

World Cities Day

October 31, 2023

BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

— Municipality of Üsküdar in Istanbul, Türkiye —

PROGRAMME OF THE GLOBAL OBSERVANCE

Theme: Financing sustainable urban future for all

Tuesday, 31 October 2023

Venue: Address Hotel, Üsküdar, Istanbul – Türkiye

As of 31 October 2023



From 08:30
Arrival and registration
of attendees



09:00 – 16:00
Urban exhibition at
World Cities Day 2023

Interpretation available in Turkish and the six official United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish) and International Sign Language.

WCD 2023: MORNING SESSION

High-level opening

Location: Address Hotel, Üsküdar, Istanbul – Türkiye | Time reflected: UTC+03

Follow the livefeed on UN Web TV: [Here](#)

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Webinar ID: 89029774841 | Passcode: 311023

11:00 – 12:00	Opening by the Masters of Ceremony, Ms. Andrea Sanke and Mr. Alican Ayanlar <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cultural performance by Ms. Büşra KayıkcıVideo screeningStatement by the Mayor of Üsküdar, Hon. Hilmi TürkmenStatement by the President of the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, Hon. Yücel YılmazStatement by the Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye, Hon. Mehmet ÖzhassekiVideo message of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, to be introduced by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohd SharifStatement of United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohd SharifKeynote speech by Her Excellency Emine Erdoğan, First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye and Patron of World Cities Day 2023
12:00 – 12:10	Short break: Dignitaries depart. Guests are kindly requested to remain seated.
12:10 – 12:25	Presentations on financing sustainable urbanization <ul style="list-style-type: none">Video on the Sustainable Human Settlements FoundationVideo on Urban October and its theme



12:25 – 13:10 Speeches by international speakers

Moderator: **Ms. Katerina Bezgachina**, Chief of Communications and Media Section, UN-Habitat

1. Statement by the Vice Chair of the UN-Habitat Executive Board, **H.E. Ambassador Jean Kimani**
2. Statement by the World Cities Day 2022 host, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, **Hon. Dong Jianguo**
3. Statement by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, **Mr. Jean Todt**
4. Statement by the Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **Hon. Anar Guliyev**
5. Statement by the Managing Director of Malaysia's Pilgrim Fund, **Mr. Azman Mokhtar**
6. Statement by the Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments, **Ms. Emilia Sáiz**
7. Statement by the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise of UN-Habitat, **Ms. Alice Charles**

13:10 – 13:15 Shanghai Manual presentation

13:15 Masters of Ceremony close the morning session

13:30 – 14:20 Lunch break

WCD 2023: AFTERNOON SESSION

World Cities Day 2023 roundtables

WCD 2023: ROUNDTABLE 1

Financing sustainable future for all

Location: Address Hotel, Üsküdar, İstanbul – Türkiye
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14:30 – 16:00 Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Neil Khor**, Special Advisor to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, and Director, External Relations, Knowledge and Innovation

Moderator: **Mr. Dyfed Aubrey**, Senior Human Settlements Officer and Lead, SDG Cities, UN-Habitat

Panelists:

1. **Mr. Hootan Yazhari**, Chief Investment Officer, United World Infrastructure and EarthTag Technologies
2. **Ms. Alice Charles**, Director, Cities, Planning and Design, ARUP
3. **Mr. Christian Kunz**, Chief Strategy, Innovation & Ventures Officer, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)
4. **Mr. Güzhan Gülay**, Assistant General Manager, Borsa İstanbul, Türkiye
5. **Hon. Manuel de Araújo**, Mayor of Quelimane, Mozambique

Showcase on Financing Sustainable Urban Development

- **Mr. Dinesh Nambiar**, Chairman Lendlease Malaysia

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break



WCD 2023: ROUNDTABLE 2

From waste to wealth

Location: Address Hotel, Üsküdar, İstanbul – Türkiye
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16:30 – 18:00

Moderator: **Ado Löhmus**, Adviser on International Environmental Governance

Panelists:

1. **Mr. Muhammad Yunus**, – Yunus Environment Hub and member of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste
2. **Ebubekir Gizligider**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Türkiye
3. **Mr. Murat Kurum** - Head of the Environment Committee, Government of Türkiye
4. **Ms. Catalina Velasco**, Minister of Housing, City and Territory of Colombia
5. **Ms. Heidi Solba** – President and Head of Global Network, Let's Do It World
6. **Mr. Valentin Lavail** - Senior Project Manager, Middle East, Roland Berger Middle East, and member of the Waste to Zero, United Arab Emirates.
7. **Rohey Malick Lowe**, Major of Banjul, Gambia

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE GLOBAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD CITIES DAY 2023

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18:00 – 18:30

Closing statement by the President of the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, **Hon. Yücel Yılmaz**

20:00

Evening programme

Interpretation will be provided into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and International Sign Language.

