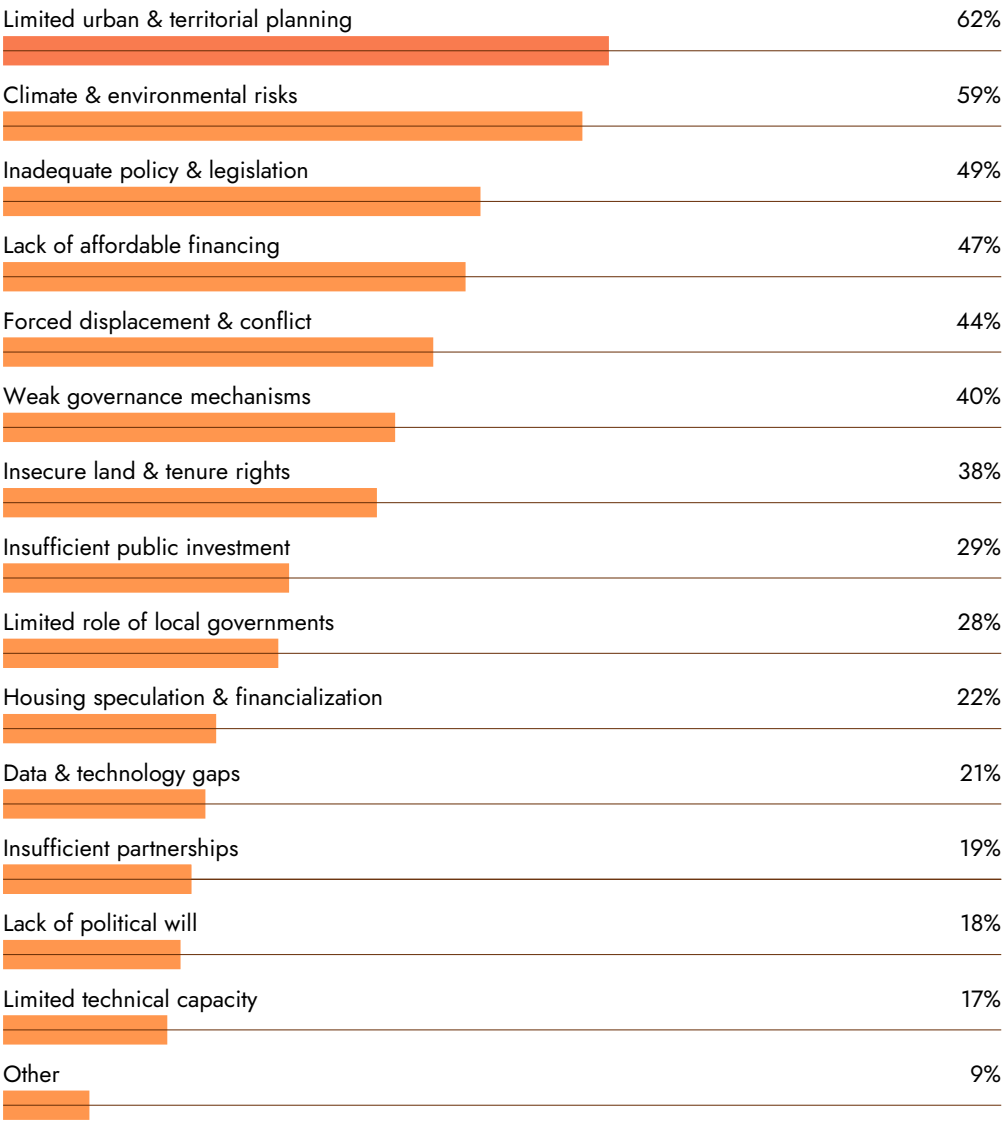


n = 1,327 respondents % ranking each among their choices

This emphasis on learning, connection and practical application was also reflected in how participants defined success. Before the Forum began, respondents most frequently ranked new partnerships, practical tools, solutions and innovations, and knowledge they could apply in their own work among the outcomes that would make WUF13 a success for them, followed by concrete commitments and stronger political momentum on housing.

Participants also entered the Forum with a clear understanding of the complexity of the housing challenge. They identified limited urban and territorial planning and management, climate and environmental risks, inadequate policy and legislation, lack of affordable financing, forced displacement and conflict, weak governance mechanisms and insecure land and tenure rights as major barriers to adequate housing. This indicated the relevance of the WUF13 theme and the need to address housing not as a standalone sector, but as part of wider systems of planning, governance, finance, climate resilience and social inclusion.

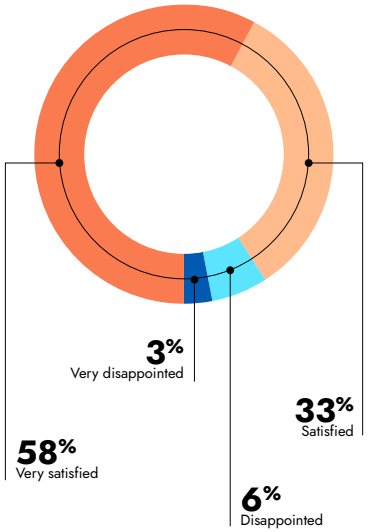
Biggest barriers to adequate housing identified by respondents



n = 1,278 respondents % ranking each in their top five

6.2
Strong satisfaction and learning outcomes

The post-Forum survey showed that WUF13 was very well received. Ninety-one per cent of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the Forum, including 58 per cent who reported that it exceeded their expectations. In written answers, respondents most often attributed their satisfaction to the quality and relevance of the programme, the calibre of speakers and sessions, and the opportunity to connect with practitioners, governments, experts and peers from around the world.



The Forum also delivered strong learning outcomes. Ninety-three per cent of respondents said that their knowledge of housing improved through their participation, with many pointing to a deeper understanding of sustainable and climate-resilient housing, the links between housing, climate and energy, and the role of policy, planning and land in addressing housing challenges. Participants also described a conceptual shift towards understanding housing as a right and as a people-centred process connected to dignity, informality, placemaking and community life.

Ninety-two per cent of respondents said the content was relevant to their work and professional development. Many highlighted the practical value of the sessions, the diversity of perspectives and the opportunity to learn from examples across regions. When asked for the main ideas they would take back to their work, participants most often named community engagement, local action, climate resilience, inclusive planning, nature-based solutions, affordable housing and policy reform.

Main ideas participants took away



Collaboration and multilevel governance as the connective theme



People-centred, inclusive cities: designing with and for communities



Climate, resilience and green design, treated together with housing



Planning, data and innovation completing the picture

Actions participants were inspired to take



Community engagement: working with youth, women and local actors



Concrete housing action and advocacy, awareness and education



Applied practice: nature-based solutions, renewables, planning with geographic information systems



Revising housing and urban policies, with follow-ups begun in Baku

The post-Forum survey also showed strong motivation to act. Participants said they were inspired to engage communities more directly, work with youth, women and local actors, advocate for sustainable housing approaches, organize workshops, apply new planning tools and pilot practical housing and resilience initiatives. This confirmed that WUF13 was valued not only as a space for dialogue, but also as a platform that encouraged participants to translate learning into action.

6.3
Networking and valued platforms

Networking was one of the strongest aspects of the participant experience, with 93 per cent of respondents satisfied or very satisfied with networking opportunities. Respondents valued the ability to meet experts, government representatives, businesses, universities, civil society organizations and peers in one place. Many reported forming useful contacts and, in some cases, beginning concrete partnerships during the Forum.

The post-Forum survey also identified the platforms participants valued most. The Urban Expo ranked highest, reflecting its role as one of the most visible and active spaces at WUF13. It was followed by the UN-Habitat Arena, the Dialogues, Networking Events and Voices from Cities. The Business & Innovation Hub and WUF Academy events also ranked highly, showing demand for formats that connect implementation, innovation, private sector engagement and capacity development.



High-level meeting of the Baku continuity coalition on urban climate action and sustainable urbanization.
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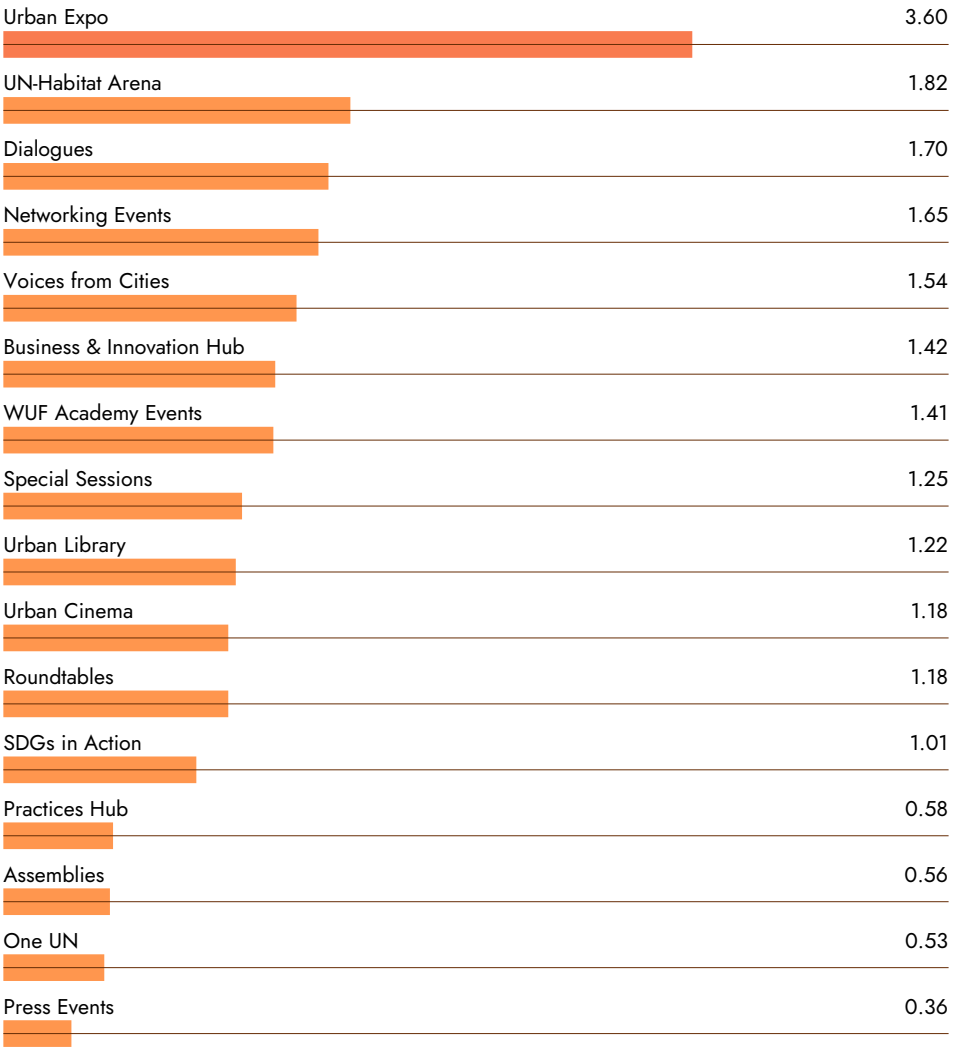
Most valued platforms at WUF13



n = 502 respondents Slido weighted ranking score (top six of sixteen platforms)

These results reinforce the importance of combining formal sessions with interactive, experiential and networking-oriented spaces. They also suggest that participants value formats that allow them to move between policy discussion, practical solutions, knowledge-sharing and direct engagement with partners.

The feedback confirms the continuing role of the World Urban Forum as a convening platform. Respondents strongly affirmed the Forum's value, with 92 per cent considering it instrumental in disseminating solutions for sustainable urban development and 90 per cent saying it contributed to increased implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

6.4
Inclusivity, accessibility and sustainability

Participants rated WUF13 positively on inclusivity. On a scale of 1 to 10, 84 per cent of respondents gave the Forum a score of 8 or above, with 49 per cent giving it the top score. Respondents highlighted the diversity of nationalities, sectors and disciplines represented at the Forum, as well as the visible presence of youth, women and vulnerable groups. Many also noted the welcoming atmosphere and the celebration of local culture.

At the same time, respondents identified areas for improvement. Accessibility in practice was the most frequently raised issue, particularly the need for better-trained support staff and clearer assistance for persons with disabilities, older persons and other participants requiring additional support. Respondents also called for broader interpretation and translation, stronger support for grassroots and community representatives facing travel cost barriers, and improved wayfinding across the venue.

TThis feedback complements the accessibility measures described in chapter 5. The absence of formal accessibility complaints and the positive assessment of many accessibility services show that WUF13 made significant progress in planning for accessible participation. Survey feedback also points to practical areas where future Forums can improve the day-to-day participant experience, including clearer navigation, more visible assistance and stronger support for participants with specific access needs.

Sustainability also received positive ratings, particularly for the strong focus on climate, green cities and sustainable housing in the programme. On the same scale, 76 per cent of respondents scored the Forum 8 or above for sustainability, with 44 per cent giving it the top score. Respondents welcomed the use of digital materials, reduced paper use and green transport options, including electric buses. However, feedback also pointed to practical improvements for future Forums, including stronger waste separation, more water refill stations, further reduction of printed materials and single-use plastics, and greater attention to travel emissions and operational sustainability.

The feedback suggests that participants increasingly expect the World Urban Forum not only to discuss sustainability, accessibility and inclusion, but also to model these principles in the way the Forum is delivered. This expectation provides useful guidance for future host countries and organizers.

6.5 Lessons for future Forums

The surveys provide clear guidance for WUF14 and future editions of the World Urban Forum. Participants want the Forum to build on its strengths while becoming more action-oriented, easier to navigate and more focused on implementation.

The strongest message was the need to move from dialogue to delivery. Respondents called for more action-oriented sessions with clear takeaways, practical tools, case studies, step-by-step guidance and mechanisms to track follow-up on commitments. This aligns with the high demand for capacity-development support, especially case studies, toolkits and hands-on workshops.

Participants also called for a smoother and more navigable Forum experience. The main operational challenge identified was the physical spread of the venue, especially the distance between the Urban Expo and session halls.



Youth participants at the WUF13 plaza.
© **UN-Habitat**

Respondents recommended clearer signage, better maps, a more reliable event app, improved digital wayfinding and more structured programme tracks to help participants plan their time.

Future editions should also continue deepening inclusivity and sustainability. Re-spondents emphasized the importance of stronger grassroots participation, multilingual support, accessibility assistance and reduced cost for underrepresented communities. They also called for the Forum itself to more fully model sustainable urban practice through stronger waste management, reduced plastics, greener transport and more consistent paperless operations.

The feedback confirms the continuing value of the World Urban Forum as a platform for sustainable urban development. Respondents expressed high interest in attending future editions, with 94 per cent stating they were likely or very likely to attend again, citing continued learning, contribution to global urban dialogue and international net-working as key reasons to return.

By listening to participants before and after WUF13, UN-Habitat gained valuable insights into what the Forum delivered and where it can improve. The results show that WUF13 met strong demand for knowledge, networking and practical exchange, while also identifying clear opportunities to make future Forums more focused, inclusive, sustainable and implementation-oriented.

Tree planting activity during the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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Participants taking photos at the WUF13 plaza.
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The thirteenth session of the
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CHAPTER SEVEN

WUF13 legacy and the road to WUF14



WUF13 does not end in Baku. Its outcomes will continue to inform global, regional and national discussions on adequate housing, sustainable urbanization and implementation of the New Urban Agenda. As the World Urban Forum moves towards its next session, the priority will be to carry forward the momentum generated in Baku and translate the Forum's messages, partnerships and knowledge into practical action.

The legacy of WUF13 is reflected in several connected dimensions: the *Baku Call to Action* as the Forum's principal stakeholder-led outcome; the contribution of WUF13 to intergovernmental processes on the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11; the new platforms introduced to support learning, implementation and partnership-building; host-country initiatives that extended the Forum's impact beyond the event; and participant feedback that can help strengthen future editions of the Forum.



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7.1

Strategic outcomes of WUF13

The *Baku Call to Action* provides an important framework for follow-up. As the principal stakeholder-driven outcome of WUF13, it calls for renewed commitment to adequate housing and sets out practical priorities for addressing the global housing crisis. Its messages will support continued engagement with governments, local and regional authorities, civil society, academia, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders, helping sustain dialogue and action beyond the Forum.

WUF13 also contributed to wider intergovernmental processes linked to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Chair's Summary of the Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda carried ministerial messages forward to the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda in July 2026. The outcomes of WUF13 will also inform UN-Habitat's programmatic work, including implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, and contribute to follow-up discussions on housing, multilevel governance, finance, data, local action and climate resilience.



Outcomes of WUF13 will inform UN-Habitat's programmatic work.
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7.2
Platforms for continued implementation

The new platforms introduced and expanded at WUF13 provide additional pathways for continued engagement. The WUF Academy, the Practices Hub and the Business & Innovation Hub strengthened the Forum's role in learning, implementation and partnership-building.

The WUF Academy created a dedicated space for capacity development, training, research exchange and digital learning. By connecting academia, professional networks, training institutions, policymakers and practitioners, it helped strengthen the link between knowledge and implementation. Its outcomes can support continued collaboration with these partners, while expanding access to practical learning on adequate housing and sustainable urban development.

The Practices Hub established a platform for sharing proven housing solutions from different regions and contexts. Through interactive sessions and a digital repository, it helped document implementation experience and make practical knowledge more accessible to stakeholders seeking to adapt, replicate or scale solutions. As a lasting knowledge asset, the Hub can continue supporting policy development, programme design and capacity-building after WUF13.

The Business & Innovation Hub expanded engagement with private sector, innovation and investment actors. It provided a structured platform for discussing finance, data, small and medium enterprises, start-up innovation and implementation across the housing value chain. Its continuation can help strengthen partnerships that mobilize innovation, investment and delivery capacity for adequate, affordable and sustainable housing.

Knowledge products developed in connection with WUF13 also extend the Forum's dialogue beyond Baku. In the context of its partnership with UN-Habitat, the Nizami Ganjavi International Center dedicated the twelfth issue of its Global Policy Analysis series, A Global Housing Crisis: Why Housing Defines the Future of Global Development, published in May 2026, to WUF13. This high-level policy collection brings together perspectives from international leaders and experts, including UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach. It advances the proposition that housing is not a niche urban or construction issue, but a systemic determinant of sustainable development, peace, social stability, inequality and climate resilience.

Across its contributions, the publication frames housing as an integrated development system in which land, infrastructure, mobility, finance, public services, livelihoods, climate action and governance converge. It highlights multilevel governance, community participation, institutional capacity and finance as essential to moving from diagnosis to delivery, while shifting attention from the number of units constructed to outcomes in people's lives. This framing is closely aligned with the *Baku Call to Action*, reinforcing its priorities and informing efforts to translate them into action.

These platforms and knowledge products are intended to enable the World Urban Forum to operate not only as a biennial event, but also as a framework for continued exchange, learning and collaboration between sessions.



The WUF13 Urban Expo is the most well attended to date.
© UN-Habitat

7.3 Host-country legacy

WUF13 generated host-country legacy initiatives intended to extend its impact beyond the event itself. The Azerbaijan Urban Campaign, Baku Urban Week and the WUF13 Festival broadened public engagement with sustainable urban development before the Forum opened (see chapter 4). The Baku Urban Award and the Baku Standards for hosting WUF13 provide mechanisms for continued recognition, learning and institutional memory after Baku.

Baku Urban Award

The Baku Urban Award was launched at WUF13 as a strategic initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to be implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat. Developed in the context of the global housing crisis and the WUF13 theme, the initiative responds to the reality that many actors, from national governments to community organizations, are already advancing practical solutions to housing and urban development challenges, but that these efforts often remain localized, under-recognized or underfunded.

The Award will operate through a biennial global call for submissions linked to the World Urban Forum. Eligible initiatives may come from national and local governments, civil society and community organizations, private sector entities, academic institutions, and international or regional organizations.

Submissions are expected to demonstrate measurable progress, tangible improvements and clear benefits for communities. They will be assessed against criteria such as impact, innovation, scalability and replicability, sustainability, community engagement and inclusivity. The first award cycle is expected to run from 2026 to 2028, with the first award ceremony planned for WUF14.

The Award will focus primarily on housing, with evolving subthemes across award cycles. These may include affordable and inclusive housing, sustainable and resilient housing, post-crisis and post-disaster housing, land and spatial planning for housing, housing and basic services, housing finance, policy and governance innovation, and technology and digital innovation in housing. This gives the Award a practical and flexible scope while keeping it anchored in the central message of WUF13: the need to advance safe, resilient, inclusive and adequate housing solutions.

WUF13 placed housing at the centre of global urban dialogue. The significance of the Baku Urban Award lies in its potential to move these discussions closer to implementation by giving visibility to solutions that can inform policy, attract partnerships and encourage replication across countries and regions.

Beyond the recognition of winners, the Award is expected to contribute to a global knowledge base on housing solutions. Planned outputs include a Solutions Gallery, synthesis reports, capacity-development tools and exchanges among practitioners. These activities can feed into WUF programming, including the Practices Hub, the WUF Academy, Roundtables and other spaces where stakeholders exchange experience and identify actions. In this way, the Award will extend the Forum's role beyond dialogue to learning, implementation and the promotion of practical solutions.

Baku Standards for hosting WUF13

The Baku Standards for hosting WUF13 are an operational legacy initiative arising from the experience of preparing and delivering WUF13 in Baku. Through a Letter of Intent signed on 16 May 2026, the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UN-Habitat expressed their intention to collaborate on an informative operational guide for hosting future sessions of the World Urban Forum, based on the Baku Standards of the WUF13 Azerbaijan Operations Company.

The guide is intended to capture practical lessons from WUF13 and contribute to the operational efficiency of Forums. It will document experience from the Baku edition in areas relevant to Forum planning and delivery, helping preserve institutional knowledge and strengthen continuity between WUF sessions.

The proposed operational guide will not constitute a binding obligation on future host governments or organizers, nor is it intended to prescribe mandatory standards. Rather, it will inform and support future hosts in their decision-making processes, with use of the guide remaining voluntary and at the discretion of future organizers.



Urban cinema event at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
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Opening ceremony of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum.
© UN-Habitat

The Baku Urban Award and the Baku Standards reflect two complementary dimensions of the WUF13 legacy: recognizing practical solutions to housing and sustainable urban development, and documenting operational experience that can support future editions of the Forum.

7.4
Participant feedback and lessons for future Forums

Participant feedback from WUF13 (see chapter 6) offers clear guidance for future editions. Respondents valued the Forum as a space for knowledge-sharing, networking and practical exchange, while also identifying areas where future sessions can further strengthen the participant experience.

A first lesson is the importance of making sessions more action-oriented. Respondents called for clearer takeaways, more practical tools that can be adapted to local contexts, case studies, hands-on workshops and stronger mechanisms to track follow-up on commitments. This reinforces the value of implementation-focused platforms, including the WUF Academy, the Practices Hub and other spaces designed to connect dialogue with practical application.

A second lesson concerns navigation and accessibility within large Forum venues. Respondents highlighted the need for easier navigation, clearer wayfinding, improved accessibility and more visible assistance for participants requiring additional support. These findings point to practical ways future Forums can continue to improve the day-to-day participant journey.

A third lesson relates to inclusivity, as respondents called for continued attention to the participation of groups that face financial, institutional, linguistic or accessibility-related barriers to inclusion. This feedback reinforces the importance of designing future Forums so that diverse participants can not only attend, but also meaningfully contribute.

Together, these expectations align with the broader direction of WUF13, which placed strong emphasis on moving from dialogue towards delivery, and will help shape preparations for WUF14 and support continuous improvement across the World Urban Forum cycle.

7.5
Looking ahead to WUF14

In preparing for WUF14 in Mexico City, UN-Habitat will continue working with Member States, local and regional governments, United Nations entities, partners and stakeholders to build on the outcomes of WUF13 and incorporate lessons from participant feedback. The transition from Baku to Mexico City provides an opportunity to sustain global attention on housing, deepen implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthen the role of the World Urban Forum as the leading global platform for sustainable urbanization.

The journey from WUF13 to WUF14 is a continuation of the collective effort to advance adequate housing for all, support inclusive and resilient communities, and turn the global urban agenda into practical improvements in people's lives.

WUF13 showed that the global housing crisis requires sustained political commitment, practical solutions, stronger financing, multilevel governance and meaningful participation by communities and stakeholders. Its legacy lies not only in the scale of the Forum, but also in the partnerships, platforms, knowledge, operational experience and commitments that can continue to support action beyond Baku.



The WUF13 to WUF14 handover at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum. © **UN-Habitat**

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CHAPTER EIGHT

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8.1 Advisory Group members

Name	Organization
Eleanor Mohammed	Habitat Professionals Forum
Ines Madariaga	UN-Habitat, Advisory Group on Gender Issues
Jonathan Oriki	UN-Habitat, Youth Advisory Board
Varun Prasad	Institute of Town Planners, India
Julia Guimaraes	United Cities and Local Governments
Ann Wanjiru	Huairou Commission
Rodrigo Faria	Pólis Institute
Paroj Banerjee	Development Planning Unit, University College London
Sandra Nyawira	United Disabled Persons of Kenya
Katherine Kline	Global Alliance of Partners for Older Persons
Binalakshmi Nepram	Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Gender Justice and Peace
Joyati Das	Ecorys UK
Sahar Attia	Parliament of Egypt
Helene Chartier	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
Rose Kaggwa	National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Uganda / Chair, Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance Assembly
Anar Valiyev	ADA University
Kecia Rust	Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa
Andre Dzikus	UN-Habitat (representing Executive Director)
Aditya Kumar	Secretariat
Sophia Torres	Secretariat Support
Felix Kariba	Secretariat Support
Dyfed Aubrey	UN-Habitat
Rayne Ferretti Moraes	UN-Habitat
Beryl Khanyile	UN-Habitat

8.2
Participation statistics by country

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas (The)
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China (The People's Republic of)
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte D'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechia
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia (Republic of the)
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Holy See (Observer)
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique

Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
State of Palestine (Observer)
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Türkiye
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
UN Mission in Kosovo UNMIK (Observer)
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

8.3

Urban Expo exhibitors list

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
AbibiNsroma Foundation	Civil society organization	Africa	Ghana
Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor's Office	Local and regional government	Africa	Ethiopia
African Population and Health Research Center	Civil society organization	Africa	Senegal
Agency on State Support to NGOs of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
AI & Robotics	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Alternative Energy Research Center Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies	Civil society organization	Asia	Qatar
Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI)	Intergovernmental organization	Asia	Saudi Arabia
AS Group Investment	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
ASAN Volunteers Organization	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Intergovernmental organization	Asia	Philippines
Association for the Development and Promotion of Human Rights	Civil society organization	Africa	Mauritania
Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Astana Designing Resilient Urban Futures	Public sector	Asia	Kazakhstan
Avant Group	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
AZCON Holding	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Animation Association	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Association of Accountants and Risk Professionals Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Children Public Union Child Shelter and Reintegration Center	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Children's Fund	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Construction Manufacturers Association	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Democratic Student Youth Organization Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Journalists Network Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
Azerbaijan National Section of the International Society for Human Rights Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC)	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Technical University	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Volunteers Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerenerji OJSC	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Azerishiq OJSC	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku Engineering University (BEU)	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku Higher Oil School	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku Maintenance Service	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku Metro	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku Network Research and Analysis Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku Political Scientists Club	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku State University	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Baku White City	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
BakuBus	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Bakı Mexanizasiya Nəqliyyat	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Barwaqa Relief Organisation	Civil society organization	Africa	Kenya
BI Group	Private sector	Asia	Kazakhstan
Billion Bricks Homes Pte Ltd	Private sector	Asia	Singapore
BIMD CJSC	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
BLUETTI Power Inc.	Private sector	Asia	China
Boiketlo Ba Basali Women's Foundation	Civil society organization	Africa	Lesotho
Cambodia Youth Council	Civil society organization	Asia	Cambodia
Caring Hands Center, Malawi	Civil society organization	Africa	Malawi
Catalonia	Local and regional government	Europe	Spain
Catalytic Communities	Civil society organization	Americas	Brazil
Chinese Society for Sustainable Development	Civil society organization	Asia	China
Citizens Network for Community Development Zambia	Civil society organization	Africa	Zambia
Civil Rights Society	Civil society organization	Africa	Madagascar
Climasel	Private sector	Europe	United Kingdom
Climate Change Consortium for Universities in Least Developed Countries	Civil society organization	Asia	Bangladesh

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
Climate Change for Sustainable Development	Civil society organization	Africa	Sierra Leone
Climate Technology Solutions	Private sector	Africa	Nigeria
Common Values Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Congolese Youth Development Association	Civil society organization	Africa	Congo
Creatividad y Espectáculos	National government	Americas	Mexico
Culture That Unites Us Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Cyclemat	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	National government	Africa	Congo
Digital Opportunity Trust	Civil society organization	Americas	Canada
DOST Center for Inclusive Development and Creativity	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Dream Hunt	Civil society organization	Americas	United States of America
Earth Savers Movement	Civil society organization	Asia	Philippines
Earthsavers DREAMS Ensemble	Civil society organization	Asia	Philippines
Eco Hub Support to Ecological Initiatives Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
EcoHarmony Eswatini	Civil society organization	Africa	Eswatini
EcoSphere Social Ecological Center	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Environment Key Global	Civil society organization	Asia	Sri Lanka
Erhan LTD	Private sector	Asia	Türkiye
Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Nigeria	National government	Africa	Nigeria
FIABCI – The International Real Estate Federation	Civil society organization	Europe	France
Fiji National Youth Council	Civil society organization	Oceania	Fiji
Fondation Botnar	Foundation	Europe	Switzerland
Fondation Internationale AKRALE	Civil society organization	Africa	Côte d'Ivoire
For International Cooperation of Persons with Disabilities Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
For the Future Support to Civil Society Development Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
For the Progress of Karabakh Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom	National government	Europe	United Kingdom
Forestry and Agricultural Support	Civil society organization	Americas	Suriname
French Partnership for Cities and Territories (PFVT) – FNAU	Civil society organization	Europe	France
Future for Future	Civil society organization	Africa	Benin
Ganja Regional Women's Center Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
Gender Hub Azerbaijan	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Gilavar Photo Club Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Global Alliance for Care	Civil society organization	Americas	Mexico
Global Disability Innovation Hub	Academia and research	Europe	United Kingdom
Global Youth Climate Connection	Civil society organization	Americas	United States of America
goNEON	Private sector	Europe	Switzerland
Government of Angola	National government	Africa	Angola
Government of the Punjab, Pakistan	Local and regional government	Asia	Pakistan
Government of Tuvalu	National government	Oceania	Tuvalu
Green Africa Youth Organization	Civil society organization	Africa	Ghana
Green and Better World	Civil society organization	Africa	Cameroon
GreenStone Biomaterials Ltd	Private sector	Europe	United Kingdom
GreenUp Gambia	Civil society organization	Africa	Gambia
Habitat International Coalition	Civil society organization	Africa	South Africa
Habitat LATAM Guadalajara – Encuentro Continental Urbano de América Latina y el Caribe	Intergovernmental organization	Americas	Mexico
Healthy Cities	Private sector	Europe	Spain
Hemophilia and Other Hemostasis Disorders Association Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Hope Place Charity Society Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Hopeful Future Social Initiatives Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
House of Africa	Civil society organization	Africa	Chad
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), on behalf of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India	National government	Asia	India
Housing NOW	Private sector	Asia	Myanmar
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	National government	Americas	Canada
Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD)	Civil society organization	Asia	Lebanon
Humanitarian and Environmental Action for Development	Civil society organization	Asia	Lebanon
I am Human, Society for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Civil society organization	Asia	Jordan
ICA Events	Private sector	Asia	United Arab Emirates
Independent Living Center for Persons with Disabilities Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Independent Transporters Consultation and Information Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Information Technology and Open Source Association	Civil society organization	Asia	Indonesia

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam	Academia and research	Europe	Netherlands
Instituto para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Mujer Lenca de Honduras	Civil society organization	Americas	Honduras
Instituto para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Mujer Lenca de Honduras (IDESMULH)	Civil society organization	Americas	Honduras
International Climate Change Development Initiative Africa	Civil society organization	Africa	Nigeria
International Youth Federation	Civil society organization	Europe	United Kingdom
Isobloco	Private sector	Americas	Brazil
Justice for Ethiopia	Civil society organization	Africa	Ethiopia
Karabakh University	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Kazakhstan	National government	Asia	Kazakhstan
Khan Shushinski Foundation	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Khazar Ethno-Art Museum Center	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
KOBIA, the Small and Medium Business Development Agency	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Kristal	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Leadership Organization for Youth Achievement and Capacity	Civil society organization	Asia	Kuwait
LEPL Spatial and Urban Development Agency	National government	Asia	Georgia
Let Us Discover and Promote Talents Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Liberian Youth Climate Action Organization	Civil society organization	Africa	Liberia
Madad for Development	Civil society organization	Asia	Oman
Malta Housing Authority	National government	Europe	Malta
Marmara Urban Forum by Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU)	Local and regional government	Asia	Türkiye
Ma'una Human Rights and Migration Association	Civil society organization	Americas	United States of America
Minab Municipality	Local and regional government	Asia	Iran
Ministère de l'Urbanisme, de l'Habitat, des Domaines, de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de la Population au Mali	National government	Africa	Mali
Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine	National government	Europe	Ukraine
Ministry of Construction, Architecture, Housing and Communal Services of the Kyrgyz Republic	National government	Asia	Kyrgyzstan
Ministry of Construction, Housing and Utilities of the Russian Federation	National government	Europe	Russian Federation
Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Turkiye	National government	Asia	Türkiye
Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Bangladesh	National government	Asia	Bangladesh

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon	National government	Africa	Cameroon
Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Bahrain	National government	Asia	Bahrain
Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, Somalia	National government	Africa	Somalia
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan	National government	Asia	Japan
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania	National government	Africa	Tanzania
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Uganda	National government	Africa	Uganda
Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Ghana	National government	Africa	Ghana
Ministry of Local Government, Palestine	National government	Asia	Palestine, State of (Observer)
Ministry of Municipalities and Housing, Saudi Arabia	National government	Asia	Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Nation Building of Burkina Faso	National government	Africa	Burkina Faso
Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities, Zimbabwe	National government	Africa	Zimbabwe
Ministry of National Territory Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy, Morocco	National government	Africa	Morocco
Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Laos	National government	Asia	Lao PDR
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand	National government	Asia	Thailand
Ministry of Territorial Development, Urban Planning and Housing, Chad	National government	Africa	Chad
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Niger	National government	Africa	Niger
Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing, and Land Use Planning, Guinea	National government	Africa	Guinea
MIRAS Public Association in Support of Studying Cultural Heritage	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Mobilysis	Private sector	Europe	Switzerland
ModulX LLC	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Mongolian Association of Urban Centers	Civil society organization	Asia	Mongolia
Mozambique Youth Climate Action Coalition	Civil society organization	Africa	Mozambique
Mto Wangu Initiative (Children and Youth Pavilion)	Civil society organization	Africa	Kenya
Municipal Resource and Training Center Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Muthoot Housing Finance Company Ltd	Private sector	Asia	India
Nakhchivan State University	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
National Artificial Intelligence Center	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
National Association for Youth Exchange	Civil society organization	Africa	Algeria

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
National Committee for Urbanization and Sustainable Housing Market Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan	National government	Asia	Uzbekistan
National Union of Persons with Disabilities of Tajikistan	Civil society organization	Asia	Tajikistan
Nutrition, Dietology and Obesity Prevention Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
One Volunteer Student Cooperation Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Pakistan Youth Organization	Civil society organization	Asia	Pakistan
Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance	Civil society organization	Africa	Kenya
Pan-African Empowerment Platform	Civil society organization	Africa	Cameroon
Partnership for Sustainable Development	Civil society organization	Asia	Nepal
PASHA Real Estate	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Peruvian Institute for Public Policy and Diplomatic Studies	Civil society organization	Americas	Peru
Plataforma Mulheres em Acção	Civil society organization	Africa	Angola
PMD Group LLC	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
PNB Housing Finance Limited	Private sector	Asia	India
Poetry Assembly named after Mirvarid Dilbazi Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Premium Residence	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Professional Confectioners Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Professionals in the Field of Water Use Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Project Bureau Azerbaijan	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Provitaz Alternative Energy	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Public Union for the Social Welfare of Citizens	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Raahgiri Foundation	Civil society organization	Asia	India
ReestrDomaRu	Private sector	Europe	Russian Federation
Republic of Malawi	National government	Africa	Malawi
Resonance Youth Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Return of Formerly Convicted Women to Society Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
RideTech LLC (Yango Azerbaijan)	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Rivers State University	Academia and research	Africa	Nigeria
Royal Town Planning Institute	Foundation	Europe	United Kingdom
Sea Breeze	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
SERAC-Bangladesh	Civil society organization	Asia	Bangladesh
SETU	Civil society organization	Asia	Bangladesh
Shanghai Municipal Commission of Housing, Urban-Rural Development and Management	Private sector	Asia	China

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
Shenzhen Urban Planning and Land Resource Research Center	Local and regional government	Asia	China
Smachs Foundation	Civil society organization	Africa	Kenya
SmartSylvan UG	Private sector	Europe	Germany
SNLine LLC	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Social and Psychological Research Center Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Social Assistance to Persons with Hearing and Speech Disabilities Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Social Support for Persons in Need of Care Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Solidarity Association for Support for Strengthening Development Assistance	Civil society organization	Africa	Mali
Somali Environment and Development Organization	Civil society organization	Africa	Somalia
South Africa	National government	Africa	South Africa
South Africa Youth Council	Civil society organization	Africa	South Africa
South-South Cooperation Council	Civil society organization	Americas	Colombia
SP Architects	Private sector	Asia	Türkiye
Special Communication and Information Security State Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan	National government	Asia	Azerbaijan
State Department for Housing and Urban Development	National government	Africa	Kenya
State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Public sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Stepup Graphic Industries	Civil society organization	Africa	Eswatini
Sumgayit State University	Academia and research	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment	Civil society organization	Africa	Uganda
Support to Azerbaijani Cultural Heritage Craftsmanship and Creative Industry Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to Children with Autism Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to Socio-Economic and Agricultural Development Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to Solving Social Issues Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to the Development of Arts Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to the Development of New Technologies Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to the Protection and Promotion of Applied Arts Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to Women's and Children's Education Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Support to Women's Social Development in Neftchala Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan

Exhibitor	Partner type	Region	Country
Support to Youth Development Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
The Pattern Institute	Academia and research	Europe	Austria
Together and Healthy Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Togo Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities	Civil society organization	Africa	Togo
Travel Support to Tourism Development Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Tshwane University of Technology	Academia and research	Africa	South Africa
Turkana Bio Aloe Organization (TUBAE) / Consortium of Grassroots Organizations in Kenya (CGoK)	Civil society organization	Africa	Kenya
Turkmenistan	National government	Asia	Turkmenistan
Unextinguished Torch Cultural Relations Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Union of Engineers and Architects of the Turkic World	Civil society organization	Asia	Türkiye
Union of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	United Nations	Africa	Kenya
UPS Construction	Private sector	Asia	Azerbaijan
Urban Planning Society of China	Civil society organization	Asia	China
UrbanEcho	Private sector	Europe	Switzerland
Urbanice Malaysia, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia	National government	Asia	Malaysia
Urbasofia SRL	Private sector	Europe	Romania
Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited	Private sector	Asia	India
Veneer House Inc	Private sector	Asia	Japan
We Are One Family Support to Persons with Disabilities Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Women, Development, Future Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
World Bank Group	Intergovernmental organization	Europe	Belgium
World Evangelical Alliance & Faith for Cities	Civil society organization	Americas	United States of America
World Health Organization	United Nations	Europe	Switzerland
Young Innovators Youth Awareness Public Union	Civil society organization	Asia	Azerbaijan
Zambian branch of the Citizens' Community Development Network	Civil society organization	Africa	Zambia

8.4 Media partners

International media partners:

- Euronews
- ArchDaily
- Century of Cities
- Xinhua News Agency

National media partners:

- Azerbaijan Television
- İctimai TV
- AnewZ
- Caspian Broadcasting Company
- Azerbaijan State News Agency
- Report News Agency
- Trend News Agency
- Azerbaijani Press Agency
- ASAN Radio
- Planet FM

8.5
Partner-led events directory

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Networking Events				
Beyond shelter: Data-driven housing for better quality life	Al Madinah Region Development Authority, Saudi Arabia	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Lebanon UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 14
Beyond the hype: Where private finance works for cities – and where it doesn't	Asian Development Bank, Philippines	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany UN-Habitat, Kenya World Bank Group, United States of America	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 15
Bridging the urban leadership gap: The Arab Mayors Academy as a platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building and impact	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, Egypt United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Regional Organization, Türkiye	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 06
Building power from below: SDI 30-year anniversary commemorative event	Slum Dwellers International, South Africa		19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 07
Energy justice and a just urban transition for/in informal settlements	Isandla Institute, South Africa	Cities Support Programme, National Treasury, South Africa Instituto Pólis, Brazil Habitat International Coalition, Mexico	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 16
From commitment to action: Towards a New Urban Agenda platform for Africa	Ministry of National Territorial Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy, Morocco		19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 11
From homes to habitats: Measuring nature-positive housing for climate resilience	International Union for Conservation of Nature, Switzerland	UN-Habitat, Kenya ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Africa Park City Index Research Center, China	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 05
Housing the world from the bottom up: Collective housing in action	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand	Community Organization Development Institute, Thailand	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 02

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Mobilizing partnerships for scalable housing recovery solutions across Arab cities and beyond	University of Khartoum, Sudan	University of Duhok, Iraq Lebanese University, Lebanon	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 10
New strategy to address the qualitative housing deficit in Latin America and the Caribbean	Urban Housing Practitioners Hub, Mexico	Ministry of Cities, Brazil Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 08
Securing resilient urban futures: Transforming housing systems to tackle the triple planetary crisis	United Nations Development Programme		19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 13
Spatial planning platform: National spatial policies for building sustainable regions through flows of people	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, Japan	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Japan	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 04
Transitioning to resilient and climate-friendly deliveries for resilient habitats	The Energy and Resources Institute, India	Department of Posts, India NITI Aayog, India European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, United Kingdom	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 03
Urban heat resilience and well-being: Tackling the effects of extreme heat in resource-constrained dry cities	Earthna, Qatar	Cities Alliance, Belgium CIFF, United Kingdom	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 01
Why affordable housing needs fewer cars	Marmara Municipalities Union, Türkiye	Walk21 Foundation, United Kingdom European Cyclists' Federation, Belgium	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 12
Why urbanization matters	PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Netherlands	Government of the Netherlands, Netherlands	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 09
Cities making housing affordable	UN-Habitat	European Commission – DG Energy and Housing, Belgium	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 12
Digital twins for resilient urban development: Building smart, safe and sustainable cities	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates	Urbanice Malaysia, Malaysia	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 14
Financing the systems that make housing work: Bridging public priorities and private capital for resilient cities	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Africa	Climate Policy Initiative – Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, United Kingdom Global Fund for Cities Development, France Climate Bonds Initiative, United Kingdom	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 09
From global commitments to local action: Cities delivering affordable and climate-resilient housing	French Network of Urban Planning Agencies – French Partnership for Cities and Territories, France	Agence Française de Développement, France	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 05
From policy to practice: Advancing and financing housing, inclusion and urban resilience through global exchange in Kenya and beyond	State Department for Housing and Urban Development, Kenya	Council of Governors, Kenya UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 07

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Heat-resilient cities through integrated heat risk governance and investment	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 13
Housing accessibility for PwD and mental well-being for sustainable and inclusive cities: What? How?	UN-Habitat	Alwaleed Philanthropies, Saudi Arabia	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 04
Integrating housing and climate agendas: Perspectives from Brazil and the Global South	WRI Brazil, Brazil	Tide Setubal Foundation, Brazil TETO Brasil, Brazil Habitat for Humanity Brazil, Brazil	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 11
Living in inclusive cities: Accessible, equitable housing and the critical role of infrastructure	Global Disability Innovation Hub, United Kingdom	Federation of Ethiopian Associations of People with Disabilities, Ethiopia Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ethiopia	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 03
Measuring to transform: New information tools to address the housing deficit in Latin America and the Caribbean	Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, France	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 15
More than buildings and streets: The city as a whole	The Pattern Institute, Austria		19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 08
Post-crisis reconstruction in the built environment in Mediterranean countries	Union for the Mediterranean, Spain	Ministry of National Territorial Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy, Morocco Ministry of Territories, Ecology and Housing, France	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 01
Quality and secure housing for sustainable urban future	Shanghai Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and Management, China	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, United Kingdom UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 10
Risk assessment in war-affected cities: Guiding housing-centred recovery and urban reconstruction	City Institute, Ukraine	Nordic Urban Resilience Institute, Sweden GIZ Ukraine, Ukraine United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Switzerland	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 02
Unlocking sustainable mobility: What it takes to deliver in Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Chisinau City Hall, Moldova	UN-Habitat, Kenya United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand Vision Zero Community NGO for Safe Urban Mobility, Kazakhstan	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 06
Adequate and affordable housing takes shape: Redefining the global housing continuum	Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America	International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom United Cities and Local Governments, Spain UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 11

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Affordable housing and climate change: 10 years after the Paris Agreement	Ministry for the Ecological Transition, France	UN-Habitat, Kenya United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya UNEP GlobalABC, France	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 15
Climate finance goes urban: Financing the transition to resilient cities	United Nations University	European Investment Bank, Luxembourg World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, United States of America Munich Climate Insurance Initiative, Germany	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 16
Equity, access and resilience: Integrating nature-based solutions in reclaimed public spaces in dense housing environments	Raahgiri Foundation, India	Stockholm Resilience Centre – SwedBio, Sweden ICLEI South Asia, India Beyond Built Pvt Ltd, India	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 13
Financing cities for all: Towards sustainable and inclusive housing finance strategies	National Housing Council, Kingdom of Morocco, Morocco		19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 08
High-level meeting of the Baku Continuity Coalition on Urban Climate Action and Sustainable Urbanisation	State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Germany	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 02
Informal settlements upgrading as housing policy: Insights from the Latin America and Caribbean experience	Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Chile	SECIHTI-CentroGeo, Mexico	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 06
Lagos to the world, brick by brick: Scaling inclusive planning standards and housing solutions for resilient megacities	Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Nigeria	Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development, University of Lagos, Nigeria University of Liverpool – West African Coastal Urbanism and Heritage, United Kingdom Ministry of Housing, City and Territory, Colombia	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 12
Land value for all: Advancing housing equity in African cities	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Rwanda	Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, United States of America	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 05
Placemaking with local, and global, networks	PlacemakingX, United States of America	Fundación Placemaking, Mexico	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 14
Recovery readiness for housing and infrastructure: Building resilient urban futures	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	United Nations Office for Project Services, Denmark UN-Habitat City Resilience Global Programme, Spain	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 09
Social urbanism as public policy: Global South experiences in informal settlements in Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and Paraguay	State Government of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Medellín Resilience Office Corporation, Colombia Municipal Government of Iztapalapa, Mexico Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Paraguay	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 03

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Sub-Saharan Africa's urban awakening: Catalysing economic growth and job creation	World Bank Group, Belgium	European Commission – Joint Research Centre, Belgium African School of Economics – Zanzibar, Africa Urban Lab, Tanzania	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 01
The Walking Ambassadors programme: Multilevel action for safer, more resilient housing	International Federation of Pedestrians, Belgium	UN-Habitat, Kenya ADA University, Azerbaijan	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 07
Towards a 360-degree Global Gateway: Building housing, infrastructure and local economies through integrated local action	SALAR International, Sweden	European Commission – DG INTPA, Belgium UN-Habitat, Kenya Regional Council of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra, Morocco	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 04
Advancing local urban solutions: Challenges and opportunities for disaster risk reduction and climate action	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Regional Hub Lima, Peru	UN-Habitat Urban Lab Mesoamerica Hub, Mexico UN-Habitat Andean Region, Colombia	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 14
African cities in action: Advancing South-South cooperation for integrated urban development	General Organization for Physical Planning, Egypt		20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 01
Building global partnerships to monitor SDG 11.1.1 with GeoAI	Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America	ITC – University of Twente, Netherlands UN-Habitat Data and Analytics Unit, Kenya	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 06
Coastal adaptation and housing resilience: Protecting communities from sea-level rise	Sheikh Zayed Housing Programme, United Arab Emirates	Urbanice Malaysia, Malaysia	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 07
Feminist and caring cities: Care infrastructures and housing in territories of inequality – a critical analysis	Women and Habitat Network of Latin America, Guatemala		20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 11
From dialogue to action: Arab and European cities co-creating inclusive urban living	Arab Urban Development Institute, Saudi Arabia	Metropolis – World Association of the Major Metropolises, Spain Riyadh Region Municipality, Saudi Arabia PLATFORMA – CEMR, Belgium	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 04
From risk to resilience: Placing housing at the forefront of climate-sensitive planning	The Energy and Resources Institute, India	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, India	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 02
Housing under constraints: Delivering safe and resilient homes and urban settlements in fragile contexts	Palestinian Housing Council, Palestine, State of (Observer)	Homs City Council, Syrian Arab Republic UN-Habitat, Palestine, State of (Observer)	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 13
Innovative models to unlock finance for climate-resilient housing in intermediary cities	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Belgium	International Development Finance Club, France Cities Investment Facility, Kenya	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 15
Mainstreaming innovative financing mechanism for sustainable and affordable housing: Lessons from Indian experience	Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, India	All India Housing Development Association, India Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, India	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 12

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Prioritizing forced evictions on the agenda: Getting serious about prevention and remedy	Habitat International Coalition, Egypt	Slum Dwellers International, South Africa International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, Nepal	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 10
Rivers of Life: Unlocking housing, ageing and blue–green corridors through institutional partnership in Malaysia	AtelierFAB, Malaysia	Seremban City Council, Malaysia Negeri Sembilan State Government, Malaysia Think City, Malaysia	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 09
Speed dating: Housing problems meet solvers	SIA Grupa93, Latvia	Region Works LLC, Japan	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 03
Sustainable development of mountain settlement	Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Russian Federation	North Caucasian Scientific Cooperation, Russian Federation United Cities and Local Governments Eurasia, Russian Federation UN-Habitat in the Russian Federation, Russian Federation	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 16
The Cities Countdown to 2030 in action: Housing as a driver of global agenda delivery	United Cities and Local Governments, Spain	Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain Local2030 Coalition, Spain UN-Habitat, Kenya	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 05
Transit-oriented development (TOD) and urban green spaces for sustainable urban development	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, Japan	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Japan	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 08
Automating area-based planning for safe and resilient cities: The IOM LOCALISE – Google partnership	International Organization for Migration (IOM)		20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 13
Blended finance mechanisms, mis-aligned incentives and risk allocation in housing for the economically weaker section	Sciences Po Urban School, France	The Entrepreneurship and Partnerships Lab, India Centre for Policy Research, India	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 06
Coastal communities connect: Paths to urban resilience and equity	GRID-Arendal, Norway	Habitat Norway, Norway Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Norway Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa, South Africa	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 05
Data-empowered urban climate action: Digital solutions for urban planning in a changing climate	University of Stuttgart – Institute of Spatial and Regional Planning and Institute for Road and Transport Science, Germany	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Thailand United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand The Energy and Resources Institute, India	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 10

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Effective financing experiences and solutions to enable homeownership in housing projects	Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Bahrain	Secretariat-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Kuwait	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 03
Empowering cities with better data: Accessible and actionable data for policy and decision-making	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, France	Azercosmos Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Asian Development Bank, Philippines	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 07
Financing housing justice: Approaches to advance anti-discriminatory, democratic, sustainable and caring housing futures	International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom	Development Action Group, South Africa Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur, Brazil Slum Dwellers International, South Africa	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 01
Financing urban futures: South-South bank pathways for housing and city development	Caixa, Brazil		20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 09
Housing in an interconnected world: Women leading inclusive and resilient urban futures	G100 Smart and Sustainable Cities Wing, Türkiye	European Network of Living Labs, Belgium Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, Thailand	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 14
Investor roundtable: How can MDBs support sustainable housing at the local level?	European Investment Bank, Luxembourg	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Germany African Development Bank, Côte d'Ivoire Cities Development Initiative for Asia, represented by the Asian Development Bank, Philippines	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 02
Local materials to house the world through eco-friendly, low-carbon construction	Association des Amoureux du Livre pour le Développement Local, Cameroon	Misereor, Germany UN-Habitat, the Democratic Republic of the Congo Ministère de l'Habitat et du Développement urbain, Cameroon	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 11
Making smart cities inclusive (participatory e-governance in the MENA region)	Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Egypt Technopark Palestine, Palestine, State of (Observer)	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 16
No good housing without good transportation: Approaching the connection between urban mobility and the housing crisis	Polis Institute LLC, Brazil	Clean Mobility Collective, United States of America Sustainable Mobility Network, India Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, Philippines	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 15
Protecting homes, building resilience: Nature and urban services in informal neighbourhoods	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 04

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
The Global Planners Network: Delivering planning-led solutions for resilient, safe and inclusive cities and communities	Royal Town Planning Institute, United Kingdom	International Society of City and Regional Planners, Netherlands Commonwealth Association of Planners, United Kingdom Global Planning Education Association Network, Australia	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 08
When climate hits home: Building partnerships for resilient and affordable housing	World Resources Institute, United States of America	Build Change, United States of America Slum Dwellers International, South Africa Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 12
Addressing internal displacement in devastated cities: Should housing and service provision take centre stage?	United Nations Development Coordination Office	UN-Habitat, Kenya ODI Global, United Kingdom UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, United States of America	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 15
Connecting insights from K-nupp: National urban policies and housing solutions	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Korea (Republic of)	State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 11
Financing housing in a shifting funding environment: From ODA to philanthropy and local funding mechanisms	Rooftops Canada Foundation Inc. – Fondation Abri International, Canada	Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom UrbaMonde, Switzerland	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 02
From global agendas to local action: Leveraging multilevel urban forum for resilient housing systems	Agency for Spatial and Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia	Marmara Municipalities Union, Turkiye	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 07
From vision to reality: City leadership for inclusive and resilient housing in Asia	Asian Mayors Forum, Iran	CityNet, Korea (Republic of)	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 14
Housing-public space nexus: Fostering inclusive urban communities	City Space Architecture, Italy	CatalyticAction, United Kingdom Catalytic Communities, Brazil	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 08
Inclusive planning for adequate housing: Shaping the community-based 15-minute city	Gdansk University of Technology, Poland	Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Architecture and Design, Norway University of Oxford, Poland	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 16
Land governance pathways to adequate housing, informal settlement transformation and crisis recovery in the Middle East	The Urban Institute, Egypt	UN-Habitat, Global Land Tool Network, Kenya	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 10
Linking corridor investment with territorial and urban development for economic transformation, resilience and housing	African Union Commission, Ethiopia	UN-Habitat, Kenya European Union Directorate General for International Partnerships, Belgium	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 13

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Local patterns for implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals	Structura Naturalis Inc., United States of America	Sustasis Foundation, United States of America The Pattern Institute, United States of America	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 04
Resilient real estate and social rental housing: Pillars of sustainable cities	Social Union for Housing (L'Union sociale pour l'habitat), France	Réseau Habitat et Francophonie, France	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 05
Scaling resilience: Self-built housing as a pathway to safer, climate-ready cities	Build Change, United States of America	Slum Dwellers International, United States of America Isandla Institute, South Africa UN-Habitat, Kenya	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 01
The Centre for the Just City: Global partnership to centre spatial justice in urban development	Delft University of Technology, Netherlands	International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom Development Planning Unit, The Bartlett, University College London, United Kingdom The London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 12
Towards an International Landscape Convention: The foundation for housing	International Federation of Landscape Architects, France	UN-Habitat, Kenya United Nations Environment Programme, France World Health Organization, Switzerland	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 06
Unlocking land for safe, resilient and inclusive development: Land-led approaches to strengthening rural-urban linkages	National Institute of Urban Affairs, India	CEPT Professional Programs, CEPT University, India	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 09
What are we doing with the New Urban Agenda based on the right to the city and adequate housing to address climate emergency	Global Platform for the Right to the City, Brazil	Ministry of Cities, Brazil Habitat International Coalition, Mexico	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 03
Best practices and policies for adequate and sustainable access to public infrastructure and service in African cities	International Observatory on Participatory Democracy in Africa, Senegal	African Union, Ethiopia UCLG Africa, Morocco Enda Ecopop, Senegal	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 03
Fair property taxation as a driver of sustainable urban development	International Association for Territorial Development, Russian Federation	State Agency for Land Resources, Cadastre, Geodesy and Cartography under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan State Committee for Land Management and Geodesy of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajikistan	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 16
From reporting to implementation: NUA midterm review in the Arab States – regional priorities and next step	League of Arab States, Egypt	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, Egypt	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 07

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
From screening out to upgrading creditworthiness: Rethinking housing finance for informal earners in emerging economies	Social Housing and Mortgage Finance Fund, Egypt	International Finance Corporation, United States of America Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, United Kingdom Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 01
From stakeholders to shared decisions: A participatory city-making game workshop	Polis Institute LLC, Russian Federation	Novaya Labs, United Kingdom	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 15
GLTN partners meeting: Reinvigorating global alliances for land governance and tenure security	Huairou Commission, United States of America	International Federation of Surveyors, Denmark	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 10
Housing as social infrastructure: Placemaking, livelihoods and local economies	Amaken Placemaking, Egypt	Takamol Foundation for Integrated and Sustainable Development, Egypt CatalyticAction, Lebanon Manbat, Palestine, State of (Observer)	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 12
HousingAI: New approaches in using AI and machine learning towards net-zero, resilient cities	Urban Transitions Mission, Belgium	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Belgium Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 02
Human mobility and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific: Lessons and pathways for regional cooperation	International Organization for Migration	UN-Habitat, Thailand United Nations Development Programme, Thailand	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 14
Living with rivers: Water-sensitive planning for flood-prone settlements along the Nairobi Rivers	Dreamtown, Denmark	UN-Habitat, Kenya Public Space Network, Kenya	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 09
Recovery for built and living heritage in conflict contexts in the Middle East	Arab International University, Syrian Arab Republic	Hashemite University, Jordan German Jordanian University, School of Architecture and Built Environment, Jordan Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 11
Resilient urban development through One Health approach	FAVA One Health Fukuoka Office, Japan	Fukuoka Prefectural Government, Japan Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, Thailand UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Japan	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 05
Social urbanism and human security: City actions for safer, inclusive and resilient communities	Medellín Resilience Office, Colombia	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, United States of America UN-Habitat, Kenya United Cities and Local Governments, Spain	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 08

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Sustainable legal frameworks for adequate housing	University of London, United Kingdom	Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, Lesotho Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Cambodia UN-Habitat Kenya, Kenya	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 04
Towards an inclusive and sustainable transformation of informal settlements and slums	Ministry of Interior, Morocco	UN-Habitat, Morocco	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 06
Urban practices in crisis response and post-disaster reconstruction	Urban Planning Society of China, China	UN-Habitat, Kenya Society for Risk Analysis, United States of America CAST UN Consultative Committee on Sustainable City, Community and Heritage, China	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 13
Beyond external finance: Can cities scale their own revenues while delivering housing solutions?	Associação Nacional dos Municípios de Cabo Verde, Cabo Verde	Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, United States of America E-Gov, India UN-Habitat, Kenya	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 15
Bridging the climate-housing data gap: Connecting city needs with Earth observation solutions	Group on Earth Observations, Switzerland	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Belgium European Commission – Joint Research Centre, Italy	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 07
Building a global network for climate-resilient housing	Commonwealth Association of Planners, South Africa	Planners for Climate Action, United States of America International Society of City and Regional Planners, Netherlands Royal Town Planning Institute, United Kingdom	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 03
Building a Global South housing data network: Evidence, partnerships and action	CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, Argentina	Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, United States of America Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa, South Africa UN-Habitat, Kenya	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 05
Community-led housing and land management: Sharing experiences from Angola, Brazil, Canada and Uganda	Development Workshop Angola, Angola	Habitat International Coalition, Netherlands Global Land Tool Network, Kenya Catalytic Communities, Brazil	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 10
Financing the homes cities need: New approaches for social and affordable housing	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, United Kingdom	Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Ukraine C40 Cities Finance Facility, United Kingdom	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 02

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
From risk to resilience: Solution pathways for sinking cities	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand Asia and the Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information Management, Iran United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Italy	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 01
From risk to resilience: Technical assistance driving climate solutions for cities	Ministry of Cities, Brazil	United Nations Environment Programme, France	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 06
Housing data as public infrastructure: Improving housing affordability through DIGIPIN	National Institute of Urban Affairs, India	Department of Posts, Government of India, India	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 09
Integrated heritage and affordable housing framework for Erbil, Iraq, 2050	UN-Habitat	Japan International Cooperation Agency, Iraq Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Iraq	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 08
More than just shelter: Housing as social infrastructure for women and girls	University of Naples Federico II – URBANIMA, Interdepartmental Research Centre LUPT, Italy	UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain WRI India Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, India UN-Habitat, Kenya	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 04
Place-based humanitarian response: Launching the new Shelter, Land and Site Coordination cluster	Norwegian Refugee Council, United Kingdom	Catholic Relief Services, Kenya International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Switzerland International Organization for Migration, Switzerland	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 13
Responding to crises: Prioritizing climate equity and justice for informal settlements	National Institute of Urban Affairs, India	ICLEI South Asia, India The Energy and Resources Institute, India Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action, India	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 14
Safeguarding vernacular cultural heritage and local knowledge for resilient housing	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, France International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, Italy	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 11
Smart cities in the GCC	Ministry of Municipality, Qatar	Secretariat-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing, Saudi Arabia	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 16

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
When housing brings cities together: Local cooperation in practice	Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, Palestine, State of (Observer)	CILG-VNG International, Netherlands Marmara Municipalities Union, Turkiye United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Regional Organization, Turkiye	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Multipurpose room 12
Bankable BRT planning: Partner matchmaking to bridge the delivery gap (Ramallah–Al-Bireh, Palestine)	Joint Cooperation Unit of Ramallah, Albira and Betunia Municipalities, Palestine, State of (Observer)	Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, Palestine, State of (Observer) Move Mobility, Netherlands	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 07
Beyond restriction: Integrated spatial planning as a tool for resilience in Palestine	Ministry of Local Government, Palestine, State of (Observer)	Dutch Kadaster (Land Registry and Mapping Agency), Netherlands Municipal Development and Lending Fund, Palestine, State of (Observer) Palestinian Land Authority, Palestine, State of (Observer)	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 04
Building partnerships for affordable and resilient housing systems	Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency, Pakistan		21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 16
Climate adaptation in the housing sector: Achieving flood adaptation through multi-stakeholder collaboration	Architecture Without Borders Quebec, Canada	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 14
Delivering housing at scale: Connecting policy, innovation and finance for safe and resilient cities	Urbanice Malaysia, Malaysia	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 08
From global agreements to local action: Multilevel governance for sustainable housing and resilient communities	United Nations Environment Programme	Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Germany UN-Habitat, Kenya	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 05
From plans to projects: Unlocking urban infrastructure delivery in EU accession and MIC cities	United Nations Office for Project Services		21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 11
Housing think tank: Rewriting the housing deal for Jordan's housing future	Housing and Urban Development Corporation, Jordan	UN-Habitat, Jordan	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 13
Inclusive neighbourhoods with social housing: Lessons from the Vienna model and potential international application	ADA University, Azerbaijan	Politecnico di Milano, Italy City of Vienna, MA 50, Austria Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 03
Rebuilding homes and futures: Urban recovery in Kharkiv	Kharkiv City Council, Ukraine	Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, Ukraine United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 12

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Rethinking the future of housing: Favelas as a sustainable model	Catalytic Communities, Brazil	Urbz, India	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 01
Strengthening housing policy in the LAC region in times of global transformation: A MINURVI dialogue	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Brazil Ministry of Housing and Territorial Planning, Uruguay	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 15
The MOBA accelerator: Building the missing piece in cooperative housing finance	MOBA Housing SCE, Croatia		21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 06
Transit-oriented planning for new development	STEP City, Kazakhstan		21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 09
Youth perspectives on urban liveability: An intergenerational dialogue on intermediary cities	Ecorys UK, United Kingdom	Fondation Botnar, Switzerland	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Multipurpose room 02
Buildings for the future: Advancing the climate-housing nexus through digital innovation	BOE, China	Ministry of Housing, City and Territory, Colombia United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, Germany UN-Habitat, China	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 15
Coalition of builders promoting productive partnerships in the Global South, and pre-launch of the CAHF Housing Finance Yearbook 2025/2026	African Union for Housing Finance, South Africa	UN-Habitat, Kenya Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa (CAHF), South Africa	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 01
From adequate housing to feminist cities: Care, rights and urban justice	Instituto dos Arquitetos do Brasil – Departamento do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Ana Falú, Argentina Maite Rodríguez, Argentina Teresa Boccia, Italy	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 13
Housing rights in reconstruction contexts: Bridging humanitarian response and recovery	Norwegian Refugee Council, Norway	Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 02
Innovation and data for the improvement of informal settlements in Latin America	Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing, Guatemala	Secretaría de la Integración Social Centroamericana, El Salvador	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 08
Just transitions in practice: Co-creating digital tools for informality and crisis	HafenCity University, Germany	United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, Germany	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 07
Metropolitan governance for affordable housing and inclusive territorial development	Frente Nacional de Prefeitas e Prefeitos – National Front of Mayors, Brazil	Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Spain Ministry of Cities, Brazil Gauteng City-Region Observatory, South Africa	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 14
Pathways for building resilience in the face of extreme climate events in cities, housing and infrastructure systems	Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India		22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 05

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Rural-urban linkages of small towns: Transformation and sustainability	Centre for Policy Research, India	Permanent Mission of Kenya to UN-Habitat, India United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand Asian Development Bank, Philippines	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 04
The rechargeable landscape: Powering sustainable, resilient housing with nature-based systems	Asian Habitat Society, China	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Japan Korea Landscape Council, Korea (Republic of) Committee for Urban Sustainable Development of CCPIT, China	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 12
Urban development in Zanzibar: Lessons for the Global South	Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa	African Development Bank, South Africa	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 10
Urban renewal and sovereign housing in Senegal: Heritage, resilience and inclusive modernity	Ministère de l'Urbanisme, des Collectivités territoriales et de l'Aménagement des territoires, Senegal	Ministry of Urban Planning of Cameroon, Cameroon	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 06
Youths as changemakers: Inclusive and fair urban transition in advancing housing solutions	SERAC-Bangladesh, Bangladesh	UN-Habitat Youth, Kenya Bangladesh Urban Youth Councils Network, Bangladesh	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Multipurpose room 03
Advancing urban recovery in conflict-damaged and displacement-impacted cities in Palestine and Syria	Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Syrian Arab Republic	Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Syrian Arab Republic	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 08
Digital transformation in historic cities: Smart heritage, data-driven governance and inclusive urban futures	Union of Architects of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	Nani Zhgenti Project – Architecture & Urban Design, Azerbaijan International Union of Architects, France	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 02
Land and Conflict in the Arab Region: Report launch	Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, Jordan	UN-Habitat, Kenya Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, Lebanon	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 05
Local economic development and housing: Building inclusive and resilient cities	World Forum on Local Economic Development, Spain		22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 13
National urban policies and housing: A metropolitan approach to reach housing affordability	Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda, Spain	Metropolis – World Association of the Major Metropolises, Spain	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 06
Public property management as a land-based strategy for urban development	Secretariat for the Federal Property of Brazil, Brazil	Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, United States of America	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 16

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Rebuilding homes, rebuilding futures: Women and girls leading urban recovery and peacebuilding	UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Cities and Urban Conservation, Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain	URBANIMA, Interdepartmental Research Centre LUPT (Laboratory of Urban and Territorial Planning "R. d'Ambrosio"), University of Naples Federico II, Italy UCLG Asia-Pacific, Indonesia Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman, Ukraine	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 07
Social housing, sustainable communities through innovative solutions	Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Kuwait	Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi Arabia Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Oman Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Bahrain	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 01
The future of new housing: Shifting from car-centric design to car-free design	Carfree Cities Alliance, Spain	International Federation of Pedestrians, Belgium MyLivableCity, Netherlands City of Barcelona, Spain	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 04
The integrated territorial approach as a response to the multidimensional crisis in the Sahel	Ministry of Construction of the Fatherland, Burkina Faso	Ministry of Economy and Finance, Burkina Faso Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing, Land Affairs, Territorial Development and Population, Mali Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing, Niger	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 12
The story of the Homeless World Cup: Scaling a global ecosystem that supports people back on their feet	Homeless World Cup Foundation, United Kingdom	UN-Habitat, Kenya	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 10
Waste collectors and a just transition: Alliances for inclusion and the circular economy in Latin America	Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo Rural y Agua, Bolivia	Special Administrative Unit of Public Services, Colombia National Network of Waste Collectors of Bolivia, Bolivia Municipio Camiri, Bolivia	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Multipurpose room 11
One UN				
Beyond shelter: Adequate, safe, resilient housing for gender equality and women's empowerment in different housing contexts	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room A
Future urbanization: How will your city change over the next decades?	European Commission Joint Research Centre, Italy	United Nations Population Division, United States of America UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room B
Sanitation as a foundation for safe and resilient housing: Lessons from low-income cities in Asia-Pacific	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UN-Habitat Global Solutions Division, Germany World Bank, United States of America CWIS San Nepal, Nepal	19 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room C

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Delivering SDG 11 through housing: Supporting national and local action in the UNECE region	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)		19 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room C
Integrated approaches for advancing durable solutions and the reintegration of returnees in Afghanistan responding to	UN-Habitat	United Nations Development Programme, Afghanistan International Organization for Migration, Afghanistan Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Afghanistan	19 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room B
UNESCO Creative Cities and sustainable urban development	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	19 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room A
Artificial intelligence for cities: Urban planning and building smart, resilient communities	International Telecommunication Union	UN-Habitat, Kenya Government of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	19 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room B
Climate-resilient cities and communities across the Caspian region: Unlocking climate finance for urban adaptation	UN-Habitat	United Nations Environment Programme, Switzerland International Organization for Migration, Azerbaijan	19 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room A
Financing localization of SDGs through integrating local financing frameworks and instruments (Local2030 Coalition)	United Nations Development Programme	United Nations Environment Programme, Kenya United Nations Children's Fund, United States of America UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room C
Catalytic funding and support for building safe, resilient and inclusive cities	United Nations Global Disability Fund	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany	20 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room B
Decarbonizing housing and buildings at the city-industry-climate nexus	United Nations Industrial Development Organization		20 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room C
Water-smart cities: Building urban resilience through capacity development	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	WASRI, Azerbaijan	20 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room A
From commitment to impact: Advancing quality of life in cities as one	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Quality of Life Program Center, Saudi Arabia UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, Egypt	20 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room C
From project implementation to policy change: Building water-resilient cities	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	UN-Habitat, Jordan United Nations Children's Fund, Lebanon	20 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room A
Leveraging human security for integrated urban solutions and housing: Lessons from joint UN action	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security	UN-Habitat, Kenya United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Austria Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland	20 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room B

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Bankable municipalities, liveable cities	World Bank Group, United States of America	Asian Development Bank, Philippines	20 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room B
Housing resilience as an urban systems challenge	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	UN-Habitat City Resilience Global Programme, Spain United Nations Development Programme, Switzerland United Nations Environment Programme, France	20 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room C
Strengthening urban earthquake preparedness: One UN solutions for safer and more resilient cities	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Switzerland UN-Habitat, Kenya	20 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room A
Building low-carbon housing: From national policy to local action	United Nations Environment Programme	UN-Habitat, Kenya United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland World Resources Institute, United States of America	21 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room C
Priorities of the new Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing: Consultation for stakeholders	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights		21 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room B
Shaping safer and resilient cities: Consultation of draft policy brief on urban climate peace and security	UNEP – Climate Security Mechanism		21 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room A
Regenerating historic settlements for adequate housing: Traditional techniques, value chains, resilient homes	United Nations Development Programme		21 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room C
Remove the risk, not the people: Slum transformation as key to housing justice and climate resilience	Cities Alliance / UNOPS	Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom Build Change, South Africa	21 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room B
Strengthening health outcomes through sustainable housing policies: A multisectoral dialogue on housing and health	World Health Organization	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Switzerland United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland United Nations Environment Programme, France	21 May, 14:00–15:30	One UN room A
From grey to blue-green: Water-responsive urbanism and sponge cities for African resilient cities	African Union, Ethiopia		21 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room C
Resilient Arab cities: Good practices and opportunities for the future	United Nations Development Programme	UN-Habitat, Egypt	21 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room A

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
The missing target: Housing security in the indicators of the Global Goal on Adaptation	United Nations University	International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom Misereor, Germany Instituto Pólis, Brazil	21 May, 16:00–17:30	One UN room B
United for change: Translating Africa's urban position into transformative actions	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa		22 May, 10:00–11:30	One UN room B
Why continue development and reconstruction while conflict persists? Urban recovery insights from the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen	Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen, Saudi Arabia		22 May, 10:00–11:30	One UN room C
Housing at the intersection of resource efficiency and resilience	United Nations University	UN-Habitat City Resilience Global Programme, Spain	22 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room B
Localizing the Global Digital Compact at the city level	United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies	UN-Habitat, Kenya	22 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room C
South-South and triangular cooperation for innovative partnerships and solutions for urbanizing Global South	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation	UN-Habitat, Kenya	22 May, 12:00–13:30	One UN room A
SDGs in Action				
National SDGs localization frameworks and VNR–VLR integration for multilevel governance and territorial impact	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, Italy	UN-Habitat, Kenya Ministère de l'Urbanisme, des Collectivités territoriales et de l'Aménagement des territoires, Senegal	19 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room C
Policy pathways for advancing adequate housing through circular construction	Ministry of the Environment, Finland, Finland	GlobalABC Circular Built Environment group, Finland	19 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room B
The climate-housing nexus: Local governance for a just and inclusive transition	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, United States of America	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom	19 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Delivering SDGs in Action: Closing the gap through city-led SDG delivery platforms	Urbanice Malaysia, Malaysia	UN-Habitat, Kenya Local2030 Coalition, Spain United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand	19 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Housing for recovery and resilience: Municipal social housing as Sustainable Development Goals in action	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany	Initiative Wohnungswirtschaft Osteuropa e.V., Germany City of Mykolaiv, Ukraine City of Poltava, Ukraine	19 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room B
More than a roof: How successful housing strategies transform lives	Ministry of National Territorial Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy, Morocco	Réseau Habitat et Francophonie, France	19 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room C

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Beyond homeownership: Social rental models as a response to housing the unhoused	Asian Development Bank, Philippines	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, France	19 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room B
Driving local climate action for water-resilient communities: The 2nd Water as Leverage City Champion Challenge	Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Netherlands	Deltares, Netherlands UN-Habitat, Kenya Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India	19 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Housing for all ages: Planning intergenerational cities through inclusive housing systems	Commonwealth Association of Planners, South Africa		19 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room C
From SDG localization to housing and resilience impact through voluntary local review (VLR)	Al Madinah Region Development Authority, Saudi Arabia		20 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room C
Housing as care infrastructure: Reframing planning, housing and everyday care	Marmara Municipalities Union, Türkiye	Global Alliance for Care, Mexico United Cities and Local Governments, Spain	20 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room B
Localizing housing finance: Connecting cities, communities and investment	Ministry of European Union and Foreign Action of the Government of Catalonia, Spain	United Cities and Local Governments, Spain	20 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Global Stocktake on SDG localization: The climate-housing nexus for sustainable cities	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, France	UN-Habitat, Kenya	20 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room C
Green affordable housing at speed and scale: Delivering decarbonized, resilient and locally sourced homes	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, United Kingdom	World Resources Institute, United States of America Green Building Council Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	20 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room A
The transformational role of housing in humanitarian crises and disaster recovery	Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America	Catholic Relief Services, United States of America Miyamoto International, United States of America OCHA – Global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster, Switzerland	20 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room B
From definitions to solutions: European and global approaches to combat homelessness	Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building, Germany	Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness, United States of America	20 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room B
Resilient housing in informal settlements: Scalable solutions for the climate-poverty nexus	Techo International, Chile		20 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Water-centred territorial development: Azerbaijan, Colombia and Latin America share resilient and inclusive habitat	Ministry of Housing, City and Territory / Fondo Adaptación, Colombia	UN-Habitat, Colombia	20 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room C

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Bridging the gap for SDGs in Action: Pairing cities to accelerate local climate solutions	United Cities and Local Governments, Indonesia	Directorate General Cipta Karya, Ministry of Public Works, Indonesia GIZ Thailand, Thailand United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Regional Organization, Türkiye	21 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Enhancing municipal capacities in Africa: Launch of the Affordable Housing Toolkit for Municipal Authorities	Shelter Afrique Development Bank, Kenya	African Development Bank, Côte d'Ivoire	21 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room C
MDB Cities Group, C40 and GCoM: Financing system-wide urban resilience	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Belgium	MDB Cities Group, United Kingdom C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, United Kingdom	21 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room B
Circular economy approaches for construction and demolition waste to catalyse affordable housing in low-income countries	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, India	GIZ India, India	21 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room C
Citiverse in action: Digital innovation for accelerated localization of the Sustainable Development Goals	Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, China	International Telecommunication Union, Switzerland	21 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room B
Transformative partnerships for resilience: Community-led planning enabling affordable housing and WASH for SDG delivery	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Zambia	WaterAid Zambia, Zambia	21 May, 14:00–15:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Delivering territorial impact: A One UN integrated approach in Sahelian contexts	UN-Habitat		21 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room C
Public spaces from early childhood	FEMSA Foundation, Mexico	UN-Habitat, Kenya Van Leer Foundation, Netherlands	21 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room B
SeCure model: Sustainable and empowering cultural revitalization of post-conflict cities	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan		21 May, 16:00–17:30	SDGs in Action – room A
From goals to homes: UIA SDG tools and award cases for safe, resilient housing action	International Union of Architects (UIA), France	Ministry of Cities, Brazil Order of Architects of Angola, Angola	22 May, 10:00–11:30	SDGs in Action – room C
From integrated planning to action: Project platforms as a tool for decentralized cooperation and SDGs localization	Joint Cooperation Unit of Ramallah, Albira and Betunia Municipalities, Palestine, State of (Observer)	Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, Palestine, State of (Observer) Ministry of Local Government, Palestine, State of (Observer) UCLG World Secretariat, Spain	22 May, 10:00–11:30	SDGs in Action – room A
SDG solutions born in informal settlements	Catalytic Communities, Brazil	Habitat International Coalition, Mexico World Habitat, United Kingdom Kounkuey Design Initiative, Kenya	22 May, 10:00–11:30	SDGs in Action – room B

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Green innovation districts: Where climate action, innovation and community meet	Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates		22 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room A
Strategic environmental assessment as a tool for achieving climate targets in urban planning	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland	22 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room C
Turning data into better cities: Jordan's integrated approach to housing, services	Ministry of Interior, Jordan		22 May, 12:00–13:30	SDGs in Action – room B
Urban Cinema				
Football, Cities and Second Chances	Homeless World Cup Foundation, United Kingdom		19 May, 10:30–11:15	Urban Cinema
Ajmer Ki Ladkiya Kha Hain (Where are the Girls of Ajmer City)	Safetipin, India		19 May, 11:45–12:30	Urban Cinema
Displaced: A City's Scars	University of Liverpool, United Kingdom	Rethinking Cities, Nigeria Lincoln University, New Zealand Heinrich Böll Foundation Abuja, Nigeria	19 May, 13:00–13:45	Urban Cinema
River City Rising: How Spokane's Housing Reform Became a Catalyst for Change	First & Main Films, United States of America		19 May, 14:15–15:00	Urban Cinema
When I Came to Your Door	Delft University of Technology, Netherlands	Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development, Ethiopia	19 May, 15:30–16:15	Urban Cinema
The Silent Epidemic	Raahgiri Foundation, India		20 May, 10:30–11:15	Urban Cinema
Sanitation Workers of South Asia: Dangerous Work Demands Respect and Dignity	Public Services International, France	WaterAid Nepal, Nepal National Institute of Urban Affairs, India	20 May, 11:45–12:30	Urban Cinema
Negotiating Power and Conflict Resolution in the Co-Production of Public Space Within Post-Displacement Housing in Cairo	Habitat Unit, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany	Habitat for Humanity Middle East, Egypt Urban Development Fund, Egypt	20 May, 13:00–13:45	Urban Cinema
Beyond the Downpour Echoes	Kounkuey Design Initiative, Kenya		20 May, 14:15–15:00	Urban Cinema
Waste to Wealth – Building Resilient Cities and Communities	World Linkup, Bangladesh		20 May, 15:30–16:15	Urban Cinema
Shaki: Where shebeke, history and craftsmanship weave Azerbaijan's living heritage	AnewZ TV, Azerbaijan	State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	21 May, 10:30–11:15	Urban Cinema
Good Hood Stories Season 4 – Partnering for Improved Human Settlements	South African Cities Network, South Africa		21 May, 11:45–12:30	Urban Cinema
The Last Shelter	Build Change, United States of America		21 May, 13:00–13:45	Urban Cinema

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
What no one wants to see. Homelessness: a cause we must make visible	Hogar Sí, Spain	Gere Foundation, Spain	21 May, 14:15–15:00	Urban Cinema
Still the One (Case Study) – Preserving Affordable Housing in Burlington's Old North End	Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, United States of America		21 May, 15:30–16:15	Urban Cinema
SDRPY	Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY), Saudi Arabia		22 May, 10:00–10:45	Urban Cinema
Building the Builders: Inside the Africa Urban Lab Professional Diploma	Africa Urban Lab, Tanzania		22 May, 11:15–12:00	Urban Cinema
Urban Library				
From principles to practice: Gender criteria for housing design and public procurement	UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Cities and Urban Conservation, Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain	URBANIMA, Interdepartmental Research Centre LUPT (Laboratory of Urban and Territorial Planning "R. d'Ambrosio"), University of Naples Federico II, Italy WRI India Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, India Syracuse University, School of Architecture, United States of America	19 May, 10:30–11:30	Urban Library – room B
Uniting cities, communities and capital for green and thriving urban brownfield regeneration	Urban Partners, Denmark	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, United Kingdom Arup, United Kingdom	19 May, 10:30–11:30	Urban Library – room A
Cities for children and youth: Resources to transform cities and slums	Save the Children and Global Alliance – Cities4Children, Switzerland	Global Alliance – Cities4Children member organizations, United Kingdom	19 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room A
Foundations of fairness: Why the global status of buildings determines our climate and housing future	Ministry for the Ecological Transition, France	UNEP GlobalABC, France United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya Buildings Performance Institute Europe, Belgium	19 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room B
From data gaps to decisions: AI and the future of housing intelligence	Miyamoto International, United States of America		19 May, 13:30–14:30	Urban Library – room A
Housing the informal: Fostering liveable cities and communities in the Asia-Pacific region	Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia	University of Auckland, New Zealand School of Architecture, Planning and Policy Development, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam	19 May, 13:30–14:30	Urban Library – room B
Localizing SDG 6 and 11: How water and sanitation utilities shape housing and urban development	Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd, Malaysia	eThekwini Municipality, South Africa ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Germany Águas e Energia do Porto, Portugal	19 May, 15:00–16:00	Urban Library – room B

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Urban laboratory for innovation and dialogue (Mad City Baltics)	SIA Grupa93, Latvia	To Zest, Belgium Region Works LLC, Japan Muutruum OÜ, Estonia	19 May, 15:00–16:00	Urban Library – room A
Launch of the book Routledge Handbook on Labour in Construction and Human Settlements: The Built Environment at Work	International Labour Organization	London South Bank University, School of the Built Environment and Architecture, United Kingdom Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom University of the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo, Brazil	19 May, 16:30–17:30	Urban Library – room A
Shared waters, shared futures: Central Asia collaborates on a common water agenda	ARCHICA, Kazakhstan		19 May, 16:30–17:30	Urban Library – room B
Building nature-positive cities: Housing, resilience and sustainable urban futures	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, France		20 May, 10:30–11:30	Urban Library – room B
Housing as a human right: Regional insights and strategies for the Arab world	League of Arab States, Egypt	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, Egypt Habitat for Humanity Middle East, Egypt	20 May, 10:30–11:30	Urban Library – room A
Guide to creating urban public spaces for children	World Health Organization	UN-Habitat, Kenya United Nations Children's Fund, United States of America	20 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room A
Regional insights for advancing climate finance readiness and frameworks for local action	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany UCLG Asia-Pacific, Indonesia National Institute of Urban Affairs, India	20 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room B
Co-producing adequate housing monitoring: Smart inclusive transitions towards equitable cities	Xi'an Jiaotong–Liverpool University, China	UN-Habitat Knowledge and Innovation Branch, Kenya City of Suwon, Korea (Republic of) World Toilet Association, Korea (Republic of)	20 May, 13:30–14:30	Urban Library – room A
Intersections: Connecting housing, research and practice for safe and resilient cities in Latin America	Institute of Technology and Higher Studies of Monterrey, Mexico	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile	20 May, 13:30–14:30	Urban Library – room B
Future-proofing urban transformation: The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities as a catalyst for action	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Belgium UN-Habitat, Kenya	20 May, 15:00–16:00	Urban Library – room A

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Launching of guide for citizen participation and engagement for public management, safe and sustainable cities: Ivory Coast	International Observatory on Participatory Democracy in Africa, Senegal	Ministry of the Interior – Directorate General for Decentralization and Local Development, Côte d'Ivoire Country Capacity Building Programme, World Bank, Côte d'Ivoire Projet d'Appui aux Gouvernements Ouverts Francophones, Côte d'Ivoire	20 May, 15:00–16:00	Urban Library – room B
From delivery to knowledge: Affordable housing as a system for equitable and climate-resilient cities	Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency, Pakistan		20 May, 16:30–17:30	Urban Library – room B
Public facilities as enablers of resilient, sustainable and adequate housing for urban communities	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China	ETI Chaire Sorbonne University, France Healthbridge Foundation of Canada, Canada Cardiff University, United Kingdom	20 May, 16:30–17:30	Urban Library – room A
Accommodating growth in Latin American and Caribbean cities: A land and housing pathway for managing informality	Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America	Marron Institute of Urban Management, New York University, United States of America Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, Korea (Republic of)	21 May, 10:30–11:30	Urban Library – room B
Youth and civil society leadership in advancing sustainable and inclusive cities	Azerbaijan National NGO Forum, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani-American Youth Social Association, Azerbaijan Liberian Youth for Climate Actions, Liberia	21 May, 10:30–11:30	Urban Library – room A
Building back better: How urban reconstruction created an innovation lab for urban transformation in Azerbaijan	SA Partners, Switzerland	State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	21 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room B
Climate risk where data is missing: Housing, informality and climate resilience	TETO Brasil, Brazil	TECHO, Chile	21 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room A
Multilateral consortium and multistakeholder collaboration in knowledge co-production for climate-resilient cities	University of Lagos, Nigeria		21 May, 13:30–14:30	Urban Library – room A
Neuro urbanism: How cities shape the brain, behaviour and mental well-being	Nani Zhgenti Project Architecture, Azerbaijan	Union of Architects of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	21 May, 13:30–14:30	Urban Library – room B
Beyond crisis: Urban responses to displacement in drought-stressed cities through housing and WASH infrastructure	International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom	UN-Habitat Jordan Country Office, Jordan University of Zambia, Centre for Urban Research and Planning, Zambia People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia, Slum Dwellers International, Zambia	21 May, 15:00–16:00	Urban Library – room A
Everyday housing, everyday walking: Gender, care and neighbourhood liveability	International Federation of Pedestrians, Belgium	Fondazione LINKS, Italy City of Barcelona, Spain Climate Alliance, Germany	21 May, 15:00–16:00	Urban Library – room B

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Circular and resilient urban water management: A compendium of solutions and toolkit for local and regional governments	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Africa	UN-Habitat, Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, Kenya Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Morocco	21 May, 16:30–17:30	Urban Library – room A
Cultural and natural heritage in localized SDGs: Creating multiple identities in housing the metropolis	Royal Holloway University of London, United Kingdom	Heritopolis Society, Korea (Republic of) University of Guadalajara, Mexico Palestinian Housing Council, Palestine, State of (Observer)	21 May, 16:30–17:30	Urban Library – room B
Launch of Catalogue of Best Practices in Housing for Somalia	UN-Habitat		22 May, 10:30–11:30	Urban Library – room A
Planning tools for climate action	Georgia Institute of Technology, United States of America	Planners for Climate Action, Kenya C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Brazil Royal Town Planning Institute, United Kingdom	22 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room A
Water-resilient cities and communities in Africa: Insights on implementation and scaling from six African cities	World Resources Institute Africa, Kenya	Resilient Cities Network, Mexico ICLEI Africa, South Africa Kounkuey Design Initiative, Sweden	22 May, 12:00–13:00	Urban Library – room B
Voices from Cities				
Bridges of cooperation: In search of the best solutions for sustainable housing and resilient cities	Government of Moscow, Russian Federation	Urbanice Malaysia, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room B
From measurement to impact: How quality of life shapes resilient cities – lessons from Saudi Arabia and global urban pr	Quality of Life Program, Saudi Arabia	UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room C
Leveraging emerging technology, data and AI for equitable public planning	Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, United States of America	United Cities and Local Governments, Spain Freetown City Council, Sierra Leone Global Disability Innovation Hub, United Kingdom	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Peace-positive climate action through urban solutions in fragile and conflict-affected settings	International Organization for Migration	Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub, Azerbaijan UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room E
Swimmable cities: Swimmability as a catalyst for safe, healthy and resilient communities	Swimmable Cities incubated by Regeneration Projects, Canada	UN-Habitat, Kenya Monocle, United Kingdom	19 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Cities at the front line of displacement: Governing for inclusion and sustainability	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, United Kingdom	International Organization for Migration, Switzerland Habitat for Humanity International, United States of America Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Rwanda	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room C

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Local leadership in action: Applying the Housing and Human Security for All model for safer, more inclusive cities	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security	UN-Habitat, Kenya United Cities and Local Governments, Spain	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room E
Unlocking finance for urban settlement resilience to water and heat climate hazards: Cases from Togo, Indonesia, Jordan	European Investment Bank, Luxembourg	African Development Bank – Urban and Municipal Development Fund, Côte d'Ivoire Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, China UN-Habitat, Climate Change and Urban Environment – Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor Programme, Kenya	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Urban planning is climate action: The C40 and UN-Habitat Accelerator	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, United States of America	UN-Habitat, Kenya Quality of Life Program Center, Saudi Arabia Community Jameel, United Kingdom	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Youth leadership for safe and resilient cities	Safetipin, India	Fondation Botnar, Switzerland UN-Habitat, Kenya Fundación Despacio, Colombia	19 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room B
From adequate housing to liveable communities: Advancing a sustainable urban future through Shanghai Award city practices	Fuzhou Municipal People's Government, China	Department of Finance, Planning and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, China	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room A
From community data to community impact: Hearing from experts by experience	Slum Dwellers International, South Africa	Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, United Kingdom	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room D
From rubble to resilience: Housing as the backbone of urban recovery in protracted crises	Khan Younis Municipality, Palestine, State of (Observer)		19 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room C
Housing solutions in islands and high-pressure territories: From constraint to opportunity	Agenda 2030 IRLab – Government of the Canary Islands, Spain	Deputy Ministry of the Cabinet of the President of the Government of the Canary Islands, Spain	19 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Building safe and resilient African cities and communities	UN-Habitat	Hivos, Netherlands African Center for Resilient Agriculture, Italy ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Africa	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Climate and disaster-resilient housing: Bridging the gap between policy and communities	Asian Development Bank, Philippines	Miyamoto International, United States of America	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Housing as a right, not an investment: Curbing speculation to ensure affordable housing in the Global South	Social Housing and Mortgage Finance Fund, Egypt	World Bank, United States of America UN-Habitat, Kenya	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Multilevel cooperation in tackling the housing crisis: Examples from cities and national governments around the world	Deutscher Städtetag – Association of German Cities, Germany	South African Local Government Association, South Africa	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room E

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
SPECA Forum of Cities: Housing solutions for inclusive and resilient urban futures	State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand	20 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room C
A place called home: Recovery that lasts	SALAR International, Sweden		20 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Adequate, sustainable and resilient informal settlements and urban peripheries against environmental racism	Ministry of Cities, Brazil		20 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Leadership for frontline coastal and island cities: Driving nature-based solutions, blue economy and community resilience	Municipality of Kerkennah, Tunisia	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Transformative Actions Programme, Germany European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – Green Cities Programme, United Kingdom Global Fund for Cities Development, France	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Scaling green neighbourhoods into resilient urban systems: Urban forestry as infrastructure for integrated settlements	City of Johannesburg and Centre on African Public Spaces, South Africa	UN-Habitat, Kenya Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room C
The social and economic power of housing: How municipalities worldwide drive transformation through partnerships	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany	Local2030 Coalition, Spain	20 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room E
BiodiverCities by 2030 and the opportunities of climate adaptation in cities	CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama	UN-Habitat, Colombia	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Local2030 KSN: Knowledge-based approaches to housing and urban resilience	Center for International Political Studies, Italy	UN-Habitat, Kenya Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, Jordan	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Urban regeneration and housing: People-centred urban intervention to advance more sustainable cities	Bilbao City Council, Spain	Department of Housing and Urban Agenda, Basque Government, Spain Shanghai University, China	20 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room C
Voices from Cities: Institutionalizing urban resilience through subnational local programmes	Rio de Janeiro State – Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainability, Brazil		20 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Green and thriving neighbourhoods: A South-South dialogue on urban revitalization in Latin American and African cities	Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, United States of America Novo Nordisk, Denmark	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room C
Housing-led policies to address homelessness and housing insecurity across global cities	Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness, United States of America		21 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room E

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Is the housing of tomorrow in line with the SDGs of today? How localization strategies help to bring us back on track	German Institute of Urban Affairs, Germany	Local2030 Coalition, Spain Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Scaling inclusive urban transformation and redefining the right to housing: Practical insights for resilient cities	Marmara Municipalities Union, Turkiye	Metropolis – World Association of the Major Metropolises, Spain	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Transforming neighbourhoods together: Participatory greening in Arab cities	Arab Urban Development Institute, Saudi Arabia	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Kuwait	21 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Housing the SDGs: City-led solutions through SDG Cities	Câmara Municipal de Mafra, Portugal	UN-Habitat, Kenya	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room C
Inclusive housing for urban-rural linkages: Voices from Francophone Africa	Douala City Council (Communauté Urbaine de Douala), Cameroon	Ministry of Construction, Urban Planning and Housing, Côte d'Ivoire Urban Agency of Rabat and Salé, Morocco	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Local responses: Territorial governance and integrated solutions in Portuguese-speaking regions	State Government of Paraná, Brazil, Brazil	DiMSUR, Mozambique Cape Verde Red Cross, Cabo Verde	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Urban symmetry: Mainstreaming sustainable urbanization through trilateral South-South cooperation	Brazilian Cooperation Agency, Brazil		21 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room E
Using evidence to build caring cities: Scaling Care Blocks across Africa and Latin America	International Development Research Centre, Kenya	Global Alliance for Care, Mexico City Hub and Network for Gender Equality, United States of America	21 May, 14:00–15:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Designing together: Collaborating on Canada's housing design catalogue	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada	City of Vancouver, Canada	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room A
From ruins to rental: Affordable housing as a rapid and climate-smart response to urban displacement	NGO Metalab, Ukraine		21 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Housing policies to strengthen climate resilience	Paraná Hub, Brazil	Basque Government, Spain Liverpool Hub, United Kingdom	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Youth Coalition on Sustainable Urban Development	Children and Youth International, Kenya	Rural Urban Partnership for Africa, Ghana Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, United States of America ECB Sustainable Youth Foundation, India	21 May, 16:00–17:30	Voices from Cities – room E
Caring and transformative cities: Approaches to housing, urban renewal and gender equality	Mexico City Government – Coordinación General de Asuntos Internacionales, Mexico		22 May, 10:00–11:30	Voices from Cities – room E

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
From policy to practice: Addis Ababa's journey in human-centred urban transformation	UN-Habitat		22 May, 10:00–11:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Housing for freedom: Territorial pact for the 21st century – towards a UN resolution on the metropolitan right to housing	Politecnico di Milano, Italy	Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Spain Marmara Municipalities Union, Turkiye	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Voices from Cities – room A
Pedagogy and education for housing justice and urban resilience	Escola da Cidade – City School, Brazil	Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies, India Universidad EAFIT, Colombia	22 May, 10:00–11:30	Voices from Cities – room C
From Belém to Busan: Strengthening urban resilience to sea-level rise	Conservation International, United States of America	Ministry of Cities, Brazil United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Switzerland Local2030 Coalition, Spain	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room D
Housing as a driver of socioeconomic transformation in the Global South: Lessons from Mi Casa en Bogotá	Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Colombia	UN-Habitat, Brazil CAMACOL, Colombia	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room B
Leveraging machine learning and Earth observation for mapping deprived areas in the Global South	ITC – University of Twente, Netherlands	United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, Germany ETH Zurich, Development Economics Group, Switzerland	22 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room E
New capitals and new cities of Central Asia: Water-sensitive urban planning and housing for climate resilience	ARCHICA, Kazakhstan		22 May, 12:00–13:30	Voices from Cities – room A
WUF Academy				
Application of the 5A principles of adequate housing to the national housing policy of India	Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands	Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, India Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 06
Design victories: Leading beautiful, regenerative, inclusive and lasting global housing production	American Institute of Architects, United States of America	International Union of Architects, France African Union of Architects, Rwanda Union of Mediterranean Architects, France	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 01
Discovering tools for safer streets and liveable housing environments	International Federation of Pedestrians, Belgium	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, Croatia Politecnico di Milano – Dipartimento di Architettura, Ingegneria delle Costruzioni e Ambiente Costruito, Italy City of Zagreb, Croatia	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 03

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Do it together anyway: Community-driven disaster preparedness	Veneer House Inc, Japan	Blue Temple, Myanmar UN-Habitat, Myanmar Myanmar Climate Action Network, Myanmar	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 14
From data to decisions: AI, spatial analysis and housing for all	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology		19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 08
Green homes, green balconies: Hydroponic solutions for climate-resilient urban living	Baku State University, Azerbaijan		19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 15
Housing Performance Assessment (HPA): From monitoring to strategizing safe, affordable and sustainable communities	UM6P – Citinnov, Morocco	UN-Habitat Morocco, Morocco	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 05
Inclusive cities and independent living for persons with disabilities	Independent Living Center for Persons with Disabilities, Azerbaijan	Ombudsman, Azerbaijan Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Azerbaijan	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 11
Practical framework for regularization of informal settlement: Policy, legal, institutional and technological innovation	Land Management Training Centre, Nepal		19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 13
Practising the street-led city-wide slum upgrading approach	Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	International Federation for Housing and Planning, Denmark Catalytic Communities, Brazil Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 07
Re-engineering the land and housing market in Somalia to expand access to affordable housing and land regulations	Advisor-Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Somalia		19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 16
Regenerative housing: A co-creative toolkit linking construction, climate and materials	Bauhaus Earth, Germany	Base Bahay Foundation, Philippines UN-Habitat, Kenya	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 02
Regional urban lab: Innovative urban tools from Egypt and Syria for city-wide sustainable urban development finance	Urban Development Fund, Egypt	Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Syrian Arab Republic	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 04
Urban capacity lab – CIFAL Global Network: Advancing city action through capacity development	United Nations Institute for Training and Research		19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 09
Urban finance masterclass at WUF: Drafting high-quality and bankable housing proposals for project promoters	Tsinghua University, China	Cities Investment Facility, Kenya	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 10
Urban Speedcubers: Finding the algorithm to solve urban tenement challenges. The case of Pipeline, Nairobi, Kenya	SHOUT Group, Kenya	Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa, South Africa Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, United States of America	19 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 12

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Accelerating New Urban Agenda through housing delivery using the Asia Pacific Urban Agenda Platform	Urbanice Malaysia, Malaysia	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates UN-Habitat, Thailand	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 16
Embedding safety, inclusion and dignity in sanitation systems at city-wide level for all	National Institute of Urban Affairs, India	UN-Habitat, Germany ICLEI Africa, South Africa United Nations Environment Programme, Kenya	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 03
From local wisdom to climate action: Community-driven pathways to resilient housing and greener communities	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Naresuan University, Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design, Thailand	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 10
Geospatial intelligence for resilient urban growth: Unlocking the economic power of housing	European Commission Joint Research Centre, Italy	World Bank, Viet Nam	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 07
Housing her city	Shared City Foundation, Sweden		20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 08
How to decarbonize housing without knowing your carbon footprint: Practical tools for low-carbon housing	Caixa, Brazil	University of São Paulo, Brazil	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 09
Innovation in social housing rental	FGV Cidades, Brazil		20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 15
Living with data	University of Plymouth, United Kingdom	Safetipin, India UN-Habitat Quality of Life Initiative, Saudi Arabia	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 06
Participatory futuring for informal settlements and booming towns: Learning from African cases	African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa	Kounkuey Design Initiative, Kenya Ardhi University, Tanzania ICLEI Africa, South Africa	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 12
Policies, papers and bricks: Capacity building for crisis preparedness and response	Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine	United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, Germany	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 01
Strengthening city capacities for housing, safety and community well-being through the human security approach	Security4Peace, United Kingdom	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, United States of America	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 14
The living city of the dead: Placemaking approach for revitalizing housing and public spaces in historic and informal areas	Amaken Placemaking, Egypt	China Energy Research Society, China Takamol Foundation for Integrated and Sustainable Development, Egypt Manbat, Palestine, State of (Observer)	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 13
What works in low-income rental housing: A global peer-learning lab for scalable solutions	Urban Housing Practitioners Hub, Mexico	CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama Affordable Housing Institute, United States of America Asian Development Bank, Philippines	20 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 02

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
15 minutes from home: Unpacking methods and tools for proximities-driven development	IAE Paris – Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1 University), France	United Cities and Local Governments, Spain UN-Habitat, Kenya	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 02
AI-based visualization for affordable housing and informal settlement upgrading	Deutscher Städtetag – Association of German Cities, Germany	Connective Cities, Germany	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 11
Building cross-sector coalitions for adequate housing: From fragmentation to collective action	Martha Laura Peña Ordóñez, Mexico	Práctica Laboratorio para la Democracia, Mexico	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 07
Designing development programmes in conflict zones	Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen, Saudi Arabia		21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 14
Developing Azerbaijan's first national sustainability standard: The Sustainable Practices Standard (SPS)	EkoSfera Social-Ecology Center, Azerbaijan	Agency for State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 13
Digital housing tools for sustainable city transformation: Training for local government leaders	HafenCity University, Germany		21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 03
From climate risk to climate-resilient housing: A practical training on bioclimatic and affordable housing solutions	National School of Architecture of Rabat, Morocco	Dr. B. N. College of Architecture, India Chaire UNESCO Education et Recherche en Urbanisme et Architecture Bioclimatiques Durables, Morocco	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 05
From eradication to integration: Bridging the policy-reality gap in slum upgrading through community-led programme	The University of Tokyo, Japan	Pamoja Trust, Kenya Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 09
From policy to action: Evidence-based solutions for Africa housing crisis	Pan African University, Kenya	UN-Habitat Policy and Legislation Section, Kenya	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 06
Innovative building technologies (IBT): Examples and demonstrations	Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa		21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 10
Land value capture for affordable housing, slum upgrading and climate action: Practical lessons from the Global South	Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, United States of America	Development Action Group, South Africa Stellenbosch Municipality, South Africa Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 12
Practical toolkits for housing policy innovation with a focus on land, finance and inclusive policy	International Federation for Housing and Planning, Netherlands	Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa, South Africa	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 08

Title	Organizer	Co-organizers	Date and time	Room
Training cities on climate-resilient nature-based solutions (NbS) projects	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Germany	City Climate Finance Gap Fund, Luxembourg African Development Bank, Côte d'Ivoire Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Belgium	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 01
Training session 1: Capacity development – planning for safe and resilient cities and communities from theory to plan	International Society of City and Regional Planners, Netherlands	Commonwealth Association of Planners, United Kingdom Royal Town Planning Institute, United Kingdom	21 May, 09:30–11:30	Multipurpose room 04
Press conferences				
Bridging grassroots communities and global urban expertise	International Urban Professionals Forum, France		19 May, 15:15–16:00	Press Conference Room
Launching the Barcelona Metropolitan Declaration: Bold commitments to tackle the housing crisis at metropolitan scale	Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Spain	Metropolis – World Association of the Major Metropolises, Spain	19 May, 16:15–17:00	Press Conference Room
Media as a driver of public discourse on housing and urban resilience	Media Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	Agency for State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	20 May, 13:15–14:00	Press Conference Room
Local patterns for the New Urban Agenda: Solving the urban last-mile implementation gap	The Pattern Institute, Austria	Sustasis Foundation, United States of America	20 May, 15:15–16:00	Press Conference Room
UIA 2030 Award: Third cycle announcement	International Union of Architects (UIA), France	UN-Habitat, Kenya	20 May, 16:15–18:00	Press Conference Room

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