

Proposed Talking Points

- We are pleased to have hosted the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 22 May 2026, in close collaboration with UN-Habitat.
- WUF13 was convened under the theme “Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities,” placing housing at the centre of global discussions on sustainable urbanization.
- Hosting WUF13 in Azerbaijan marked the first time the World Urban Forum was held in the wider Caspian region representing an important milestone for the region and for the global urban agenda.
- WUF13 took place at a critical moment as the implementation of the New Urban Agenda has reached its halfway point.
- The Forum sent a clear message that the second decade of the New Urban Agenda must focus on accelerated implementation of stronger partnerships and measurable results for people and communities.
- WUF13 delivered a strong call to action for all of us to advance practical solutions to the global housing crisis and to accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- The Baku Call to Action, presented at the conclusion of the Forum, is a stakeholder-driven outcome calling for renewed political commitment to adequate housing and sustainable urbanization.
 - The Call to Action recognizes housing as more than shelter. It is a foundation for 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 community participation.
 - It also emphasizes the need to address affordability, security of tenure, access to serviced land, informal settlement upgrading, climate resilience and protection against forced eviction and displacement.
 - The Baku Call to Action highlights the importance of placing people at the centre of housing policy and delivery.

- As host country, the Republic of Azerbaijan was pleased to chair the full-day Ministerial Meeting which provided a dedicated high-level platform for Member States and resulted in a concrete outcome through the Chair's Summary.
- The Chair's Summary of the Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda further reinforced the need to move from commitments to delivery.
 - The Ministerial Meeting emphasized that housing must be integrated into national and local development strategies and connected with land, infrastructure, services, mobility, jobs, public spaces, social protection and climate resilience.
 - It also highlighted the importance of strengthening urban finance, municipal capacity, data systems, accountability mechanisms and multilevel governance.
- WUF13 was record-breaking in several ways.
 - The Forum brought together over 58,000 participants from 176 countries making it the largest World Urban Forum to date.
 - The Forum also featured strong high-level participation, including 11 heads of state, 9 high-level guests, 88 ministers, 76 deputy ministers and 130 mayors.
 - The Urban Expo was one of the major achievements of WUF13, attracting over 100,000 visits and bringing together 260 exhibitors, innovators and solution providers from 81 countries.
 - Beyond its scale, WUF13 introduced several innovative and flagship elements that strengthened the Forum's impact.
 - The Leaders' Statements at the Opening Ceremony of WUF13 helped galvanize political attention and commitment around housing and sustainable urbanization.
 - The WUF Academy created a space for learning, capacity-building and knowledge exchange among urban stakeholders.
 - The WUF Practices Hub showcased practical experiences, lessons and solutions from cities, communities and partners.

- The WUF Business and Innovation Hub provided a platform to engage the private sector, innovators and solution providers in advancing sustainable urban development.
- The Baku Urban Award, launched at WUF13, represents an important legacy of the Forum and will help promote and scale up advanced urban solutions in sustainable urban development and adequate housing.
- As Legacy initiative of WUF13, we are pleased to continue working with UN-Habitat on operational guidance and standards for the hosting of future sessions of the World Urban Forum.
- Azerbaijan is proud to have hosted a Forum that delivered record participation, meaningful outcomes, innovative platforms and renewed global momentum for adequate housing and sustainable urbanization.
- As host country, we remain committed to carrying forward the legacy of WUF13 and to working with UN-Habitat, Member States, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and all partners to translate the outcomes of Baku into practical action.