

Outcomes of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13)

Main highlights



About WUF13

When

17 - 22 May 2026

Where

Baku Olympic Stadium

Azerbaijan

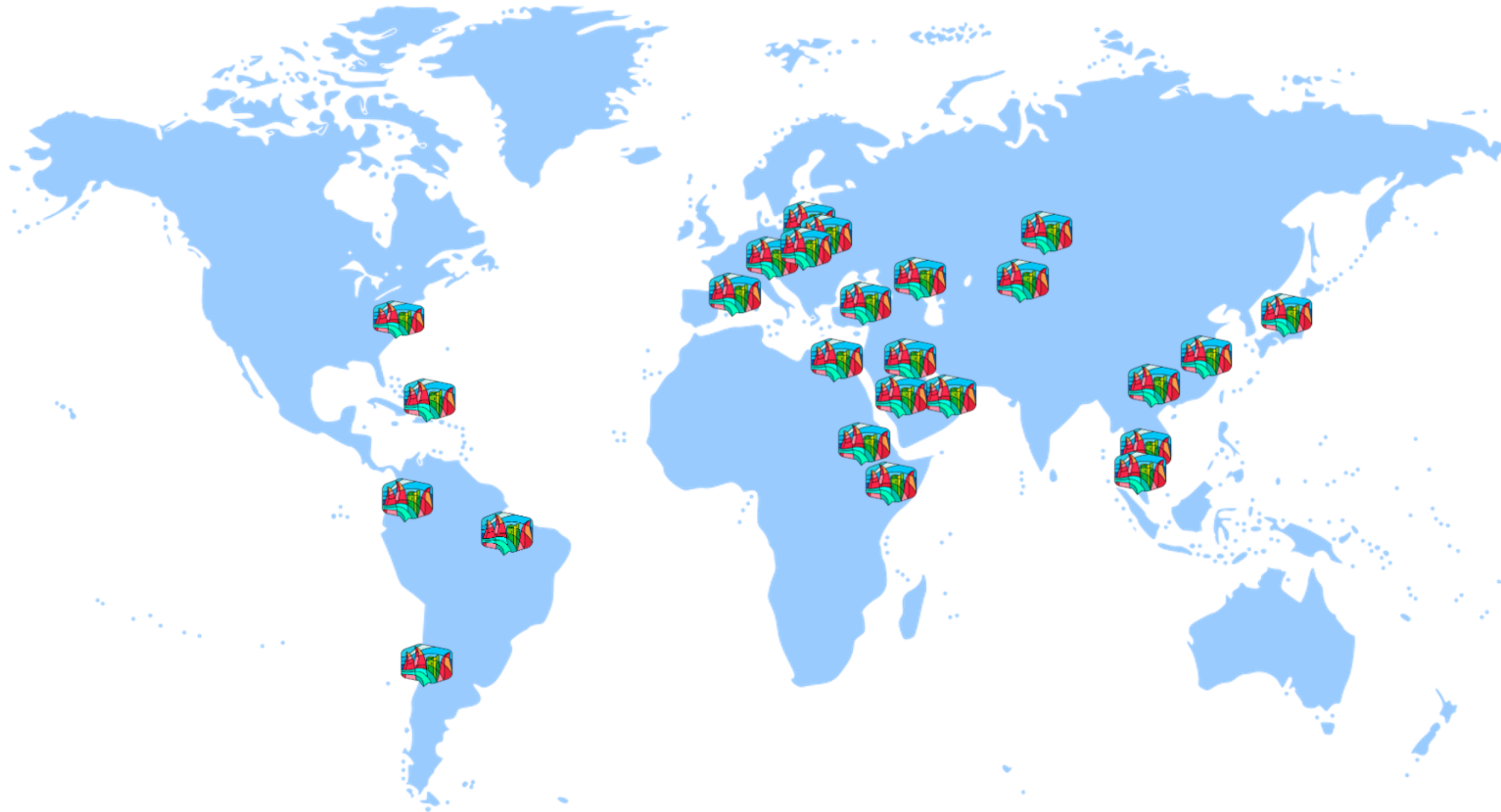
Theme

Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities

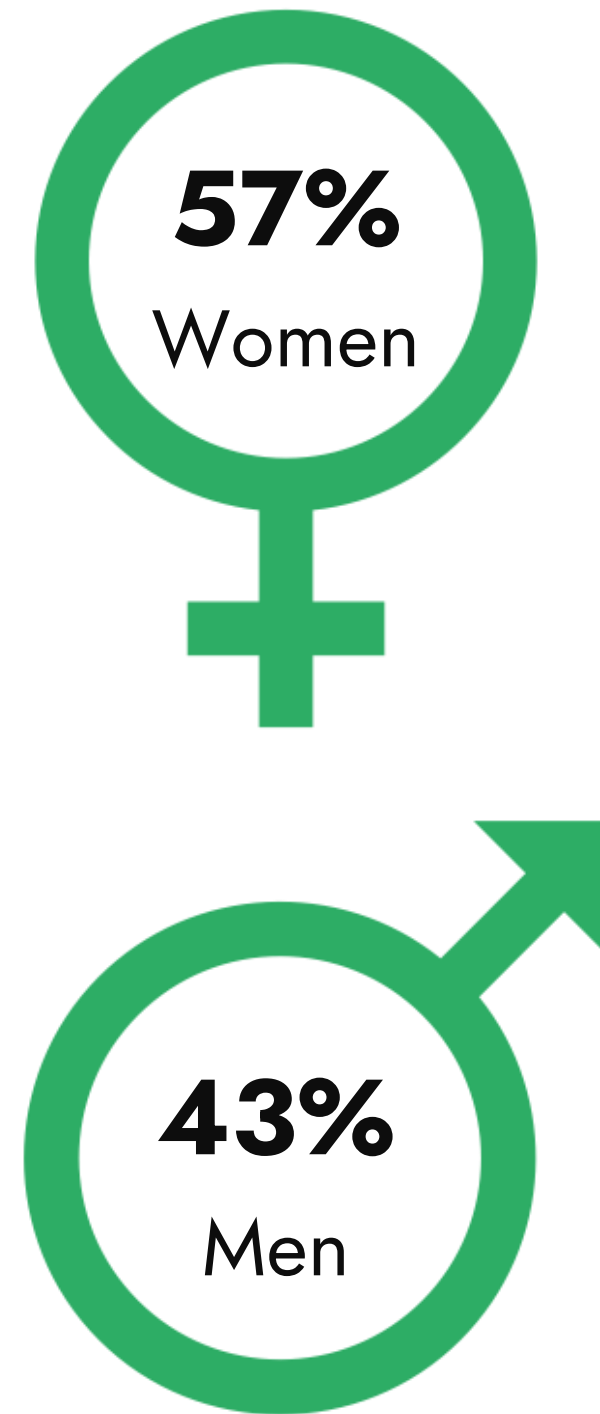
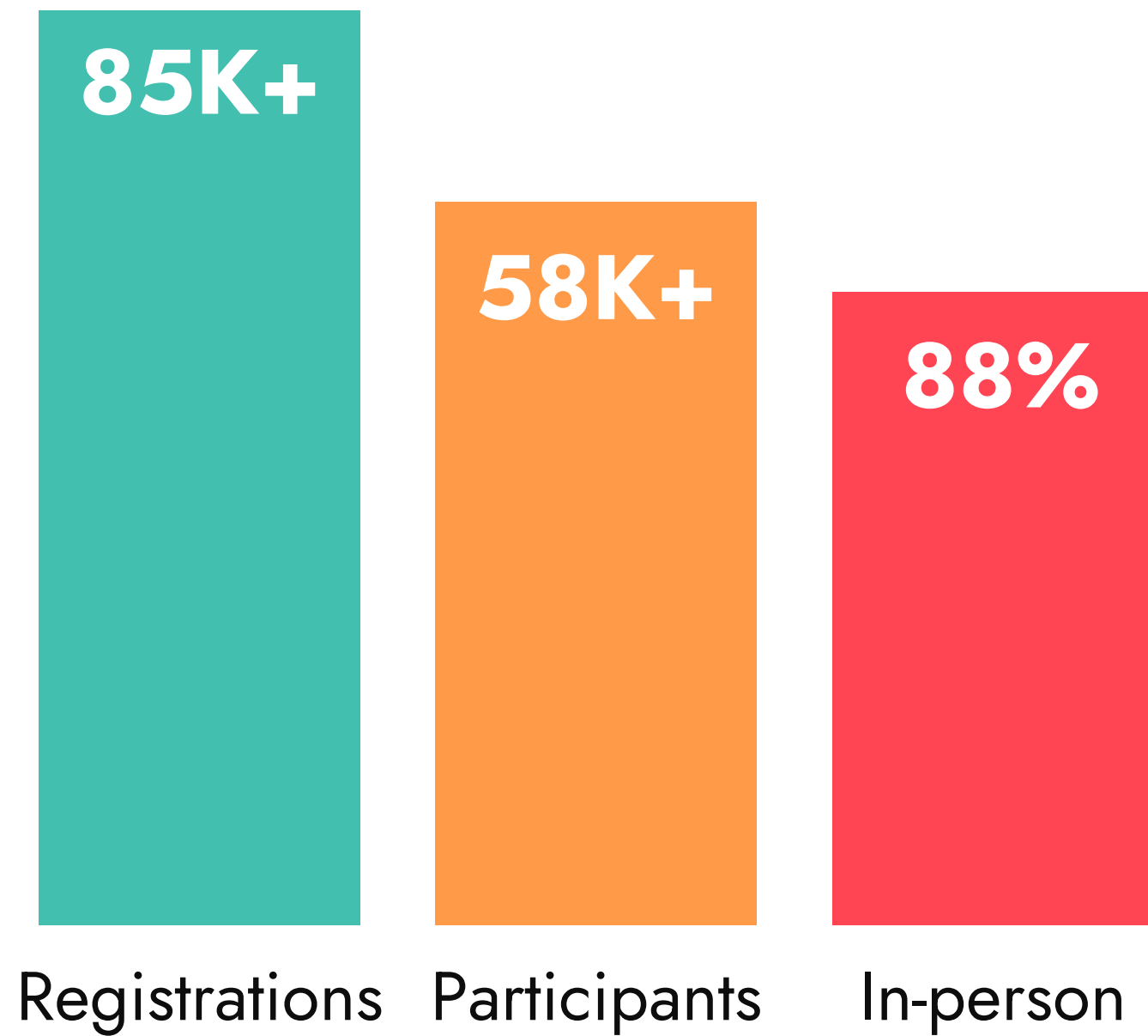


Global advocacy footprint

135+ advocacy and mobilization activities implemented



General participation



176
Countries

High-level attendance

11 Heads of states

9 High-level guests

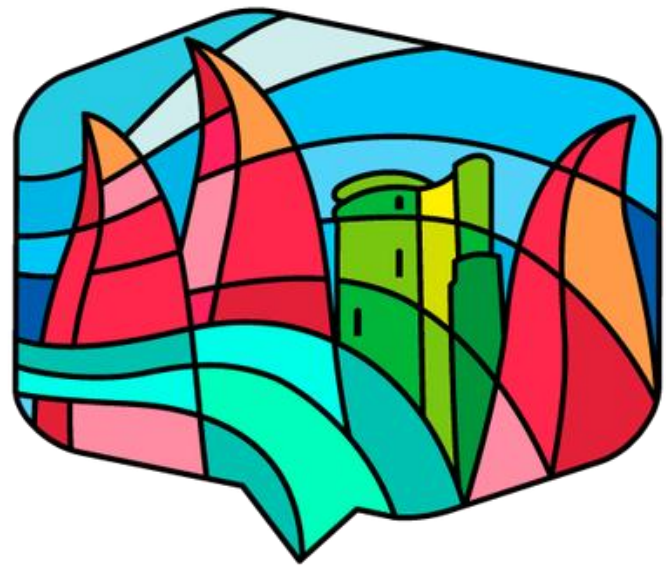
88 Ministers

76 Deputy ministers

130 Mayors



WUF13 events



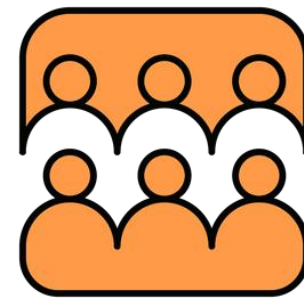
577

Total sessions



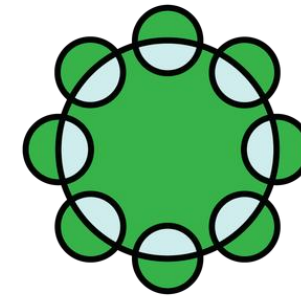
6

Dialogues



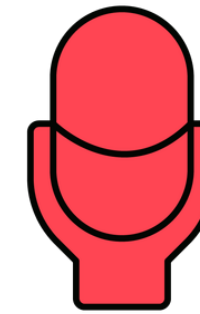
5

Assemblies



12

Roundtables



10

Special
sessions



370+

Partner-led
events

WUF13 Urban Expo

3.5

Hectares

100K+

Visits

260

Organizations

81

Countries

59

Companies
& Start-ups



Post-WUF13 Survey Results

Participants responded positively across several dimensions of the survey, reflecting a favorable overall assessment of WUF13.

91%

satisfied or very satisfied

92%

content relevant to their work

93%

improved knowledge on housing

93%

satisfied with networking

92%

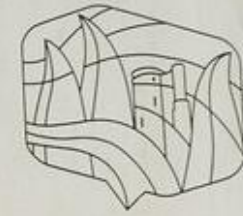
WUF key to sharing solutions

94%

likely to attend again

WUF ACADEMY CAMPUS

WORLD
URBAN
FORUM



DIGITAL LEARNING

REGISTRATION

New flagship elements at WUF13

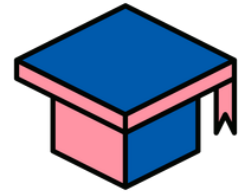




Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda

- **New flagship launched at WUF13:** Introduced a dedicated ministerial track at a pivotal moment for the New Urban Agenda, ten years after its adoption.
- **High-level political dialogue:** Convened ministers and high-level representatives to discuss housing as a driver of social inclusion, economic opportunity and climate resilience.
- **Three thematic discussions:** Housing for social inclusion and ending poverty; Housing for urban prosperity and opportunities for all; Housing for environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development.





WUF Academy

- **Bridging research, policy and practice:** Created a dedicated platform for learning and capacity development on housing and sustainable urban development.
- **Four interconnected pillars:**
 - 45 training sessions delivered by partners from different regions.
 - WUF Academy Campus featuring 15 booths and 30+ academic lectures.
 - Two roundtables for professional associations, academia and research.
 - A free digital microlearning course “Housing Primer” developed by UN-Habitat and the UN System Staff College to support continued learning on adequate housing beyond WUF13.





WUF13 Practices Hub

- **Showcasing real-world housing solutions:** 171 practices selected from more than 200 submissions received worldwide, with solutions representing 84 countries across different contexts and levels of governance. Interactive digital platform enabling participants to explore and search practices based on specific needs.
- **Connecting practitioners and decision-makers:**
 - 11 interactive sessions showcasing diverse approaches to common housing challenges.
 - Dedicated networking space to foster collaboration and exchange among practitioners, policymakers and partners.





Business & Innovation Hub

- **Advancing innovation, investment and implementation:** A dedicated platform to engage private sector actors and partners in addressing housing and urban challenges.
- **Urban value chain in action:**
 - 15 curated sessions showcasing practical solutions, delivery models and partnerships across the urban value chain.
 - Facilitated exchanges between cities, investors and practitioners to support collaboration and implementation.
- **Empowering startups and new voices:** Startup Pavilion featuring 14 startups from 10 countries.



OEWG at WUF13

- Two sessions for the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG) were held during WUF13:
 - The **Intersessional meeting on housing resilience and sustainability** to discuss and refine recommendations ahead of their tabling at OEWG-H3 in November 2026.
 - An **information session** on the objectives, process and recommendations of the Working Group, leveraging WUF to reach additional Member States and stakeholders.
- WUF main sessions, particularly the Dialogues and the Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda, and partner-led events contributed substantive inputs to the preparation of recommendations on integrated housing policies, which will be prepared for OEWG-H3.





ARENA

Outcomes of WUF13

2019

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ON CITIES



The first United Nations Habitat Assembly - the highest decision-making body on sustainable urbanization within the United Nations - is held in Nairobi

2016



SHARED VISION FOR CITIES

High-level political declaration on urbanization and sustainable cities and human settlements adopted at the Habitat III Summit on Urbanization and Sustainable Cities, 2016

2020

UN HABITAT 100 YEARS

100 years of the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects 2018

2015

2014

2014

2022

2022

Baku Call to Action

The Baku Call to Action brings together the key messages, priorities and actions emerging from discussions across WUF13 and the months leading up to the Forum.

- **Stakeholder-led outcome document:** Developed through an extensive and inclusive consultation process, it captures shared priorities and practical actions from governments, local authorities, civil society, businesses, researchers and communities.
- **A call for renewed action on housing:** Highlights the need for integrated, people-centred housing systems that connect housing with land, infrastructure, transport, public services and economic opportunity.
- **From dialogue to implementation:** Calls for stronger multilevel governance, expanded financing approaches, improved access to data, and greater support for local governments and communities.



Scan here to read the
Baku Call to Action

Chair's summary for the Ministerial Meeting

Capturing key messages emerging from ministerial national statements and thematic panel discussions at the WUF13 Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda, it provides a forward-looking synthesis of priorities for accelerating implementation during the second decade of the New Urban Agenda, with adequate housing at the centre.

Impact of the Chair's summary:

- Informed the Baku Call to Action and wider WUF13 outcomes.
- Carries ministerial messages forward to the July 2026 UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda midterm review.



Scan here to read the
Chair's summary

WUF13 Perspectives

- **Flagship knowledge product for WUF13**, building on the first edition of the WUF12 Perspectives report.
- **Comprehensive substantive analysis** of WUF 13 discussions on housing, aligned with the six Dialogues themes, capturing perspectives from diverse stakeholders and regions.
- **AI-enabled analysis of event transcripts** to identify key messages, emerging trends, and areas of convergence and divergence.
- **Transforming global discussions into actionable insights**, synthesizing lessons, priorities, and recommendations from the world's largest urban forums to inform housing policy dialogue.

Pathways to WUF14

- **Sustaining momentum on the Baku Call to Action**
 - Disseminate and promote the Baku Call to Action across global, regional and national platforms.
 - Support stakeholder engagement and dialogue on implementation priorities emerging from WUF13.
- **Advancing implementation through knowledge and partnerships**
 - Leverage WUF13 outcomes in UN-Habitat's programmatic work and implementation of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029.
 - Expand access to housing knowledge, good practices and capacity development through the Housing Knowledge Platform, WUF Practices and WUF Academy.
 - Build on the Business & Innovation Hub to strengthen private-sector engagement and partnerships.
 - Strengthening linkages with national, sub-regional and regional forums

Pathways to WUF14

- **Connecting WUF13 to global and regional processes**
 - Leverage WUF13 outcomes in regional and global intergovernmental discussions on sustainable urbanization, housing and the New Urban Agenda.
- **Building the road to WUF14**
 - Continue engagement with governments, local authorities, partners and stakeholders to shape priorities and participation for WUF14.





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