



# URBAN OCTOBER REPORT 2022





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## Introduction

Urbanization presents some of the most significant opportunities and challenges in the world today. Cities are centres for economic growth and development but also face demographic, environmental, economic and social challenges.

The United Nation's Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 – “to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” – identifies sustainable urbanization as one of the key priorities for global development. The adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the United Nations in 2016 has seen national and local governments around the world embark on a transformative path towards making SDG11 a reality. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals offer the best framework to address the world's most pressing challenges. More than the 65% of the SDG targets are related to the work and mandate of local governments.

By engaging all stakeholders, cities have the ability to harness transformational change and improve the life of their inhabitants; however, in many contexts, cities lack the capacity to enact this change. Ensuring cities have the capacity, capability and tools to address the challenges posed by urbanization has become a pressing global issue.

### Urban October: 31 days of promoting a better urban future

Urban October was developed to raise awareness, promote participation, generate knowledge and engage the international community in creating a better urban future.

Every October UN-Habitat, the United Nations agency for cities and towns, and partners organize a month of activities, events and discussions



**With nearly 70% of the world's population living in cities by 2050, the future of humanity is urban.**

on urban sustainability. Urban October is an opportunity for people around the world to join the conversation around the challenges and opportunities created by the fast pace of change in our cities and towns. National and local governments, universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), communities and other stakeholders in sustainable urbanization are encouraged to hold or participate in activities, events, and discussions.

Urban October begins with World Habitat Day at the start of the month and ends with World Cities Day on 31 October. Activities to mark Urban October take place around the world on these specific days and throughout the month. Different cities across the world host the global observances of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day each year. Since 2020, the global observance events have been held in a hybrid virtual/in-person format.



*“UN-Habitat has been at the forefront of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. We help by continuing to advocate for practical ways to incorporate the SDGs in local plans; creative ways to collect and use data to inform decision-making; and most importantly, provide guidelines to ensure wider opportunities for women, youth and the disabled to participate in the making and implementation of action plans.”*

**Maimunah Mohd Sharif,**  
UN-Habitat Executive Director



## World Habitat Day

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our habitats, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The day is also to remind the world of the power and responsibility to shape the future of our habitats. World Habitat Day launches Urban October. The day centres around the global observance, which is held in a different country each year, with keynote speakers and roundtable discussions on specific topics related to the overarching theme of the day. This year marked 36 years since World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme 'Shelter is my right'. Since then, the event has grown in stature and prestige and is now one of the flagships events of UN-Habitat.



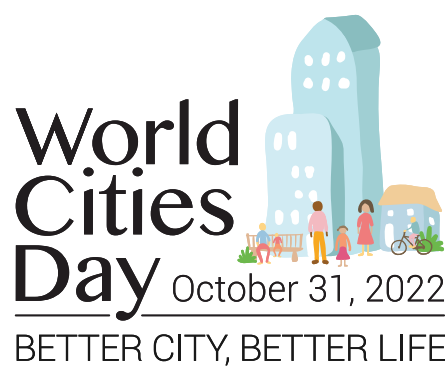
In 2022, World Habitat Day explored the problem of growing inequality in cities and how to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, rural and urban areas, and different neighbours within cities. The pandemic and recent conflicts have reversed years of progress made in the fight against poverty and tackling urban poverty and inequality has become an urgent global priority. This year's global observance took place in Balıkesir, Türkiye.

World Habitat Day is also an opportunity to celebrate people and organizations around the world that have made particularly notable contributions to the field through the presentation of the Scroll of Honour awards.

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## World Cities Day

World Cities Day brings Urban October to an end on 31 October each year and was first celebrated in 2014. As with World Habitat Day, a global observance is held in a different city each year and the day focuses on a specific theme, with roundtables exploring related topics. The event rounds off the month's activities by bringing together key partners and stakeholders to discuss the prevailing themes of Urban October and share ideas and recommendations for action and the implementation of the SDGs.



**Act local to go global**

This year's World Cities Day focused on the importance of localization and local action, exploring what types of local action have been successful and how to empower local and regional governments to create greener, more equitable and sustainable cities. The global observance took place in Shanghai, China.

## Scroll of Honour awards

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour award was launched in 1989 and is one of the most prestigious sustainable urbanization awards in the world. It aims to acknowledge initiatives that have made outstanding contributions in the field of human settlements, the provision of housing, highlighting the plight of people living in poverty or who have been displaced, and developing and improving

human settlements and the quality of urban life, in line with SDG 11: sustainable cities and communities.

The Scroll of Honour awards, plaques engraved with the name of the winning individual, city or institution, are presented to the winners during the World Habitat Day global observance. This year's winners included the creator of the concept of the 15-Minute City.

## Urban October 2022 in figures



**40 events**  
for World Habitat Day



**5 winners**  
for Scroll of Honour  
award from Africa, Asia,  
Latin America



**36 events**  
for World Cities Day



**236 events**  
in the Americas, 69 events in  
Europe, 61 events in Asia, 40  
events in Africa and 2 events  
in Oceania



**408 events**  
focusing global attention  
on the challenges and  
opportunities created by our  
increasingly urban world



**190 events**  
in Brazil – one of the most  
active countries during  
Urban October

# Urban October 2022 key messages

## Inequality

- Cities generate wealth but also concentrate poverty and inequality. In 2016, 75% of cities had higher levels of inequality compared to the previous two decades.
- The combined crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts have increased the emergence of newly poor people and widened the inequality gap. In 2021, an estimated 163 million people had fallen into poverty due to these multiple crises. In 2022, conflicts pushed over 70 million people below the poverty line. Most of the pandemic-induced new poor are living in urban areas.
- Climate change and natural disasters affect the poor at hardest. As of 2022, in addition to the 1 billion people living in informal settlements, 600 million live in unsafe housing.



**In 2016, 75% of cities had higher levels of inequality compared to the previous two decades.**

- Minorities are the most vulnerable of the urban poor, facing specific challenges in the context of displacement due to various discriminations factors, including gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and others.
- Poorly managed urbanization has contributed to growing inequalities. People living in poorly planned and inadequately connected areas of cities spend far more time accessing public services, jobs, food and are more exposed to pollution, congestion, inefficiencies and natural disasters.
- As of 2022, 1 billion people were living in slums. This figure is expected to grow by 20 million people per year until 2050. People living in slums and informal settlements suffer from

the lack of access to improved water and sanitation facilities, overcrowded and precarious housing conditions and location, voicelessness and powerlessness in political systems and governance processes, and lack of tenure security.



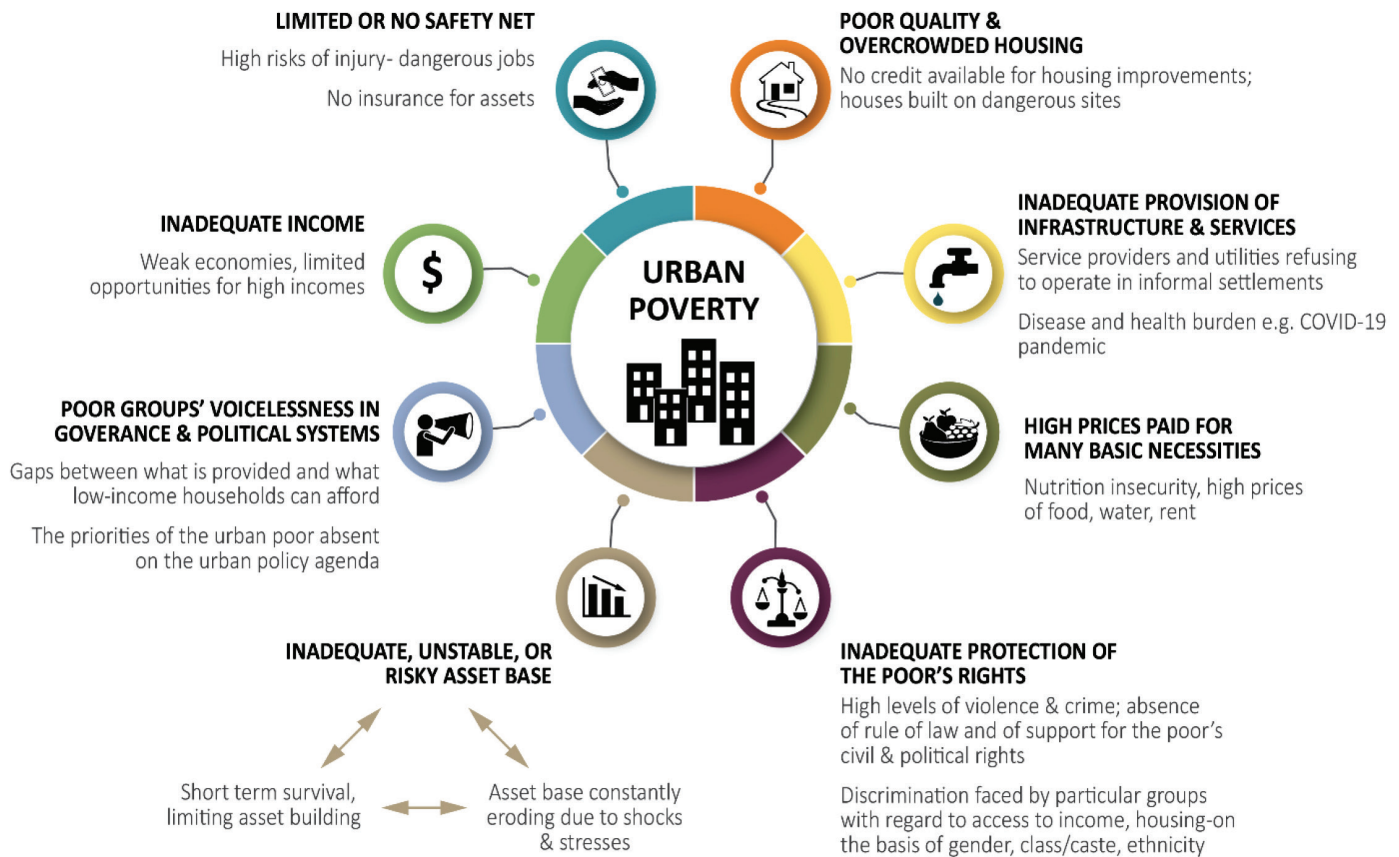
**In 2021, an estimated 163 million people had fallen into poverty due to these multiple crises. In 2022, conflicts pushed over 70 million people below the poverty line.**

## Closing the gap

- Tackling poverty and inequality is one of the key global priorities for creating equitable and inclusive cities that provide opportunities and prosperity for all. To achieve this requires bold actions to break the structural barriers that trap people in cycles of poverty and inequality.
- Without concerted action at all levels, poverty and inequality could become the face of the future of cities.
- Within the Decade of Action window (2020–2030), cities and subnational governments should adopt a multidimensional approach to addressing poverty and inequality.
- Investing in infrastructure and services to deprived neighbourhoods is critical to addressing poverty and inequality. Planned urban growth can reduce spatial inequalities and eradicate poverty through developing compact, connected, resilient, mixed-use, and socially mixed cities.
- Supporting informal employment and gender transformative approaches are key to building inclusive urban futures.

- Social inclusion is about promoting equality and improving participation, particularly for people who are disadvantaged. It implies enhancing people's opportunities, abilities, dignity, access to resources and voice in decision-making.
- Ensuring an enabling environment for inclusive cities is driven by strong political will, transparent legal frameworks, responsive urban plans and designs and effective financial plans.

Figure 1: Multidimensional nature of urban poverty (Source: UN-Habitat, World Cities Report 2022)







## World Habitat Day 2022

Mind the gap. Leave no one and no place behind.

Tackling inequalities through SDG actions



*“World Habitat Day is a great opportunity to raise awareness and push for immediate action in cities and communities.”*

Maimunah Mohd Sharif,  
UN-Habitat Executive Director

## Key messages



Inequalities and poverty are increasing around the world. People living in cities and town are affected the most. Many urban residents have lost their income or housing due to conflicts, natural disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic.



Local action to implement the SDGs can help address inequalities, deliver climate action, and ensure green and inclusive recovery from the pandemic and other crises.



Human rights-based approaches, social protection policies and good multilevel governance focused on participation and inclusion are key to solving urban poverty and inequality.



Without concerted action at all levels, poverty and inequality could become the face of the future of cities.

## Global Observance 2022

This year's Global Observance of World Habitat Day took place in Balıkesir, Türkiye, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. The First Lady of Türkiye Her Excellency Madam Emine Erdoğan attended the Global Observance. In her statement at the opening ceremony, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat Maimunah Mohd Sharif highlighted the role of cities in addressing poverty and inequality, and preparing for and preventing future crises.

*"If cities have all the tools they need, they can plan and take action to create inclusive, resilient and green human settlements. And reduce the gap between the haves and have-nots. And prepare and prevent future crises. This is why the theme of this year's World Habitat Day [...] is 'Mind the gap. Leave no one and no place behind.'"*

Maimunah Mohd Sharif,  
UN-Habitat Executive Director

In a virtual message, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres underlined the importance of local action in delivering inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.



*"To leave no one behind is the core pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This means making cities work for women and children and closing existing gaps: between the haves and the have-nots; within and between urban and rural areas; and within and between developed and developing regions."*

Antonio Guterres,  
UN Secretary General

Other speakers included Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, President of the Ethnosport Federation, Martha Peralta Delgado, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly and Murat Kurum, Minister of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye.





*“We need to support cities to recover from the pandemic, better integrate the most vulnerable groups.”*

Martha Peralta Delgado,  
President of the UN-Habitat Assembly



*“To leave no one behind, we need to ensure that no culture is left behind.”*

Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan,  
President of the Ethnosport Federation



*“Cities as cradles of civilization where people should thrive and no one should be left behind.”*

Murat Kurum,  
Minister of Environment, Urbanisation and  
Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye



*“Youth are essential to ensure the future prosperity of cities.”*

Samed Ağırbaş,  
Youth Representative, Türkiye

around the world have demonstrated bold action in many contexts showing that it is possible to reverse negative trends and accelerate the achievement of SDGs. Cities and communities should be seen as positive accelerators to address the current crisis, planting the seeds of a new social contract to address deepening urban divides and chart a more inclusive roadmap towards recovery. The SDGs offer a comprehensive framework to guide the new social contract. The New Urban Agenda goes deeper in defining the scope for a new social contract in cities. Localization of the SDGs can help and guide for more inclusive and participatory processes of urban planning and governance.

*“The new social contract is based on multi-level governance, process oriented with increased participation, fostering radical innovation. It has to be ethical, practical, enforceable, and driven by human rights.”*

Professor Siraj Sait,  
Noon Centre, University of East London

### Recommendations:

1. Expand on the localization of the SDGs.
2. Innovation needs to be radical and use technology to support the acceleration of SDG localization.
3. Human rights should be at the center of a new social contract.

## World Habitat Day roundtables

World Habitat Day 2022 included four roundtables bringing key stakeholders together to discuss the challenges of inequality and explore solutions. The ideas and messages emerging from these discussions are summarized below:

### Roundtable 1: A new social contract for urban resilience and sustainability

There is an urgent need to empower cities to respond to the triple-C crises (Covid-19, climate change and conflict) and potential future crises through new social contracts — by focusing on building greater resiliency and inclusivity through participatory governance processes. Leaders

Poverty and inequality are often a reflection of social and cultural structural challenges. Sectors that have traditionally been inaccessible to certain groups can shift with effective policy and governance arrangements, as well as a commitment to change from city leaders. There is a lack of data at the local level to understand the dynamics of inequality and be able to provide targeted solutions. The link between income inequality and territorial

segregation is key to these dynamics. Good practice to address inequality includes initiatives to provide employment for marginalized groups within the transport sector in India and the provision of social facilities and subsidized market prices for vulnerable communities to ensure access to food, services and recreational facilities in Turkey.

#### Recommendations:

1. Identify opportunities to formalize markets and offer job opportunities at the local level.
2. Robust consultation is key before policies and plans are developed to ensure that the needs of citizens are being addressed.
3. Governments should collaborate with NGOs. There is a need for a more collaborative model of governance to understand what people need and how to better share responsibilities.
4. Invest in productivity rather than subsidies to stop perpetuating the inequality gap.
5. Urban planning should promote redistribution and parity in reciprocal recognition, inclusion and the acknowledgement of diversity.

*“In our local government in India, a special department works to empower women through financial support and access to opportunities to revert structural inequalities.”*

Dipti Mahapatro, General Manager  
Capital Region Urban Transport,  
Bhubaneswar, India

*“Community initiatives for inclusion and formalization are the way forward since they generate a strong sense of trust and engagement, and represent no cost to the government.”*

Norliza binti Hashim,  
CEO Urbanice Malaysia

### Roundtable 3: Don't leave the youth behind

The roundtable was an opportunity to discuss the current dilemmas faced by the youth as facing the current triple-C crises (Covid-19, climate change and conflict). Youth are on the frontlines of the crises but they also creating change within their communities, building innovative solutions to address key challenges, ushering in a more sustainable future.

The rising generation of youth can play a critical role in redefining the new social contract needed in cities and communities. Youth have social capital, are innovators and transmitters of ideas and new dynamic to exchange ideas. For that, local governments can play a key role by providing the means of participation and engagement of the youth. They should provide the space for the youth to have their voice. They should also build capacity by providing training opportunities to develop necessary skills.

Councils of youth that have been established in some municipalities around the world should be replicated to better engage them on the SDG implementation. Leaving no youth behind means engaging them in a meaningful way, as positive assets in their communities.

#### Recommendations:

1. The rising generation of youth should play a critical role in redefining the new social contract needed in cities and communities.
2. Meaningful engagement and participation of the youth in policies and decision-making is needed at the city and country level. It has to be defined by the youth themselves.
3. Local governments have a responsibility in providing the means of participation and engagement of the youth.

*“It is of critical importance to address the generational gap in society... As youth are growing and developing, the elder generation must act to match these advances and develop together with their youth.”*

Dr. Hayri Baraclı, Secretary General,  
Union of Municipalities of Türkiye

*“Youth must be reached out via the channels they use and understand, including digital technologies. This is essential for effectively communicating with the younger generation.”*

Mr. Jasiel Ceseña,  
Principal Secretary, Municipality of Los Cabos, Mexico

#### Roundtable 4: Urban regeneration: social value creation

The winners of the 2022 Scroll of Honour awards explored urban regeneration as a tool to reverse negative trends in inequality and poverty and to localize the SDGs, achieving social, economic and environmental benefits. There are different entry points to help accelerate investments in cities and its neighbourhoods, such as the need for urban recovery. In many of the regeneration initiatives a multi-level outcome was envisioned or became apparent while working together with the local stakeholders understanding their needs better. Participants highlighted a variety of transformative ideas for urban regeneration with social, economic and environmental benefits in different contexts worldwide. The concept of a 15-minute city, developed at the Sorbonne in France, is addressing climate change in cities, developing more inclusive, localized cities and creating local economies. Nigeria has demonstrated how local commerce can function as a common good by using simple technology to recycle electronic waste and create energy solutions for disadvantaged communities. The city of Recife in Brazil showcased Programme Parceria, which invests in participatory processes to reduce natural disaster risk in neighbourhoods, improving infrastructure in existing settlements and avoiding evictions, while also creating a strong bond between communities and their living environments.

#### Recommendations:

1. Decision-makers need to listen to the citizens and local communities, sometimes they already have the solutions. Governments need to develop unique solutions for different areas in their cities.
2. Urban regeneration is not a utopia. We can and need to change our urban lifestyle. Through the concept of proximity creating vibrant neighbourhoods and enhancing the local economy.
3. Embrace the power of the small. Urban regeneration can benefit from small interventions: every small action contributes to bigger objectives of urban regeneration.
4. Create more awareness and build capacity within the education system, so that young people can play a role in urban regeneration and climate change action.

*“Through urban transformation we can achieve social results: reduction of urban poverty, increased urban living standards, increased economic opportunities, risk reduction of earthquake and natural disasters reduced, social value increased.”*

Ömer Bulut, Mass Housing  
Development Administration (TOKİ), Turkey

*“We need to discover people and say ‘good morning’ to your neighbours. To live in otherness, live in a social mix to create a respectful society.”*

Professor Carlos Moreno,  
15 Minute City Global Initiative, Sorbonne, France





## Scroll of Honour awards 2022

The 244 nominations for the Scroll of Honour awards 2022 were judged based on their contribution to UN-Habitat's mandate to promote socially and environmentally sustainable cities and human settlements and to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as innovative responses to this year's World Habitat Day theme of growing inequality. The awards were presented during the World Habitat Day Global Observance in Balıkesir, Turkey.

*"I am impressed with these innovative ideas and outstanding work. We need more solutions, and we need them now to make sure we close the gap and leave no one and no place behind."*

UN-Habitat Executive Director,  
Maimunah Mohd Sharif

## The winners of the 2022 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour are:

### 1. 15-minute City Global Initiative

For offering a compelling model with global outreach that facilitates narratives and mobilization on sustainable urban development and is contributing to accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as a blueprint for Covid-19 recovery.



## 2. Stanley Anigbogu, from Nigeria

For his pioneering use of simple technology and recycling electronic waste to create innovative energy solutions for marginalized communities and families, small business owners and refugees.



## 4. Programa Parceria, Recife, Brazil

For its in-situ approach to undertake disaster risk reduction strategies and enhance resilience in favelas with a community-based approach that seeks to improve infrastructure in existing settlements and avoid evictions.



## 3. Dipti Mahapatro, from Bhubaneswar, India

For her innovative leadership in turning a failing public-private transport service into inclusive, accessible, cleaner and safer urban mass rapid transit system with transformative impacts, especially regarding opportunities for women.



## 5. URBAN Intergroup of the European Parliament

For being effective in enabling European legislation, policies, and financing for sustainable urban development in cities and human settlements that can provide inspiration for parliaments and parliamentary assemblies in other regions of the world.







### Case study: The 15-minute City

The 15-minute City Global Initiative was given the Scroll of Honour award for its innovative responses and solutions around the 2022 World Habitat Day theme of inequality. The 15-minute city concept is an urban model conceived by Carlos Moreno, scientific director and professor, and guided by scientists from Chaire ETI at the Sorbonne Business School in France. The idea has been adopted by several cities around the world as a blueprint for post-Covid-19 recovery. It is an integrated approach to urban life bringing together mobility, housing, economic development, education and culture. The initiative has sparked a global movement to tackle car dominance, climate change and urban inequality by reintroducing the quality of proximity within urban planning. Proximity creates more time for social interactions, promotes pedestrianization reducing CO2 emissions and promotes local commerce. The 15-minute city has become a global movement influencing a range of local adaptations of the approach to advance the New Urban Agenda.



*“The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour 2022 Award for the 15’min City Project is a new international recognition for this pioneering initiative to create happy neighbours and find new solutions in the face of climate change and economic and social challenges for cities.”*

Professor Carlos Moreno,  
Creator of the 15-minute city concept





## World Habitat Day 2022 events in Africa

### Nigeria

#### Workshop on the celebration of the World Habitat Day 2022

*Ibadan, 12 October*

Organised by the Faculty of Environmental Design and Management, Lead City University, Ibadan, this event explored the challenges of the inequalities in human settlements through presentations and discussions. The event was attended by Tilewa Makon, Special Adviser on Housing to the Governor of Oyo State, and chairpersons from key professional bodies from the construction, architecture and town planning sectors.

#### Lessons from the event:

- We all have power and responsibilities in shaping the future of towns and cities.
- Planning for the poor, especially street children, is critical.

- Professionals must take appropriate actions to deliver necessary services and maintain human settlements.
- Urban interventions must be undertaken with adequate consideration for public interest and inclusivity.

*“Inclusive governance which allows local participation is the only way for redistribution of opportunities and building resilience against crime, crises, climate and Covid-19 stress.”*

Muyiwa Ige,  
Leo Biga Associate Limited, Nigeria

*“To mind the gaps, a smart city that create conveniences for all citizens must be the focus.”*

Olabode Akindeji-Oladeji, Chairman/CEO FIAT International Limited and Chief Strategy Officer of Waste Professional Limited, Nigeria

## World Habitat Day 2022 events in Asia

### India

#### Creative engagement with children of deprived urban communities

Chennai, 3 October

As part of its Urban October Campaign 2022, the Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC), an NGO based in Chennai, facilitated a creative engagement initiative with children of marginalized communities to illustrate the need for a democratic space for children to contribute to public policy and programming. At the event, 50 children (31 girls and 19 boys) expressed their aspirations for a child-friendly, green and sustainable city.

#### Key points:

- Including children's voices in planning and development will help regional and local government to address issues effectively with a child-friendly perspective.

*“The Child Friendly Cities Initiative of UNICEF defines a child-friendly city as a ‘city, town, or community where voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes, and decisions’. We are demanding for a local governance model that focuses on addressing the specific needs of children by enhancing their participation in the ward and area committees.”*

J. Vimal, IRCDUC

#### Release of report on ensuring security of tenure for deprived urban communities in Chennai

Chennai, 3 October

As part of the Urban October Campaign 2022, IRCDUC launched a report on security of tenure in the Madras Urban Development Project in Chennai. The report was based on a field study conducted in 50 out of nearly 300 settlements benefitting from the project, which was funded by World Bank. One of the recommendations of the report is for the Government of Tamil Nadu to form a high-level committee to monitor the process of issuance of deeds (land titles). The media coverage resulted in widespread debate about the right to land for deprived urban communities and the Government of Tamil Nadu is now taking actions to issue sale deeds.

#### Key points:

- Security of tenure needs to be recognised by state policies and programmes.
- There is a direct link between property rights and poverty reduction.
- Vulnerable families are unable to break free from intergenerational poverty because they reside on lands that continue not to be legally recognized and consequently are subjected to threats of eviction.

## Japan

### World Habitat Day Children's Drawing Contest

*Fukuoka, 6 October 2022*

The World Habitat Day 2022 Children's Drawing Contest, organized by the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), focused on the theme of 'This is how I transform our city for a better urban future'. There were 494 applications from five countries (Australia, China, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand) in Asia and the Pacific. The Gold Prize winner was Wu Peishan, aged 10, from Chongqing Nanping Experimental Primary School in China.

#### Key points:

- The children's drawings showed their great concern for their communities, cities and the Earth and explored various issues such as climate change, aging, inclusiveness, education, poverty and peace. We hear their voices through drawings and need to think what we can leave for them in future.

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*"[My drawing is of] the tree of future technology. It allows the city and farmland to form a spatial layering. It maximizes, naturalizes and conceptualizes farming, and realizes a truly natural and environmentally friendly life."*

Wu Peishan, aged 10,  
Winner of World Habitat Day Drawing Contest

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## Nepal

### World Habitat Day 2022: Inclusive cities for sustainable urbanization in Nepal

*17 October*

Mr. Bruno Dercon, Regional Director of UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) Japan.

World Habitat Day in Nepal, one of the fastest urbanizing countries globally, was marked by a one-day event jointly organized by Ministry of Urban

Development and UN-Habitat exploring the problem of growing inequality and challenges in cities and the urbanization process of Nepal. The discussions highlighted the challenges of inequality, hearing the experiences of the marginalized and understanding the benefits that inclusion brings to whole society. Dr. Ramesh Prasad Singh, Secretary of Ministry of Urban Development, attended.

#### Key points:

- There were encouraging signs that local government is prioritizing inclusivity.
- The Ministry of Urban Development needs to review and revise the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Guidelines (2013).
- Green Resilient Inclusive Development (GRID) was highlighted as a way forward to address the complex issues of urbanization, climate change and its interaction.
- There are three key elements to urban development: disaster risk; public spaces; and mobility.

## Pakistan

### Celebration of World Habitat Day 2022 – Mind the gap, leaving no one and no place behind

*Islamabad, 3 October 2022*

UN-Habitat Pakistan organized a seminar putting the spotlight on widening inequalities in relation to the impacts of climate change, highlighted and exacerbated by the 2022 floods in Pakistan, and the need to share cost-effective technologies for the provision of clean water. The discussions centered on actions needed to improve people's quality of life. There is a need for transformative change, starting with the individual and the community, and scaling up to city-level change.

#### Key points:

- Local action is the best way to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

- More urgent action and greater investments are needed for innovative solutions to address inequalities and tackle the climate crisis, and drive a green and inclusive pandemic recovery.
- Community engagement and raising awareness about inspiring innovations are essential to push for immediate action.

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*“Habitat is the right of all living beings. If we leave any segment of life behind, there will be an aftermath for all in the form of urban flooding and heatwaves. Therefore there is a need to bridge the gap through ecosystem preservation.”*

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman of  
Pakistan Council for Research on Water Resources

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## World Habitat Day 2022 events in Europe

### Norway

#### Urban rivers: connecting people, cities and rivers

Oslo, 3 October

This seminar was part of an ongoing process to build a community of knowledge and practice on People Centred and Resilient Spaces related to Urban Rivers (PEARLS), initiated by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Participants discussed opportunities for river restoration in times of climate crisis and showcased six inspiring and successful case studies of river regeneration globally and the applied tools and approaches. The event was followed by an excursion of a river that was reopened in Oslo. This hybrid event was attended by 400 people, including the Mayor of Oslo Marianne Borgen and José Chong of UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme. Fifty professionals working in sustainable urban development attended in person.

#### Key points:

- The meaningful participation of residents and the sustainable urban river rehabilitation process through participation is time consuming.
- Urban river management must be prioritized due to its importance at the social, climatic and physical levels.
- Interventions must be as close to nature as possible, in co-creation with the riverside community, taking into account sustainability, water preservation, and population health with accessible housing and leisure.

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*“Water is the most social thing, since it is everywhere in society, within us, between us, running through our bodies, houses, streets etc. How one sees and defines water defines how one would develop a city.”*

Professor Terje Tvedt, University of Bergen

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*“Control of water is to control life. It brings great power and much responsibility.”*

Professor Terje Tvedt, University of Bergen

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## Spain

### Mind the gap: addressing territorial inequalities

*Cáceres, 3 October*

The Regional Government of Extremadura and UN-Habitat Spain organized a hybrid event to discuss how to reduce inequalities and the gap between urban and rural, introducing new perspectives in the design and planning of towns, cities and territories that consider gender, children, older people and other vulnerable groups. The dialogue focused on the participatory and inclusive urbanism needed to make our society an equitable and better world. The event was attended by mayors, ministers and representatives of the Regional Government of Extremadura.

### Key points:

- Extremadura's territorial work to close the inequality gap was acknowledged in the last Quadrennial Report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- Poverty and inequality are not the same; we need to rethink these concepts and their operationalization, and to understand where and how action is taken.
- The gap between urban and rural areas has continued to grow worldwide.

*“UN-Habitat data clearly show that it is not poverty per se that generates violence and criminality; poverty, violence and criminality are not statistically correlated. Inequality, violence and crime are statistically correlated.”*

Eduardo López Moreno, Former Director of Research and Innovation of UN-Habitat

## World Habitat Day 2022 events in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Cuba

#### Inauguration of the 9th National Urban Forum and celebration of World Habitat Day

*Havana, 3 October*

Launching the 9th National Urban Forum (IX Foro Urbano Nacional), this event discussed the role of the central government and municipal administrations in recovery after natural disasters. The passage of Hurricane Ian through the west of the country, with greatest impact on Pinar del Río, and the devastation it caused, highlighted the need to prioritize actions to reduce the exposure

of human settlements to risk from natural disasters, increase their resilience and reduce their vulnerability to nature.

### Key points:

- Guidelines and a 10-step procedure were developed to be taken into account during the recovery process from natural disaster, specifying actions corresponding to specific criteria (e.g. total or partial collapse of the roof, total or partial collapse of the house) to avoid reproducing vulnerabilities and facilitate decision-making.









## Urban October 2022

### Events in Africa

#### Ethiopia

Urban October Ethiopia was a series of events celebrated in multiple cities using various platforms and addressing major urban challenges and opportunities. The series included a photo exhibition in Hawassa showcasing UN-Habitat's dumpsite rehabilitation project, a 10km 'plogging' event with local schools collecting plastic waste and a non-motorized transport day in Hawassa.

#### Panel discussion on 'Waste management system of Hawassa – opportunities and challenges'

*Hawassa, 28 October*

This event promoted participation and knowledge-sharing among waste stakeholders (city dwellers, waste sector representatives, the neighbouring community near the Hawassa dumpsite, NGOs and academics) to improve waste management in Hawassa city. The discussion addressed various issues such as the poor market linkages, the city's plan to construct a new landfill site, the existing dumpsite that is under rehabilitation with the support of UN-Habitat to be used as a recycling centre, and the challenges of e-waste.

#### Key points:

- For sustainable waste management, waste must be considered a resource.
- Community engagement across all sectors is key, including supporting schools to raise awareness and organize activities to advocate for household waste management.
- City authorities must support the creation of job opportunities for the urban poor and also create market opportunities.

#### Gambia

#### Mangroves for poverty eradication and environmental protection

*Serrekunda, 29-30 October*

The Bamboo Foundation, an organization focused on mitigating the effects of climate change through rapid reforestation, organized this two-day event to plant mangrove trees and raise awareness of reforestation and climate change among the local community. Protecting the environment in the form of planting trees and communicating key awareness messages through organization and community initiatives are crucial steps towards environmental protection.

**Key points:**

- People still lack adequate information about climate change and its effect on the environment, especially those from poor, rural communities.
- More sensitization programmes should be conducted in schools and local communities. Access to adequate information will go a long way in changing people's perception of climate change.

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*“If we destroy the environment there won't be any societies.”*

Ansumana Darboe, President of  
Sankandi Youth Development Association

.....

**Jordan****Evidence-based decision-making for urban change: global data tools in action in Africa and West Asia**

*Virtual – Agadir, Maseru and Nairobi, 26 October*

The event brought together experts and panelists from three cities – Maseru (Lesotho), Amman (Jordan) and Agadir (Morocco) – to share their experiences of successfully leveraging two UN-Habitat tools as part of the Development Account 12th Tranche Project: the Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). The event hosted participants for 35 cities in 30 different countries, spanning across Africa, East and West Asia, Europe and North America.

**Key points:**

- Data plays a key role in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and in evidence-based policy creation.

- The implementation of UN-Habitat's Urban Monitoring Framework and Voluntary Local Reviews resulted in improved knowledge sharing and cooperation between all data producers and users.
- Active local stakeholder participation and close alignment to localized agendas assured a successful implementation process.

**Kenya*****Town clean-up event in Homabay municipality***

***Homabay, 17 October***

Homabay county in Kenya has joined the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP). The Governor of Homabay launched a series of town clean-up campaigns during Urban October to improve the environment in the county and raise awareness among residents about sustainable management of solid waste. The ACCP is a continental initiative aiming at joint action to realise clean and healthy African cities, while sharing knowledge and promoting the SDGs on waste management in the continent. Currently, 156 cities in 43 countries in Africa are participating members of ACCP.

**Key points:**

- Awareness-raising around solid waste management is crucial.
- Secondary cities in Kenya lack adequate waste management capacity.
- UN-Habitat should consider partnerships with secondary cities around solid waste management, including sharing tools such as the Waste Wise Cities tool for effective waste data management.

## Events in Asia

### Bahrain

Urban October Manama, organized by the Global Shapers Community in conjunction with UN-Habitat, was a series of events to mark Urban October in Bahrain. The series included an introduction to nature, a free online environmental encyclopaedia, and a walking tour along the Pearling Path, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### Bus tour

##### Manama, 29 October

Bahrain is a car-centered country because the easiest way to get around the Kingdom of Bahrain is by car. For this event, 20 participants used public transport to travel from Manama to Muharraq. The experience was interesting for participants because the majority had not used public transport before. The consensus was that the experience had given everyone a different view on how roads can be used to control congestion.

#### Key points:

- Public transport can make life easier for residents and the environment.
- Public transport creates the foundation on which cities become more livable and prosperous.
- Public transport reduces air pollution and increases mobility.

## China

### Macao-wide English essay competition

#### Macao, 15 October

Hybrid Number of attendees: **1600**

Statistics about attendees: Students aged 10 to 25; number of attendees is estimated based on last year.

The English essay competition encouraged young people to explore their role in the world through writing and learning about the 2030 Agenda. The competition theme this year was 'An inclusive world'. Students from 10 to 25 years old wrote about what being inclusive meant to them, how it related to their community, and shared their vision for creating healthier, more resilient, and sustainable cities. The 68 winning essays were published into an essay collection available online and in print. Through their writing, students expressed that they are keen to be architects of their own future.

#### Key points:

- Young people's voices are vital to the community and as agents of change.
- Young people care about environmental protection, equality and quality education at both community and global levels.

*"As agents of change, it is more important than ever to include [young people] in the discussion of our collective future, empower them with skills and confidence, and encourage them to transform their ideas into actionable projects so we can all enjoy an inclusive world."*

Sandy Leong, Vice President of the Macau Professional Speaking Association and chairperson of the competition organizing committee

## India

The Urban October Campaign, organized by IRCDUC, aimed to highlight and raise awareness of the problems of growing inequality in urban spaces exacerbated by Covid-19, climate crisis and conflicts. The campaign aimed to facilitate a platform to amplify the voices of marginalized communities; advocate for legal and policy safeguards to protect deprived urban communities from arbitrary eviction; reiterate the need for inclusive climate resilient strategies without displacing marginalized communities, and ensure enhanced access to social entitlement by connecting people with policy makers.

### Instagram Live with a young changemaker

**Online, 11 October**

Organized by the Red Dot Foundation, Saleha Khan, a young changemaker from Mumbai, was interviewed via Instagram Live on International Girl Child Day. She spoke about her journey into advocacy and activism for children and the work she has done in Mumbai through peer-to-peer education on sexual and reproductive health for girls and women. She also expressed the need to have more young girl leaders and encouraged girls to take up leadership roles and positions.

#### Key points:

- Grassroot-level communities, especially parents, need to be trained on gender sensitivity.
- Peer-to-peer education is the best technique to employ such trainings.
- Interactive ways of learning through street plays, movies and playing games are very effective.
- A toolkit/guide must be provided to the representative of the community.

*“Change starts from your home. Before I could talk to the community, I had to start talking about menstruation and sexual health with my family. That is how we fight taboos and incorporate safe practices. I encourage more young girls to start this conversation and claim the leadership positions in their communities.”*

Saleha Khan, young changemaker

### Roundtable with non-profit organisations

**Odisha, 18 October**

Most of the participants at the roundtable were working with marginalised children who are runaways, homeless, migrants, labourers or have substance abuse issues. The key points discussed were on understanding the vulnerability of such children, identifying physical spaces where they can be found and ways of building trust in them to share their stories and seek the help they need. Many participants highlighted that working with such children is a long-term process and required more support from government in terms of policy and programming.

#### Key points:

- Every educational institute must have a policy for vulnerable communities and their protection from bullying and such activities.
- Authorities should focus on immigrant and homeless children's welfare through providing them shelter, education and food.
- Welfare housing for children should have periodic inspections to ensure quality and safety for the children.

*“We must try our best to save childhood experiences. As adults it is our responsibility to provide safe spaces for these children and to protect and preserve their sense of innocence.”*

Pranay Manjiri, Safe Odisha for Her

## Roundtable with queer rights advocates

Online, 27 October

The discussion with LGBTQIA+ advocates raised key issues around child sexual abuse and bullying of queer children in India. Participants discussed the need to introduce sex education through a non-heterosexual lens and suggested creating toolkits for teachers and parents on identifying child sexual abuse and ways to prevent it. Many specific issues and good practices of the educators were discussed and shared. An idea was passed to create a board game to navigate the legalities of child sexual abuse that is now being developing with the participants.

### Key points:

- The Red Dot Foundation toolkit can help improve understanding towards the queer community and how to be supportive of them.
- Gender sensitization training should be given to parents in phases through experts only.
- Sexual and reproductive education should not be heterosexual-focused and should involve wider aspects of gender and gender expression.
- Every school should have youth advocates who understand the issues facing the queer community.

*“The issue is that young children are queer friendly and curious to accept more diverse [groups] compared to their conditioned parents. This is why focusing only on children will not be effective if parents are not trained along with the children.”*

Vishwas Tambe, Educator

## Poster-a-day initiative: 31 days of awareness

Chennai, 1-31 October

Part of the Urban October Campaign 2022, IRCDUC launched 31 awareness posters via social media to advocate for safeguards to protect deprived urban communities from arbitrary evictions and highlight the need an inclusive climate resilient strategy without displacement of communities from their places of habitation.

### Key points:

- The act of forcibly dislocating marginalized and vulnerable families from their historical places of habitation to city margins, without exploring possibilities of relocation nearer their existing sites of residence, is an act of socio-spatial segregation.

*“One of the objectives of the ‘poster-a-day’ initiative is to break existing myths related to urban deprived communities. The deprived urban communities are victims of the stigma and criminalization process.”*

Joel Shelton Terrance, IRCDUC

## Palestine

### Participatory and inclusive urban development and governance in the MENA region: insights from Egypt, Palestine and Jordan

Amman, Ramallah and Cairo, 19 October

As part of the Urban October 2022 at GIZ series, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) organized an online discussion bringing together three GIZ projects from across the Middle East promoting participation

and inclusion in urban development, planning and governance. Each project adopted a different approach: from integrating participation into urban planning and infrastructure upgrading (Egypt) and the creation and management of accessible public spaces with local communities (Jordan), to using digital tools and gaming to include citizens into urban design and public service management (Palestine).

#### Key points:

- Participation is central to effective and efficient urban planning and management because it creates places and services that people use and contribute to.

- Many disadvantaged communities do not trust any type of intervention from outside. It is therefore imperative to make processes highly transparent and ensure that participatory processes are followed by tangible results.
- Urban development processes benefit from multi-stakeholder involvement, including local and national government, academia, NGOs, community leaders, etc.

## Events in Europe

### Germany

#### Stewardship for circular economy in urban contexts in Africa

*Eschborn, 6 October*

GIZ's Natural Resources Stewardship Programme enables partners from the public and private sectors and civil society to form cross-sectoral partnerships to jointly address risks to natural resources. During this event, partners presented circular solutions to environmental pollution in African cities, developed within the framework of cross-sectoral partnerships. Examples included a manual bailing machine, facilitating transport and storage of PET plastic in Addis Ababa, which enhances the recycling capacity of waste collectors, and the establishment of a recycling innovation hub by Ugandan partners at the International University of East Africa.

#### Key points:

- Cross-sectoral collaboration is necessary to effectively and sustainably tackle risks to natural resources.
- Through partnerships, traditional silo-working between sectors and institutions can be overcome, leading to a more efficient and long-term success of activities.
- It takes a time to set up partnerships in which stakeholders interact at eye level. This is especially true at the city level where the density of stakeholders is high.

*"It takes quite some energy to bring all partners on board, but without the increase of communities' decision-making power, the partnership efforts are meaningless."*

Kasenga Hara, Senior Inspector at the **Zambian National Water Supply and Sanitation Council**



## Norway

### Neighbourhoods – public spaces for everybody

*Oslo, 27 October*

*Dignitaries present: The State Secretary of International Development, Bjørg Sandkjær*

*(Ministry of Foreign affairs – International Development)*

*UN youth envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake*

*UN Habitat, Juma Assiango, global coordinator of Safer cities programme*

*Former chief city planner of Oslo, Norway – Ellen de Vibe (moderator)*

*Former Vice Mayor for Urban Development – City Government, Oslo – Merete Agerbak-Jensen (panel)*

*Margrete Bjørge Katanasho, Secretary general The Norwegian Children and Youth Council, <https://www.lnu.no/english/>*

UN-Habitat Norway organized this hybrid event to explore how to create better public spaces in our urban neighbourhoods, drawing on global and local practices with theoretical and practical examples. Safety is essential for people to make use of public space, particularly for girls and women. To create welcoming public spaces that accommodate competing interests, there is a need to explore a combination of social, physical and organizational approaches and solutions together with the different users. There were presentations from urban experts from Norway, Kenya and Columbia to provide a global perspective. The event was attended by the State Secretary of International Development, Bjørg Sandkjær.

### Key points:

- Involving young people in the debate is valuable.
- A local place-based focus helps to reflect on theory and learning from different urban contexts.
- Embedding a theory of change into philanthropy capital for urban programming is an effective way to set clear expectations and transparent communication between recipients and funders.

## Poland

### WUF11 legacy

*Warsaw, 24 October*

Organised by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, this conference focused on Polish contributions to the legacy of the World Urban Forum 11. The event explored the impact of the Action Plan for Cities on further urban development and discussed the possibilities of national and European cooperation. The experience of the URBACT III programme and the assumptions of the URBACT 2021-2027 projects, as well as the Partnership Initiative of Cities, were presented. The winners of the 'Urban In. A city for everyone' competition were presented.

### Key points:

- There is an urgent need to accelerate urban development in accordance with the SDGs.
- It is essential to incorporate the ideas of young people and solutions for people with special needs in urban strategies.

## Serbia

### Upgrading substandard settlements in Serbia with a human rights-centered approach

10 October

#### **This is part of a series event**

Organising body: GIZ

Virtual

Number of attendees: 12

Statistics about attendees: Professional mostly

Part of the GIZ Urban October 2022 programme, this event showed the importance of a multi-stakeholder and human rights-based approach in planning, developing and improving housing conditions of vulnerable groups, specifically Roma. The event showcased examples of concrete actions of enabling access to drinking water in substandard settlements in Serbia.

#### **Key points:**

- The improvement of living conditions within substandard communities is directly related to improved social inclusion of socially vulnerable groups.
- Housing and urban development of substandard settlements needs to be addressed only through a broad, integrative approach.
- Inadequate housing has major impacts on other basic human rights and can lead to discrimination, exclusion and negative legal consequences.
- Institutions at municipality level often lack capacity and should be provided with capacity-strengthening measures and consultations.
- A multi-stakeholder approach is essential for success.

## Spain

### Playable cities for all: activating spaces with neurodivergent people

Barcelona, 21 October

This seminar presented the project 'ASD Publics: activating spaces with neurodivergent publics' and engaged with stakeholders including the Catalan Federation of Autism (Federació Catalana d'Autisme). EIT Community New European Bauhaus ASD Publics is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). It aims to co-create inclusive urban spaces and play area with and for children with autism. Barcelona City Council was represented by Sílvia Casorrán Martos, Deputy Chief Architect.

#### **Key points:**

- Neurodiversity inclusion in public spaces and playable areas in cities is a multi-dimensional challenge that includes social, space, educational factors among others.
- An interdisciplinary approach involving different experts and organizations is needed to find solutions.

## Turkey

### Gebze safe school streets and square transformation

Gebze, Kocaeli, 19 and 31 October

This project, organized by the Marmara Municipalities Union in cooperation with Gebze Municipality, transformed a parking lot and school street in Gebze into safe public spaces for children. The project used tactical urbanism tools such as painting, planting and installation of low-cost furniture. The first stage was a pop-up intervention on 19 October, followed by a six-month pilot that started on the last day of Urban October.

The events were attended by 300 people, the majority residents from the local area. More than two-thirds of the participants were children. Mayor of Gebze Municipality Zinnur Büyükgöz attended. This was Turkey's third street transformation project.

#### Key points:

- Pilots and trials play a vital role in participatory transformation: residents realized that the parking lot was not essential when an alternative was trialled.

- Children were excited about the transformation, which reflected and shaped the thoughts of other residents of all ages.
- The project has shown that local governments can improve public spaces by establishing intersectoral collaborations and using simple-to-implement, low-budget materials.

## Events in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Brazil

The Urban Circuit 2022 consisted of more than 190 events from 4 October to 1 November. The initiative was organised by UN-Habitat Brazil to promote Urban October by supporting and giving visibility to events that highlight sustainable urban development across Brazil. The events were held in person, virtual or hybrid formats. The theme of this year's Urban Circuit was 'Localizing the SDGs: leave no one and no place behind', exploring the localization of the SDGs by implementing global development agendas at the local level, such as in cities and regions. The events were divided into five themes, each related to a dimension of the localization of the SDGs:

1. Know
2. Plan
3. Participate and innovate
4. Finance and implement
5. Monitor and evaluate.

In 2022, UN-Habitat Brazil received a record number of event registrations for Urban October with an original total of 189 events. Of these, a final total of 183 took place. A new partnership established between UN-Habitat Brazil and UN Brazil amplified the promotion of the event on Instagram to reach more than 50,000 people.

The Urban Circuit initiative aimed to promote the implementation of the SDGs, in particular goal 11, and sought to debate the principles of the New Urban Agenda and how to plan, manage, and live in cities. For more information, visit Urban Circuit's website: <http://www.circuiturbano.org>.

### Colombia

#### Thinking the other possible cities

##### *Cali, 28 October*

This event brought together four panellists to discuss topics related to urban sustainability: city and planning, country-city relationship, city and environment, and city and local governance. The discussion highlighted some lessons and proposals about alternative ways to think about our cities and to make them more sustainable.

**Key points:**

- The main lesson from this event was the importance of local thinking for local action.
- Following generic guidelines in implementing urban development plans in specific contexts has limited success; it is necessary to focus on the particularities of individual contexts.
- Each city is unique and therefore needs to develop its own strategies and solutions.
- Citizen and community participation is key to achieve real and sustainable solutions.

**Cuba**

The IX National Urban Forum in Cuba presented a variety of events throughout October to highlight and explore Cuba's implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other topics related to sustainable urban development.

**New Urban Agenda implementation workshop****Havana, 6-7 October**

This event explored the approach to urban planning and development in Cuba and the potential of national and local governments to develop innovative urban policies for the inclusive implementation of global agendas. The discussion focused on the alignment of municipal development strategies and the Urban Planning Plan of Havana with the priorities identified by the State Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba, as well as urban legislation, land management, neighbourhood transformation and inclusion markers, data collection and good practice.

**Key points:**

- Good practice was identified in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba.

- There is a need for coordination between urban planning plans at the city level and provincial and municipal development strategies. They need to be more strategic and specific to respond effectively to territorial development.
- The discussion highlighted the need for training to support effective data collection and measurement of indicators.

**Nature4Cities workshop: nature-based solutions to climate change in Manzanillo and Camagüey****Manzanillo and Camagüey, 17-20 October**

Organised by the National Institute of Territorial Planning and Urbanism (INOTU), this workshop explored the potential to develop nature-based adaptation and mitigation plans at the city level, as well as financing strategies and implementation capacities. Key location in the cities of Manzanillo and Camagüey were visited to develop the nature-based adaptation and mitigation plan, and explore strategies to link the private sector to climate action. As a result of the workshop a nature-based urban adaptation and mitigation plan, analysis of financial mechanisms, and a private sector linkage plan and financial strategy under development are in progress.

**Key points:**

- Progress was made in Manzanillo and Camagüey to develop an innovative long-term financial strategy for both cities.
- The results foresee the possibility of having a nature-based urban adaptation and mitigation plan validated by the Nature-based Solutions working group and establishing linkages with the private sector to finance and implement the plan.

### Technical mission to Mexico on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda: exchange of experiences

*Mexico City and Havana, 17-21 October*

As part of the 'Technical assistance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba at the local level', an exchange of ideas took place with Mexican experts who were also working on the implementation of SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda. Good practice case studies with possible application in the Cuban context were visited and discussed. The mission was also a good opportunity for networks to be strengthened and possible areas for collaboration explored across the urban development sector. Key players in the sector from Cuba and Mexico participated.

#### Key points:

- Sharing expertise and experience is a valuable support mechanism for countries working on their implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Although the contexts differ, the issues are similar and it is essential to strengthen alliances.
- UN-Habitat will support the National Institute of Territorial Planning and Urbanism (INOTU) in Cuba with capacity building for the monitoring of indicators of prosperous cities.
- Cuba has agreed to participate in virtual training sessions offered by Mexican institutions related to urban issues, the exchange of planning methodologies, and the continuity of collaboration in other project windows from UN-Habitat.

### Ecuador

#### Launch of the social and territorial inclusion observatory of Quito

*Quito, 17 October*

This event celebrated the launch of the social and territorial observatory in Quito, part of the 'Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity' project. Funded by the European Union and implemented by UN-Habitat, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, the 'Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity' project is designed to show that migrants and refugees can make a real contribution to socio-economic and cultural diversity in their host cities and communities across Latin America. The launch of the observatory in Quito also highlighted the importance of decision-making through evidence, and the role of the inclusion urban markers in the analysis and evaluation of the impact of local policies to support the implementation of the SDGs and New Urban Agenda.

#### Key points:

- Quito is the first city to implement the urban inclusion marker among those participating in the Inclusive Cities regional project.
- Evidence and data are essential to inform policy and decision-making.
- The observatory will facilitate data collection to provide assertive indicators and evidence to help urban and rural communities identify their needs.

*“This is a good opportunity to continue the cooperative ties that we have with UN-Habitat. We have been carrying out several actions and I think this is very important. The only way we can make assertive decisions is by having data.”*

Santiago Guarderas, Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Quito

## Integration of Venezuelans and Ecuadorians through mingas and artistic activities

**Quito, 15-16 October**

UN-Habitat organized this event to support the integration of Venezuelan and Ecuadorian communities under the framework of the Inclusive Cities project. The event sought to involve the two communities to maintain a neighbourhood venue or house and design a mural that reflects their common values and traditions. The design was developed through an exchange of ideas reflecting the similarities between the two communities.

### Key points:

- The event activities resulted in more similarities than differences among both cultures being identified.
- Art was an effective mechanism through which people could reflect their values and knowledge.
- Through open dialogue, both communities had the opportunity to learn more about each other.
- Both communities have common languages and traditions that can be transmitted through cultural exchange.

## National Urban Forum: 'Let's meet for habitat and housing 2022'

**Quito, 19-21 October**

Organized by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, the National Urban Forum saw three days of sharing experiences, learning and reaffirming Ecuador's commitment to the pursuit of sustainable urban development. The main purpose of the NUF is the wider participation of a diverse group of actors and participants, to consolidate and strengthen urban governance and articulation mechanisms for the implementation of habitat and housing national policies that promote territorial equity, economic recovery, sustainable development, solidarity and the guarantee of rights. The National Urban Forum presented the second edition of the Habitat Award, presented

the SDG Cities Programme and facilitated signed agreements with participant cities, and presented the proposal of the National Urban Policy. The President of the Republic of Ecuador Guillermo Lasso and the Minister of Urban Development and Housing Gabriela Aguilera attended and representatives from 10 countries were present promoting intergovernmental cooperation.

### Key points:

- Seventeen mayors of Ecuadorian cities signed agreements to implement the SDG Cities Programme in Ecuador.
- The exchange of best practice with regional counterparts and partnerships creates opportunities to develop or replicate case studies to implement the Housing and Habitat Plan, as well as to promote among the cities the need to address climate change challenges through more holistic solutions, either for housing or for urban development.

*"We have innovated the vision of this policy and made sustainable urban development one of our main lines of work, with a deep and firm commitment to the ecological transition."*

Guillermo Lasso, President of the Republic of Ecuador

## Mexico

### Workshop to implement green infrastructure: 'How to sow rainwater?'

**Torreón, 25-26 October**

Part of the Urban October: Let's transform our city programme, a workshop was held to explain active and passive green infrastructure systems such as basins, borders, berms and gutters. Various design proposals were explored for the implementation of green infrastructure to mitigate flood risk at a high-risk location in Torreón. On the second day, the chosen intervention was carried out and a basin was installed in the ridge in question using native plants, padding (dry branches) and stones.



**Key points:**

- Green infrastructure helps to keep cities green and conserve the benefits that this brings.
- Using green infrastructure it is possible to create a system that allows rainwater to be sown and reduces flooding in the city.

**Digital campaign: Urban October. Let's transform our city****Torreón and Murcia, Spain, 28-31 October**

The Municipal Institute of Planning and Competitiveness of Torreón (IMPLAN) ran a digital campaign launching a series of digital and physical articles, publications, videos, panels, conferences, interactive streaming events, radio appearances, and infographies to raise awareness, promote participation and highlight good practice in strategies to make our cities more sustainable.

**Key points:**

- The campaign informed participating citizens about concepts such as green infrastructure and active mobility, as well as local and national perspectives of their applications.

*"Unite and together we transform our city."*

Carla Tovar, IMPLAN Torreón

*"Promoting active mobility within the city is one of the main strategies to combat climate change."*

Ricardo Miranda, IMPLAN Torreón

*"Green infrastructure is a network of areas with both natural and urban vegetation that work together to conserve the ecological properties of our region."*

Daniela Valles, IMPLAN Torreón

**Peru****Forum: #YoQuieroCiudadesSostenibles****Lima, 27 October**

The Global Environment Facility 'Support to the National Platform for Sustainable Cities and Climate Change' project team presented new urban and environmental data for urban planning in Lima and Callao, related to urban footprint, risks management, climate change, transport-oriented development, urban biodiversity and water supply. The event involved presentations and panel discussions. Videos were shown of citizen testimonials about their aspirations for sustainable cities.

**Key points:**

- Lima and Callao have great potential to become sustainable cities, although there are many challenges to address.
- To achieve this there is a need to enhance urban planning to include urban ecosystems, the urban irrigation system, improving the environment of transport stations, and more.

*"We need democratic tools to manage urban ecosystems and ensure that we see the city as part of them."*

Daniel Arriaga, Biodiversity Team Leader, Global Environment Facility

## Events in North America

### United States of America

#### Women and sustainable urbanization

##### New York City, 5 October

This occasion focused on women's empowerment as an indivisible part of sustainable urbanization. The New Urban Agenda, adopted at the UN-Habitat III Conference in 2016, underlined the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls for readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed. It stressed the need for gender-responsive urbanization and promoted well-designed networks of safe, accessible, green and quality streets and other public spaces that are free from crime and violence. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat attended the hybrid event.

#### Key points:

- To be sustainable, urbanization needs to be gender responsive and transformative.
- Women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making, decent work and equal pay for equal work and the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination, sexual harassment and gender-based violence against women and girls in private and public spaces is necessary.
- Cities need to be designed to be responsive to women needs.

*"There is an urgent need for a paradigm shift from the mainstream male breadwinner model towards a care-based model as the organizational principle of urban design, state formation, the economy and the international system."*

Yakin Ertürk, Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women

### Hawaii

#### 2022 Hawaii Green Growth UN Local2030 Hub annual partnership meeting

##### Honolulu, 13 October

The Hawaii Green Growth UN Local2030 Hub annual meeting brought together more than 300 stakeholders from across government, business and civil society to accelerate and scale solutions to achieve Hawaii's Aloha+ Challenge and the global SDGs. The event included high-level panel discussions focused on local, regional and global progress on SDGs across various sectors, current efforts and opportunities for collective action by county mayors and engaged the local youth in conversation with elected officials. The network partners convened in 17 breakout discussions to strategize cooperative actions that partners could take for each SDG, building on the network's three-year strategic plan.

#### Key points:

- By localizing the SDGs communities were engaged at an individual, family and county level to participate in solutions from increasing energy efficiency to purchasing local food.
- The breakout discussion sessions were an effective way to yield SDG-specific actions for the coming year.

*"Progress moves at the pace of trust. We need trust-based partnerships like those supported by the Hawaii Green Growth UN Local2030 Hub."*

Celeste Connors,  
Hawaii Green Growth UN Local2030 Hub

# World Cities Day

31 October 2022  
BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

Act local to go global

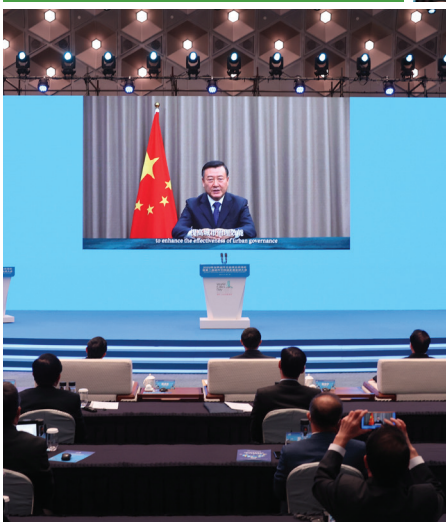
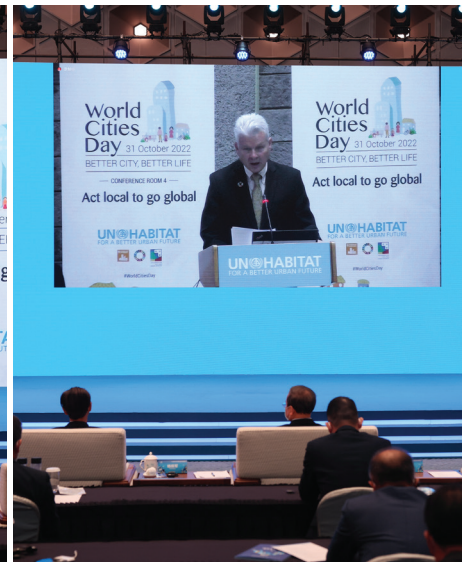
## World Cities Day 2022

Act local to go global

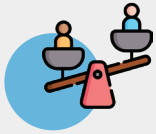
Accelerating local action to implement Sustainable Development Goals

“On World Cities Day, let us confront urban challenges and forge lasting transformative solutions by finding those solutions together. Let’s act local to go global.”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif,  
UN-Habitat Executive Director



## Key messages



In most countries, local and regional governments are responsible for coordinating and delivering basic services, which are critical for ensuring communities' wellbeing and development.



Local action and local leadership are critical to addressing the current global crises and to foster sustainable recovery and development.



The success to address the current and future challenges and to redirect our world towards more sustainable paths will depend on the capacities of our local and regional governments.



As the custodian of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat has been advocating for the localization of the SDGs since the very endorsement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Global Observance 2022

This year's Global Observance of World Cities Day took place on 31 October in Shanghai, China. A statement was read out from the President of the People's Republic of China. Keynote speeches were made by First Vice-Mayor of Shanghai Municipal Government, Wu Qing, and UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Haoliang Xu.

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif read out a message from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. His message highlighted the importance of localization in the implementation of the SDGs and the urgency to take action to address the crises our cities, and the whole world, are facing as we approach the mid-point to the deadline to implement the SDGs.



*"On this World Cities Day, we recognize the critical role of urban areas in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. [...] The goals are global in scope, but implementation is local."*

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

The Shanghai Manual, Shanghai Award and Shanghai Adapted Index were presented by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

*"We have only about 87 months, 380 weeks or 2600 days left to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The best way to do so is by ensuring our cities and communities are sustainable."*

*"With the right tools, local leaders can take action on critical needs such as housing, climate adaptation and safety."*

Maimunah Mohd Sharif,  
UN-Habitat Executive Director



Other speakers included United Nations Resident Coordinator in China Siddharth Chatterjee; President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly Martha Peralta Delgado; UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua; Governor of Luxor, Egypt, Mustafa Mohamed Alham; and Secretary General of United Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific Dr Bernardia Tjandradewi.



*"We must continue moving forward. Transformative policies and innovative solutions that force cities to transition to renewable energies, set credible net-zero targets, and build climate-reliant infrastructure today, will save lives and livelihoods everywhere tomorrow."*

Siddharth Chatterjee,  
United Nations Resident Coordinator in China



*"The battle for sustainability will be won in our cities. We must act local to go global if we are to achieve the SDGs."*

Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General  
for Economic and Social Affairs

*"The current global challenges are often met at the local level, and our cities are the first line of defense on various issues."*

Mustafa Mohamed Alham, Governor of Luxor, Egypt

*"World Cities Day aims to focus our attention on the issues of urbanization and encourage cooperation between countries and cities in addressing urban challenges and moving towards sustainable development."*

Dr Bernardia Tjandradewi, Secretary General, United  
Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific





## Shanghai Manual 2022: A guide for sustainable urban development in the 21st century

The Shanghai Manual was established in 2011 following the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai and serves as a tool to support the efforts of mayors and urban practitioners in advancing sustainable urban development. The ideas and principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and New Urban Agenda have been integrated into the manual, with a focus on challenges such as how to achieve inclusive and liveable cities, innovative and creative cities, and low-carbon and resilient cities.

Using exemplary urban best practice, the Shanghai Manual 2022 provides practical and tangible solutions to these urbanization challenges through the lens of 'localizing the SDGs', demonstrating best practice across core dimensions of society, economy, environment, culture, and governance. The Manual also highlights the key global programmes, processes, and networks on SDG localization to help accelerate the implementation of the Goals at the local level.

The manual was developed in partnership between UN-Habitat, the Bureau International des Expositions, and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government with the support of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China.

## World Cities Day 2022 roundtables

World Cities Day 2022 included two roundtables bringing key stakeholders and experts together to explore the concept and mechanics of localization to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and New Urban Agenda. The ideas and messages emerging from these discussions are summarized below.

### Roundtable 1: Guiding local action to go global

Panellists explored the distinct but complimentary strategies to work towards SDG localization implemented by a variety of cities and organizations. They presented a range of initiatives and good practice examples, including the city-level indicators used in Finland that are now used in 20 cities worldwide, Madrid's city organizational strategy, China's impressive planning system and the multilevel governance approach in Japan. A multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance approach is critical to ensure inclusivity in SDG implementation. Many cities are finding it difficult to create a zero-carbon development plan. The recommendation was first to engage in low-carbon

plans and communicate with the rest of actors and stakeholders on the missing parts of the plan. Migration is a big and growing challenge for cities; in the future the number of climate refugees will exponentially increase.

#### Recommendations:

1. Local and regional governments must be empowered to take appropriate and urgent action towards a sustainable urban future for all.
2. Cities around the world must work together to cooperate and coordinate efforts and share tools to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs through localization.
3. A participatory approach must be followed at every level and phase of the process and effective partnerships must be developed between people and local authorities.

*"The localization process needs not to be politicized. It needs to be institutionalized."*

Nicolas Gharbi, Principal Advisor of Madrid City Council  
Internationalization and Cooperation Department

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*“There are tremendous local initiatives coming from the grassroots at the city and community levels, in towns and countryside, to implement the SDGs.”*

Dr Shi Nan, Vice President and Secretary General of the Urban Planning Society of China

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*“The more you can organize locally in a sustainable community, the better it is for our global footprint.”*

Marjolijn Versteegden, Global Solution Director Net Zero Facilities & Sustainable Communities, Arcadis, The Netherlands

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## WHAT is SDG localization?

SDG Localization refers to the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level, in coherence with the national frameworks and strategies and in line with communities' priorities. It is a two-way process where the local meets the national and the global, and vice-versa.

To be successful, localization needs to be anchored in the principles of inclusion, multi-stakeholder participation and multilevel governance. In addition to these principles, the New Urban Agenda should be understood and applied as a global action-oriented framework to localize the SDGs.

## Roundtable 2: From local to global: multilevel governance for impact

The goals and visions of the 2030 Agenda are agreed at the global level, but a large part of their implementation takes place locally. Through their examples in different contexts, panelists explained how policy frameworks help localize the SDGs. Reaching the 17 goals primarily requires adequate multi-level governance and inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms to enable their achievement. Horizontal and vertical policy coherence as well as collaboration mechanisms

between local, national and international layers of governance are the corner stones of a successful process. In addition, it is important to engage all societal groups in the process. The local level is the one that brings about real cultural change. There is an urgency to support local government to lead such efforts to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

## Recommendations:

1. All stakeholders need to be involved in SDG implementation, from the end user to the policy makers, including planners and practitioners.
- Local ownership in SDG implementation and monitoring must be promoted, but revenue raising should be undertaken at the national level.
- Coalitions at all levels are needed to engage all sectors in the realization of the SDGs.
- Integration, coordination and city-level holistic approaches linked to spatial planning are the way forward to achieve global goals.

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*“The role of local governments is crucial to promote specific solutions to address the common problems such water management.”*

Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources

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*“Multiple layers of participation and governance are essential to strengthen the participation at all levels starting with the communities.”*

Anil Kumar, Mayor of Kochi, Kerala, India

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*“Voluntary local reviews are essential collaborative processes to foster interest and better structure decision-making around the SDGs.”*

David Adamson, Group Chief Strategic Engagement Officer, Home in Place, Australia

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World Cities Day 2022 events in Africa

Ethiopia

Bahir Dar Structural Plan

Bahir Dar, 1 November

The final gathering for Urban October Ethiopia this year was celebrated in Bahir Dar city in the presence of Dr Dress Sahilu, Mayor of the city, with a panel discussion and handing over ceremony of the Bahir Dar Structural Plan 2020-2030 – ‘Bahir Dar the first water-wise, resilient, forest city of Ethiopia and Africa’. A workshop was held create awareness about urban plan types and structural planning, and the status of Bahir Dar City Structural Plan implementation, among officials, city residents, relevant stakeholders and potential investors. Two hundred people attended in person.

Key points:

- The Bahir Dar Structural Plan is an important step towards a sustainable future for the city.
- It is essential to engage all stakeholders and residents in the plan for it to be effective.

Mozambique

UN-Habitat Mozambique celebration of 20 years of in Mozambique

Maputo, 31 October

UN-Habitat Mozambique marked World Cities Day by celebrating 20 years of its presence in Mozambique. The UN-Habitat Mozambique office

thanked the Government of Mozambique and partners for their continued support in promoting UN-Habitat’s mandate around sustainable urbanization and climate resilience and to provide an update on the major achievements of UN- Habitat’s 20 years in Mozambique. The event was attended by development partners and representatives from government, civil society, academia and other UN agencies in Mozambique. United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mozambique Myrta Kaulard stressed that through the new United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework, UN-Habitat will continue to do its work through disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable urbanization.

Key points:

- The Government of Mozambique reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable urbanization and climate resilience.

“I would like to highlight the support of UN-Habitat in the process that was triggered this year by the II National Urban Forum that highlighted urbanization as one of the country’s development priorities, with the formulation of a National Urbanization Policy. It is hoped that this policy, still under development, will bring forward the guidelines for better management of urban growth and support the government to better decide its investment priorities.”

Cecilia Chamutota, Vice-minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources

## World Cities Day 2022 events in Asia

### India

#### New ways by bridging the gaps: global to local tantras for a prosperous world

*Calicut, 29 October*

The Department of Architecture and Planning NIT Calicut organized an expert lecture by Dr May Mathew who has more than two decades of experience as a practitioner. The event was organized as a webinar. Her lecture, entitled 'New ways by bridging the gaps: global to local tantras for a prosperous world', discussed various analytical tools and strategies to plan future development concentrating on denser vertical cities rather than spread out urban sprawls.

#### Key points:

- Future development concentrated on denser, vertical cities could be a solution for more sustainable cities.

### Japan

#### Shizuoka SDGs Youth Summit 2022

*Shizuoka, 31 October*

The theme of the 2022 summit was 'Create opportunities and networks for achieving the SDGs'. Ten young people in Shizuoka city discussed finding solutions to various problems facing the world through the SDGs and insisted on a joint declaration for creating a sustainable society by 2030. The speakers were students from the University of Shizuoka, Kyoto University of the Arts, Seisen University and Shizuoka Salesio school.

#### Key points:

- When young people raise their voices, adults and companies change their behaviour and take action to achieve the SDGs.
- Young people's opinions are key because they will play a central role in society of the future and they will engage other young people.

### Myanmar

#### Youth and climate action: the role of schools in building resilient communities

*Yangon, 31 October*

UN-Habitat Myanmar, in partnership with UNICEF, held an open session exploring the role of schools in building more resilient communities. The event was held in collaboration with the EU-ASEAN Climate Diplomacy Week. The discussion explored how schools can be leveraged to educate about climate resilience and inspire climate action, the key elements of safe, green, and resilient schools, approaches for engaging children and youth in climate action and as agents of change, and the central role schools play in this.

#### Key points:

- Children, adolescents, and youth have the potential to become key change-makers, not just for their neighbourhoods but for the 2030 SDGs more broadly.
- Schools are an ideal place to educate and inspire young people to take action locally, which will then have a ripple effect throughout their communities and cities.



## Pakistan

### Roundtable on 'Climate change resilient settlement recovery planning and housing, land and property rights in Pakistan'

Islamabad, 31 October

UN-Habitat Pakistan convened a roundtable on housing, land and property rights with a special focus on climate resilient approaches in the aftermath of 2022 floods. The participants agreed that the reconstruction and rehabilitation strategy must focus on exposure and sensitivity to climate risks, sustain climate resilient livelihoods for communities, and ensure the development gains in the face of uncertainties arising from floods and climate change impacts. The settlements need to reassess in terms of vulnerability and go beyond 'build back better' by focusing on urban regeneration.

#### Key points:

- Establishing links between climate resilient settlement planning and land governance could minimize the impact of recurring disasters.
- A joint collaborative approach is essential to ensure implementation of housing and shelter efforts.
- There is a dire need to reassess settlements in terms of vulnerability.
- A people-centred approach and access to secure land tenure are crucial.

## Philippines

### Marine litter learning exchange: planning city-level actions for global solutions

Quezon City, 28 October

The event provided a platform for cities and National Government Agencies to share and exchange knowledge on and experience in the development of the pioneer City Plans of Action on Marine Litter (CPOA-ML) in the Philippines and other initiatives on marine litter reduction. The discussions showcased how local actions on marine litter are planned and demonstrated in Philippine cities to contribute to reducing, managing, and preventing marine plastic litter. The first CPOA-MLs in the Philippines were officially launched, together with white papers on marine plastic litter.

#### Key points:

- City actions are critical in achieving national goals to address the global marine plastic litter problem.
- It is important to establish definitive baselines, engage multi-stakeholders, ensure inclusion and uplifting of the lives of vulnerable groups (e.g. informal waste sector, women) by harnessing smart solutions and developing policies in marine litter management.
- Knowledge sharing by pioneer cities with other cities in addressing marine litter is vital.

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*"As with all global issues, the contributions of local government units and local stakeholders are critical to achieving the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter's overall goal of 'zero waste to Philippines waters by 2040'."*

Jonas Leones, UN-Habitat Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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## World Cities Day 2022 events in Europe

### Italy

#### Celebrating public space on the occasion of World Cities Day

*Famagusta, Cyprus and Bologna, Italy, 31 October*

The Eastern Mediterranean University Urban Research and Development Center and City Space and Architecture have been organizing a series of webinars to celebrate public spaces under the scope of significant international occasions. On World Cities Day, a webinar was held to discuss the role of public space in the context of the theme 'Act local to go global', to promote the SDGs for better public spaces.

#### Key points:

- To implement the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11 effectively, careful attention needs to be given to evidence-based case studies derived from the grassroots level.
- Policies and guidelines are useful, but they can fail if they do not directly benefit people in communities and are attached to restricted funding requirements.
- Investigate real conditions on the ground through case studies where sharing economies have already shifted the character of public spaces.
- Develop an understanding of the affected indigenous communities.

*“Develop spatial/formal responses to sharing economies that afford the way that we interface socially, economically, and culturally in our urban public spaces.”*

Dr Celen Pasalar, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at North Carolina State University

### Netherlands

#### Every last drop: design for water-retaining cities

*Rotterdam, 31 October*

MLA+ welcomed participants in a session to share insights from its most successful water-urbanism designs. The live conference focused on urban design for water-retaining cities to explore solutions to capture every last drop. Markus Appenzeller, keynote speaker, illustrated five approaches and five projects from MLA+, followed by an open debate. MLA+ is an international architecture, planning and consultancy firm with more than 30 years of global experience.

#### Key points:

- There are five key dimensions of water projects in relation to urban design: systemic view, using water to leverage large-scale urban transformations, exploring the relationship between urban infrastructure and urban character, nature-based solutions and resilient renaturalization, and creating a human dimension around water projects, with a strong identity and welcoming environment.

*“Water infrastructure in urban planning has been disregarded for decades. Today its importance is finally being acknowledged.”*

Markus Appenzeller, founder and director MLA+

### Norway

#### Academic seminar: who owns the city?

*Molde, 1 November*

Experienced urban planner and board member of UN-Habitat Norway Ellen de Vibe gave a keynote speech, which was followed by presentations and a

panel debate by scholars and practitioners working on urban development issues. This included girl-conscious urban planning; rules, regulations and dispensation practice in urban construction; power and politics in urban planning; inclusion of people with functional impairment in urban settings; and innovative ways for inclusion in urban planning.

### Key points:

- Inclusion of all (minority) groups in urban development, such as children and youth, differently abled, women and men, elderly populations etc. must be prioritized.
- Urban development processes must be designed to facilitate active and genuine participation.

*“Children and young people must be heard in urban development matters. Arrangements must be made so that children and young people can engage in activities on their own terms.”*

Erik Berg, UN-Habitat Norway

*“Cities are home to young people worldwide. To design safer, resilient and sustainable cities for the future, young people – who will live in the future – should be part of its planning process.”*

Joshua Amponsem, Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

## Spain

### Opening of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat Bilbao, 31 October

As part of the World Cities Day celebrations, the UN, the Government of Spain, the Basque Government, the City Council of Bilbao and BBK held an event to celebrate the opening of the Local2030 Coalition

Secretariat in Bilbao, Spain. The Local2030 Coalition is the UN system-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs. A panel session discussed urban challenges, accelerated implementation of the SDGs, and transformative solutions to leave no one and no place behind. The event was a milestone of the World's To-Do List global campaign that calls for greater support to cities to achieve the SDGs. Through this campaign, Bilbao joined other cities worldwide in underlining their commitment to the SDGs.

### Key points:

- The Local2030 Coalition Secretariat in Bilbao will energize the work of the Local2030 Coalition and further advance the localization of the SDGs within the UN system and at the territorial and local level.
- Spain is firmly committed to the 2030 Agenda, having defined institutional governance structures specifically dedicated to multi-stakeholder and multi-level coordination, as well as strategic frameworks for the implementation of the SDGs.

*“The Local2030 Coalition will bring together the combined resources of the UN family in enabling the energy, digital, green and blue transitions needed for sustainable development.”*

Amina J. Mohammed,  
Deputy UN Secretary-General

*“The push towards localization started with Agenda 21, evolved with the Millennium Development Goals, and has become a real driving force in achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. We hope that in the post-2030 agenda, localization will be a central element rather than merely an instrument of implementation, a true manifestation of the principle of inclusive multilateralism.”*

Maimunah Mohd Sharif,  
Executive Director of UN-Habitat

## World Cities Day 2022 events in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Mexico

#### Acting locally to promote a better urban future

*Santa Maria del Oro Nayarit, 22 October*

To promote community participation and generate knowledge for the creation of a better urban future, the Municipal Government of Santa Maria del Oro, with IMPLAN, held a forum on 'Acting locally to promote a better urban future'. The forum presented the importance of cities planning to address climate change and how municipal planning institutes have an important role in this task (SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 17).

#### Key points:

- Involving students in urban planning and architecture careers, as well as teachers, is fundamental for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, alongside the participation of the authorities involved.





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## Recommendations

The following recommendation emerged out of the discussions, events and gatherings of Urban October 2022, which highlight approaches to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, and ultimately build a more sustainable urban future for everyone.



### 1. Act local to go global.

Localization is fundamental to the successful and timely implementation of the SDGs and New Urban Agenda. Effective localization needs inclusion, multi-stakeholder participation and multilevel governance. Collaboration and cooperation across borders, continents, sectors and regions will ensure knowledge and experiences are shared and progress is accelerated.



### 2. Involve and listen to everyone.

To reduce inequality and poverty, and create inclusive, sustainable cities for the future, stakeholders from the grassroots up must be included and consulted in planning and decision-making. Social inclusion is about promoting equality and improving participation, particularly for people who are disadvantaged. This means the interests and needs of all citizens, particularly those who are most marginalized, must be considered and addressed. Young people must be engaged and listened to: they will be the citizens of future cities.



### 3. Ensure adequate financing.

Governments at all levels, national, regional and local, must be allocating adequate resources to urban development and planning to create more sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities for the future. Cross-sector partnerships, funding arrangements and blended finance options should be explored.



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For more information on Urban October, please visit our website on: [urbanoctober.unhabitat.org](http://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org), or send us an email on: [unhabitat-events@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-events@un.org) for Urban October, [unhabitat-whd@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-whd@un.org) for World Habitat Day, and [unhabitat-wcd@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-wcd@un.org) for World Cities Day.



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