



UN-Habitat to launch World Cities Report 2026 on the global housing crisis at WUF13

Baku, 18 May 2026 – UN-Habitat, the United Nations agency for sustainable urbanization, will launch its latest flagship publication, *World Cities Report 2026: Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action*, during the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku.

The report finds that nearly 3 billion people – close to 40 per cent of the world’s population – are affected by a global housing crisis marked by unaffordable housing, shortages of adequate homes, poor-quality accommodation and lack of access to basic urban services. Housing shortages have risen by 30 per cent in just over a decade to more than 268 million units, while 1.1 billion people live in slums or informal settlements.

Released under the WUF13 theme, “Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities,” the report highlights how rapid urbanization, climate impacts, rising land values and widening inequality are intensifying pressure on housing systems worldwide. Cities are expected to absorb 2 billion additional residents by 2050, while climate-related hazards could destroy 167 million homes by 2040.

The report also outlines pathways to address the crisis through inclusive policy responses, increased domestic public investment in social and affordable housing, and strengthened community participation and co-production in policy formulation.

WHAT: Press conference launching the World Cities Report 2026: Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action

WHEN: 19 May 2026, 13:15–14:00 (Baku time)

WHERE: Press Conference Room, Media Hub, Baku Olympic Stadium

MODERATOR:

- **Edlam Abera Yemeru**, Director, Knowledge and Innovation Branch, UN-Habitat

SPEAKERS:

- **Anacláudia Rossbach**, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- **Benedict Arimah**, Chief, Global Reports and Trends Unit, UN-Habitat
- **Carol Dean Archer**, Professor, University of Technology, Jamaica
- **Marie Huchzermeyer**, Professor, School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Contact information:

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THIRTEENTH SESSION



- **Sahar Attia**, Emeritus Professor of Urban Design and former Head of the Department of Architecture, Cairo University, Egypt

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