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UN-Habitat's
**STRATEGIC
PLAN** 2026-2029



UN-Habitat's **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT** Towards WUF13 and beyond

In line with its long-standing commitment to partnerships for adequate housing and sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat is pleased to engage you in the roadmap towards the [thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum \(WUF13\)](#), to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 22 May 2026. Reflecting the Forum's theme "**Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities**," UN-Habitat invites stakeholders to co-design meaningful pathways of participation and input. This process enables stakeholders to shape WUF13 sessions, content and outcomes in line with the [UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029](#), the New Urban Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through this structured engagement, stakeholders are invited to contribute to background papers towards the preparatory sessions and the Baku Call to Action.

This briefing note outlines stakeholder engagement avenues before and during WUF13, as part of a sustained participatory process leading into future sessions of the premier conference on housing and sustainable urban development.

Global Stakeholder Forum

The [Global Stakeholder Forum](#) convenes ahead of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, held every four years, to foster inclusive dialogue, shape priorities and bridge stakeholders' perspective with intergovernmental processes. Participants take part in high-level plenaries, strategic and policy dialogues, and thematic sessions on housing, land, climate resilience and urban finance. The Forum concludes with a [Stakeholder Declaration](#) outlining stakeholders' priorities and recommendations to the UN-Habitat Secretariat and Member States.

Global and Regional Stakeholder Dialogues

The engagement process features a series of **Global Stakeholder Dialogues** convened by UN-Habitat's Executive Director and **Regional Stakeholder Dialogues** by senior leadership. These virtual dialogues, open to all UN-Habitat stakeholders, provide a strategic platform for stakeholders to directly engage

with leadership, showcase their initiatives, and align collaborative actions with major global processes such as COP30, the World Social Summit, and reviews of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11, with the ultimate goal of realizing UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

[The inaugural Dialogue takes place on 2 October 2025.](#)

Global urban monitoring and reporting

UN-Habitat aims to amplify stakeholders' voices in global urban monitoring and reporting, including through the 2026 midterm review of the New Urban Agenda and triennial review of SDG 11 during the 2026 HLPF. The most immediate opportunity is the UN-Habitat [stakeholder survey](#) (with [short](#) and [extended](#) versions), which invites local governments, civil society, academics, and other actors to share

insights and reflections for inclusion in the New Urban Agenda global reports. Further opportunities will include write-shops and expert meetings in late 2025 and early 2026, supported by mechanisms such as the Global Urban Data Coalition. Stakeholder engagement is also key to assessing the progress and impact of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029, as their expertise, data systems, and local perspectives strengthen credibility and foster shared ownership.

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BAKU, AZERBAIJAN | 17-22 MAY 2026

Stakeholder engagement for WUF 13

Starting in October 2025, UN-Habitat convenes **kick-off meetings** with stakeholder groups, including children and youth, civil society, local and regional governments, women, grassroots organizations, persons with disabilities, older persons, academia, the private sector, professionals, and parliamentarians. These virtual meetings mark the beginning of a structured engagement process, providing each stakeholder group with an opportunity to set priorities and define their preferred modes of contribution, and engage meaningfully in the lead-up to WUF13 and beyond. Following the kick-off meetings, each group will participate in sessions co-led by stakeholders and UN-Habitat anchored in the principles of ownership, self-organization and inclusivity. Stakeholders are invited to [join the session most relevant to them via the following link](#).

Urban Thinkers Campus

The [Urban Thinkers Campus \(UTC\)](#) provides a **global mobilization and action platform for open dialogue, connecting experts and leaders to shape the cities of tomorrow**. Beginning in October 2025, UTCs convene worldwide to showcase community-driven solutions and innovative practices, as part of **UN-Habitat's recurring global campaign**. Each Campus generates actionable outcomes that feed directly into the World Urban Forum process, including a dedicated event during the Forum, with a strong focus on inclusivity and collaboration. UTCs empower stakeholders to transform shared visions into impactful urban action.

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WUF13 Global Advocacy

UN-Habitat's global advocacy for WUF13 will leverage major international events, media partnerships, and regional campaigns to raise visibility and mobilize participation around the theme "*Housing the world.*" Through high-level speaking opportunities, thematic exhibitions, targeted social media drives, and coordinated outreach at platforms such as COP30 and the World Social Summit, advocacy efforts will inspire diverse actors to register, contribute ideas, and champion integrated housing solutions that advance climate action, inclusion and sustainable urban development.

Multi-level Urban Forums

UN-Habitat has a strong focus on regional mobilization of stakeholders towards WUF13 through a wide array of advocacy platforms including multilevel urban forums, and has developed a [practical guide](#) on how to leverage urban forums to advocate on policy formulation, review, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The urban forums provide a strategic opportunity for UN-Habitat to support countries by aligning to the Strategic Plan 2026-29, and through its stakeholders, by creating synergies at subnational, national, sub regional and regional levels to leverage and optimize the benefits of rapid urbanization and overcome its challenges. The current cycle of multi-level urban forums is aligned and has a strong focus on the theme of WUF13 "Housing the World."

Azerbaijan Urban Campaign

The [Azerbaijan Urban Campaign](#) launches on 6 October 2025, marking a **milestone in advancing sustainable urban development** at the national level. Aligned with the New Urban Agenda, SDG 11, and the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, the campaign emphasizes inclusive urban planning, climate resilience and community-driven solutions. Activities include branding, public engagement and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The initiative inspires action across stakeholders and positions Azerbaijan as a leading voice in regional urban transformation efforts.

Assemblies, Roundtables, and Partner-led Events during WUF

At WUF13, **roundtables** are action-oriented sessions that bring together peers to exchange views and opinions on key urban issues. Partner constituencies are invited to identify areas of consensus and ways forward on emerging issues and global trends. **Assemblies**, held before the official opening, convene broader stakeholder groups to translate their inputs into urban policies and the **Baku Call to Action**. Beyond the main sessions, the largest advocacy platform is **partner-led events** across seven categories: SDGs in action, One UN, Voices from cities, Networking events, WUF Academy events, Urban library, Urban cinema. Partners may submit one event per category and are encouraged to join efforts to maximize diversity, visibility, and impact.