



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

MEDIA ADVISORY

Fuzhou, China, to host World Cities Day 2026

Nairobi, 14 October 2026 — The global observance of World Cities Day 2026 will take place on 31 October in Fuzhou, China, under the theme “Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All.”

It will conclude UN-Habitat’s Urban October, a month-long campaign promoting sustainable urban development and adequate housing for all.

World Cities Day 2026 will look at how urban regeneration helps address the global housing crisis by improving existing urban areas, expanding access to adequate housing and creating more inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. The event will bring together UN officials, governments, local authorities, international organizations, academia, the private sector and communities to exchange experiences and explore practical solutions to shared urban challenges.

WHAT: World Cities Day 2026: Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All
WHEN: 31 October 2026, 3–5:30 p.m. (GMT+8)
WHERE: Fuzhou Strait International Conference and Exhibition Center, Fuzhou, China

Highlights

The global observance will be part of a three-day programme running from 31 October to 2 November, featuring a high-level opening ceremony, thematic forums, side events bringing together urban decision makers and practitioners, exhibitions and city tours.

The programme will also include the presentation of the fourth-cycle Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award), recognizing cities for their achievements in sustainable urban development.

World Cities Day will be available live and on demand on [UN Web TV](#). Registration is open until 26 October 2026 [here](#).

More details about the event and the programme will be released soon at unhabitat.org/urban-october-2026.

Why it matters

Up to 3.4 billion people worldwide experience some form of housing inadequacy, including more than 1.1 billion people living in informal settlements and slums. Climate change, conflicts and displacement are placing additional pressure on housing systems, while cities face growing challenges related to housing affordability, ageing neighbourhoods and social inequality.

Urban regeneration offers opportunities to address these challenges by improving existing neighbourhoods, upgrading housing and infrastructure, expanding access to basic services and creating more inclusive and resilient urban environments.

World Cities Day 2026 will highlight how urban regeneration contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and advancing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

About World Cities Day

World Cities Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 and first celebrated in 2014. Observed annually on 31 October, it promotes international cooperation in addressing the opportunities and challenges of urbanization and advancing sustainable urban development.

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About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action.

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