

HabPost

Updates from
UN-Habitat

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Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future

WORLD
URBAN
FORUM



Editor's note

Dear Reader,

Earlier this year, we took stock of progress a year after the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10). Looking ahead, we explore in today's issue the theme of WUF11 and the preparations in the lead-up to the conference. Spoiler alert (if you hadn't noticed the cover): we have a new, bright, playful logo to help us gather the troops.

On an unrelated note, tomorrow's Eild-al-Fitr and this explains why we're slightly ahead of schedule in getting HabPost to you this week. You'll find a Talking Head on this topic inviting you to explore different celebrating possibilities during a pandemic. We also provide a refresher on the Donor Information System so that all colleagues may access the information they need in their quest for donors. Quite the blend!

Happy Reading,

The HabPost Team

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Did you know?

Announcement

UN-Habitat's [first annual progress report](#) on the implementation of the strategic plan 2020-2023 is out! With impact stories and powerful images, the report brings life to the work in the extraordinary year of 2020. The report also clearly points to how relevant the strategic plan remains, even in a changing global environment, demonstrating the robustness and flexibility of our four-year framework.

The report is shaped around our four domains of change and highlights UN-Habitat's catalytic role, an approach which works increasingly with strategic partners, and presenting innovative urban solutions and ideas.

The report offers recommendations to further implement the strategic plan including the need to plan and set targets in line with secured funding, the importance of strengthening our catalytic function, and the need to customize responses at the local, country and regional levels.

An interactive summary version of the report will be made available shortly on our website – keep an eye out for updates!



**Access the
Annual Report 2020**

Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future

Just over two years after the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF), the UN-Habitat-organized, world's premier conference on cities will reconvene for its eleventh session from 26 to 30 June 2022 in Katowice, Poland on the theme of Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future.



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Despite the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on urban areas across the world, cities remain central to the sustainable development trajectory. Sustainable urbanization provides the basis for global efforts to build back better, stronger, greener, safer and smarter; get the world back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and meet the ambitious targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Once viewed primarily through the lens of challenges to be addressed, urban areas are now crucial to securing sustainable economic, social and environmental futures.

Every region is expected to become more urbanized in the next ten years. This tells us that cities are here to stay, and that the future of humanity is undoubtedly urban.

Cities across the world were unprepared for the magnitude of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The disease has revealed and amplified several long-standing weaknesses in the social structures of cities, resulting in disproportionate impacts on urban residents, affecting the vulnerable and marginalized the most. A key lesson for the future is that urban areas must invest in preparedness and develop the economic, social and institutional resilience to respond to a wide range of shocks — and this includes developing contingency plans for the most vulnerable groups.

The theme of WUF11 will shed light on the importance of informed preparedness to anticipate change, help correct our course of action when needed, and encourage us to be more knowledgeable on the possible futures

of our cities. WUF11 will also show how policy, strategy and action can help shape desirable futures.

SDG 11 calls for cities to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Our urban futures should be compatible with the transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda by putting people first and ensuring no one is left behind. They should generate prosperity and opportunities for all while ensuring we are environmentally sustainable.

WUF11 will provide greater insights and clarity on the future of cities based on existing trends, challenges and opportunities as well as disruptive events including the valuable lessons that cities are drawing from the current pandemic. The session will suggest ways cities can better prepare to address future pandemics and a wide range of other shocks.

Keeping our promise of collaborative implementation

In the lead-up to WUF11, we continue to follow up on [The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions](#) which form part of the WUF legacy aiming to leave a better world to future generations. UN-Habitat has just released an update on the progress made by partners in their commitments at WUF10. The report [The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions: one year of implementation](#) highlights 24 of these declared actions.

Inviting our partners to share their actions

UN-Habitat invited its partners to share their progress on the Abu Dhabi Declared Actions on the [Urban Agenda Platform](#) (if you haven't been following us, we talk about the Platform [here](#), [here](#) and also [here](#)). All colleagues may spread the word and encourage partners to report on progress so they can celebrate successes, share

lessons learned and continue to build a community of practice that support sustainable urban development. Partners are also urged to use National Urban Forums as a vehicle for mobilizing action, generating new declared actions and reporting on these commitments. At WUF11, partners will have an opportunity to show how they are fulfilling their pledges to ensure cities are more inclusive, sustainable and resilient.



WORLD URBAN FORUM

The new World Urban Forum (WUF) universal logo identifies with elements of dialogue, people, and structural space as seen of the very essence of WUF. It is modern, simple and fits well with UN-Habitat, the New Urban Agenda, and the SDGs logos.

Learn more and join us on our social media

For more information about WUF11 visit www.worldurbanforum.org,

reach out to unhabitat-wuf@un.org, or

navigate our social media pages.





It's soon the end of Ramadan. **Sharmaarke Abdullahi**, Programme Management Officer at the Donor Relations and Strategic Resource Partnerships Unit, ERSKI gives us a taste of Eid-al-Fitr celebrations during a pandemic.

“Eid al-Fitr, which translates to “the festival of breaking of the fast,” is the celebration that marks the end of Islam’s holiest month, Ramadan, in which Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset as well as engaging in additional prayers, introspection and charity.

For many Muslims, celebrating Eid al-Fitr normally includes attending their local mosque, exchanging gifts, sharing meals, and socialising with family and friends. Eid celebrations will look different globally for the second year in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic. But celebrating Eid during a pandemic

does not mean it has to be a festival without enjoyment, as those celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Diwali this year have shown.

Eid is centred around community, family, gifts, and some would argue, most importantly, food. My family and I have been keeping the festive spirit alive by staying true to traditions and preserving normalcy for our children, which has meant decorating the house, getting dressed up for Eid and making our daughters their favourite Eid breakfast.

One tradition we have not been able to keep is our annual Eid lunch and

celebration with children from the Mama Fatuma Orphanage. The orphanage provides a safe, healthy, and caring environment for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, abandoned, or abused. So, this Eid instead of our annual monetary donation, we are redefining how to celebrate with the children from the orphanage by organizing a gift drive with family and friends, bouncing around a bouncing castle, and face painting.

I can think of three fun ways to redefine how to celebrate with family and friends this Eid:

1

Donate to your favourite cause and practice gratitude

Many people around the world have been struck with financial difficulties during the pandemic. This year make an effort to donate to your favourite cause, not just monetarily but by volunteering or practicing gratitude.

2

Brighten the day: dress-up

Due to many lockdown measures, this Eid might mean you will be staying indoors, but that does not mean you have to stay in your pyjamas. Brighten the day by dressing up in your favourite outfit and feel a change from the lockdown routine!

3

Invite your Muslim and non-Muslims friends to a virtual Eid party

Depending on where you are, it might not be possible to visit family and friends, but there is no need to put a damper on the festivities. Connect with your loved ones online, use platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Snap Chat or other social media platforms for inspiration to see what different things people are doing online. Create a fun video to entertain your loved ones, and if you are brave, post it so the whole world can enjoy it – it’s better to laugh through the difficult times!

Vacancies

Role
Programme
Management
Officer, Project
Post, NOC
Duty Station
Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso
Deadline
19 May 2021
Apply here

Role
Chief of
Knowledge
and Innovation
Branch, D1
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
4 June 2021
Apply here

Role
Evaluation
Officer, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
2 June 2021
Apply here

Role
Senior
Programme
Officer, Human
Settlements, P5
Duty Station
Sana'a, Yemen
Deadline
25 May 2021
Apply here

Role
Programme
Management
Officer (Project
Post), P4
Duty Station
Sana'a, Yemen
Deadline
20 May 2021
Apply here

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Role
Programme
Management
Officer, Human
Settlements, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
27 May 2021
Apply here

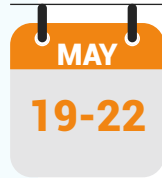
Role
Associate
Programme
Management
Officer, NOB
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
27 May 2021
Apply here

Role
Chief of Strategic
Planning Unit, P5
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
9 June 2021
Apply here

Upcoming events and corporate calendar



Other organizers



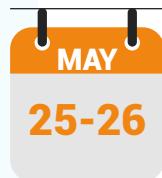
4th International conference on Canadian, Chinese and African sustainable urbanization (ICCCASU IV)

Moving beyond the conventional practice of North-South or South-South cooperation, ICCCASU fosters a triangular dialogue between African countries, Canada, and China. ICCCASU brings together researchers and representatives from governments, civil society, industries including insurance and finance, and academia for in-depth discussions on cities and urbanization with the larger goals of promoting sustainable urban development and learning from the diverse but complementary experiences of Canada, China, and African countries. The theme of ICCCASU IV is "Density, Diversity, and Mobility: the City in an Era of Cascading Risks". [More information](#)



Mapping a Green Future: Webinars on Urban Planning under the Park City Initiative

Large metropolises are home to many of the development and environmental challenges facing the world's population today. To address these challenges, Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province, launched its Park City Initiative in 2017. Rather than simply creating green spaces in the urban setting, the idea behind the Park City Initiative is to build a "city within a park", generating a new type of development path which bridges the people, city, industry and nature. The two-session webinar organized by Metropolis Learning Hub Chengdu with a focus on urban planning will offer a chance for urban planners, city managers and urban development experts to meet and exchange views on planning for sustainable development and the vision of future cities. [More information](#)



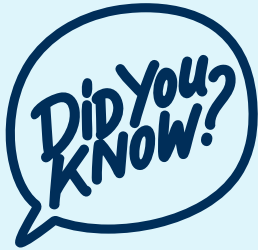
Smart Cities Moscow

On 25-26 May, Moscow will host the International Smart Cities Forum. The Forum's goal is to create a platform for communication and interaction of ICT specialists, representatives of international business community and world cities' officials on the implementation of advanced digital solutions in all areas of urban life. Some of the topics will include technologies in the fight against Covid-19, 5G, Big Data, Digital Services, E-government, Artificial Intelligence, Smart Grids, and Food Tech. [More information](#)



5th Annual Intelligent Cities Summit 2021

The Intelligent Cities Summit brings together leading global municipal professionals and tech experts to discuss, share ideas and case studies on how to utilize new technology to make cities more intelligent — making them more efficient, offering better city services and improving quality of life. The three-day summit will highlight how the use of technology has and can contribute to make public services prompt, efficient and more effective. [More information](#)



Do you want to gather donor intelligence in a meaningful way before reaching out to a potential donor?

Look no further: UN-Habitat's [Donor Information System](#) (DIS) supports resource mobilization efforts by providing business intelligence on donors throughout the organization.

The portal also monitors contribution grants to ensure compliance with donor agreements and reporting timelines. The main features of the DIS include:

- **A management dashboard** which monitors the status of core and earmarked funds, key donors, and income acquired by donor region.
- **Donor profiles** of over 600 development partners with data on themes and countries supported, themes and countries of interest, contribution history, projects supported, projects in country, donor country personnel, donor country missions, implementing partners, reports and downloadable donor profile.
- **Regional profiles** with an overview of funding by both UN and UN-Habitat regions showing their contribution history, projects supported by the regions, projects implemented in regions, personnel from regions and downloadable summary regional profiles.
- **A reporting calendar** to track when reports are due, showing all reports due for grants that are not yet financially closed. It also provides resources including training materials on resource mobilization.



To access the **Donor Information System** portal (or for a tutorial on how to navigate it) send an email to unhabitat-donorrelations@un.org. If you already have a user ID to the Project Accrual and Accountability System (PAAS) system, you may use the same user ID and password.



Participate!

Want your story featured? Submit your ideas or reach out to us at unhabitat-habpost@un.org.

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