

WORLD URBAN FORUM



KUALA LUMPUR • 7-13 FEB 2018

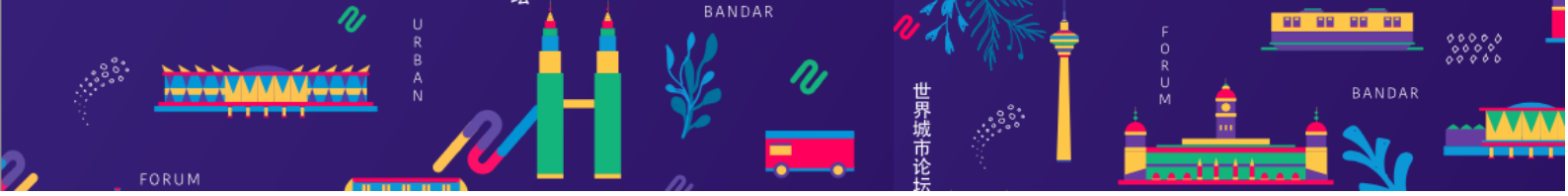
# **CITIES 2030, CITIES FOR ALL: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA**

---

**CONCEPT PAPER**

As of 28 December 2017

**UN**  **HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



## Introduction

As highlighted in the Quito Declaration of the New Urban Agenda, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double by 2050, with cities to be home to nearly 70 per cent of the world's population by the sunset of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030.

Member States also recognized urbanization as one of the twenty-first most transformative trends emphasizing that “populations, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities”<sup>1</sup>.

Around a billion people still live in slum conditions today and poverty and exclusion are no longer limited to least developed countries.

With over 90 per cent of all urban centers located in coastal areas, it is estimated that 650 million urban dwellers will face serious risks from floods, water, scarcity and ecological and economic change as a result of climate change.

As a result of conflicts, as well as other shocks and drivers, around 60 per cent of the total 14.4 million refugees and 80 per cent of the 38 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) are estimated to live in urban areas.

By readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions; reduce inequalities; promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development; improve human health and well-being; foster resilience; and protect the environment.

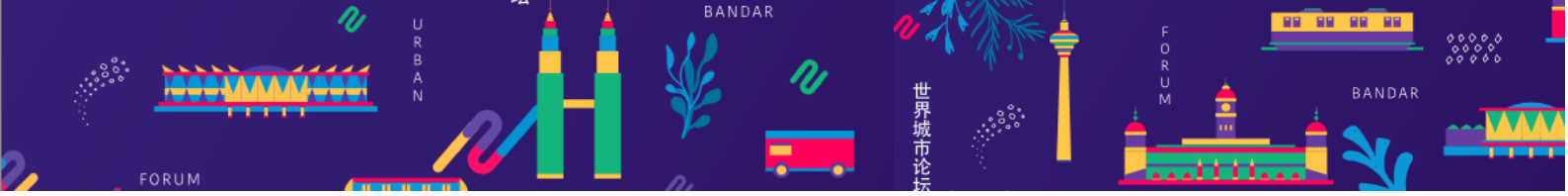
## Sustainable urbanization and the development agenda

In 2015 the United Nations Member States adopted a comprehensive Development Agenda, incorporating universal aspirations that go beyond what were the traditional areas of development. It establishes new sets of goals and targets addressing emerging concerns including elements that are today fundamental part of everyone's lives while focusing on the root causes of poverty and inequality which undermine the achievement of the full human potential in harmony with a healthy environment.

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, aiming at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all, for the first time is truly universal and stresses the point that everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector and the civil society; putting the people at the center.

---

<sup>1</sup> Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All of the New Urban Agenda, A/71/256\*.



The Sustainable Development Goals express a wide recognition of the spatial dimension of development. This is clearly translated in the incorporation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) “Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

Other Goals, SDG1 End Poverty; SDG5 Gender Equality; SDG8 Sustained Economic Growth and Employment; SDG10 Reduced Inequalities; SDG12 Sustainable Consumption and Production; SDG13 Combat Climate Change and its impacts, and SDG15 Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biodiversity, also have important urban dimensions to be considered and addressed to ensure and sustain their achievement.

With the adoption of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Member States have not only taken stock of the scale of the phenomenon of urbanization which now affects more than fifty per cent of the world population, but also the role of cities in the global economy, the climate change agenda, the use and consumption of natural resources, as well as their contribution to social advancement and innovations.

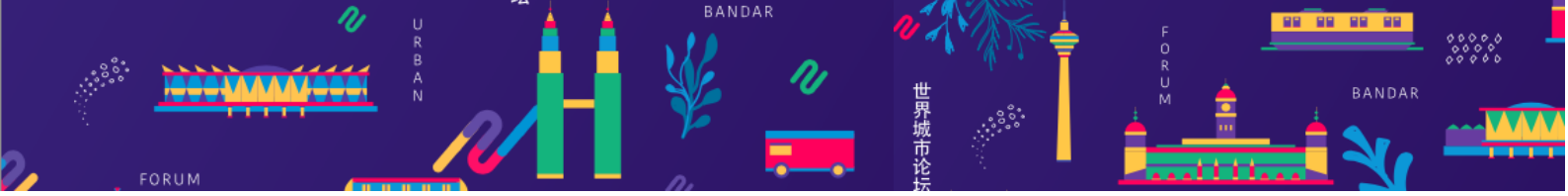
Other international frameworks addressing global concerns, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, are strongly interlinked with the dynamics of urban development.

With reference to these milestone commitments, the recognition of the key contribution of sustainable urbanization to achieve development culminated with the historical adoption of the New Urban Agenda in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

The New Urban Agenda, grounded on bold transformative commitments articulated across the three pillars of sustainability, provides a blue-print towards the achievement of sustainable urbanization and a qualitative roadmap for its effective implementation. It reasserts a positive notion of cities, demonstrating that if well planned and managed, urbanization can be a transformative force for inclusive prosperity and well-being, while protecting the environment and addressing climate change. It also provides implementation tools for resilience building and the operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus.

The shift of paradigm provided by the New Urban Agenda, when translated into policies and integrated actions at all levels, is expected to contribute to the realization of the Agenda 2030 including the achievement of SDG11 as well as other goals and targets.

Using the impetus and compass of the New Urban Agenda, the cities of the future can be epicenters of an integrated territorial approach towards sustainability, where urbanization and high concentrations of people provide large efficiency benefits and generate jobs and opportunities for all, while serving as centers of production, services, knowledge and innovation.



## THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

### TRANSFORMATIVE COMMITMENTS

- Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty
- Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all
- Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development

### EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

- Building the urban governance structure: establishing a supportive framework
- Planning and managing urban spatial development

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION [summary]

- Financial means of implementation
  - Endogenous resources and revenues
  - Transparent systems for decentralized transfers
  - International public finance

However, good urbanization does not happen by chance. It requires building a robust urban governance structure by establishing supportive legal and policy frameworks and ensuring effective planning and management of the urban spatial development. Only the deployment of supportive rules and regulations, sound planning and design assisted by viable financial plans, will ensure that cities function as transformational drivers of sustainable development.

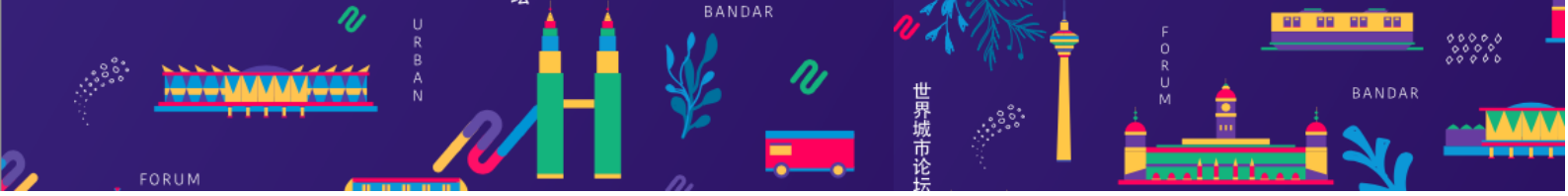
To this end, UN-Habitat has identified five key action areas as entry points for implementing the New Urban Agenda:

#### 1. *National Urban Policies*

Inclusive formulation and implementation of National Urban Policies help to frame and guide the development of integrated national systems of cities and human settlements, towards the achievement of national visions and priorities for a balanced territorial development.

#### 2. *Urban legislation and governance*

Urbanization, as a complex social and collective project, must be governed by the principle of the rule of law and supported by legal and regulatory frameworks that are adequate to implement urban plans, policies and strategies, including regulating land use and development. Urbanization should be governed through a democratic, long-term and integrated, multilevel, proficient governance system that takes full advantage of the digital age.



### 3. *Urban planning and design*

Long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design is required to optimize the spatial dimension of the urban form and to deliver the positive outcomes of urbanization. This should be context-based, though grounded on key principles of connectivity and proximity, appropriate density incorporating a mix of uses, inclusivity and resilience, promoting high quality urban spaces that attain economies of agglomerations and provide equal opportunities for all.

### 4. *Urban Economy and Municipal Finance*

Major efforts should be made to create sustainable and inclusive urban economies by leveraging the agglomeration benefits of well-planned urbanization, including high productivity, competitiveness and innovation, by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all. Value generated by the urban economy needs to be equally shared through innovative, integrated financial mechanisms to ensure a sustainable flow of finance necessary for cities to meet the needs of, and provide opportunities for all.

### 5. *Local implementation*

Through engaging local communities and considering local knowledge as an important asset, local implementation brings together local stakeholders to approach targeted, place-based, project-oriented urban development in a way that is sustainable, people-centered, responsive and integrated. It will allow urban extensions for new areas to be developed and existing areas to be retrofitted or regenerated in accordance with the principles of the New Urban Agenda.

## **The World Urban Forum**

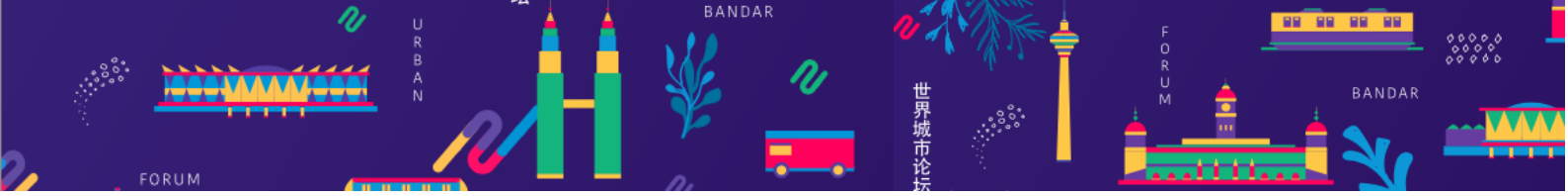
The World Urban Forum (WUF) is a non-legislative technical forum convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since 2002.

The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 69/226 recognizes the World Urban Forum as the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental organizations and expert practitioners in the field of sustainable urban development and human settlements. The World Urban Forum has also been recognized for its innovative and inclusive nature, making it a unique United Nations event and the world's premier international gathering on urban issues<sup>2</sup>.

The Forum gathers a wide range of experts from every walk of life. Participants of the Forum include, but are not limited to, national, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, professionals, research institutions and academies, professionals, private sector, development finance institutions, foundations, media and United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

---

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 26/6, Report of the 26th session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council



The number and diversity of participants since the first session of the World Urban Forum held in Nairobi in 2002 has increased exponentially, peaking to more than 22,000 participants from more than 150 countries at WUF7 held in Medellin, Colombia, in 2014.

## The Ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9)

The Ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7 to 13 February 2018. It will be the first large-scale event on urban development after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III and the first one to focus on its implementation.

In paragraph 167 of the New Urban Agenda, participating States requested the report of the implementation of the Agenda to incorporate, to the extent possible, the inputs of multilateral organizations and processes where appropriate, civil society, the private sector and academia and to build on existing platforms and processes such as the World Urban Forum convened by UN-Habitat.

In this respect, the WUF9 will feed substantive inputs into, and will be instrumental to the first report of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be submitted to ECOSOC in July 2018. The Forum will also contribute to global mobilization and advocacy for the common vision on sustainable urban development and advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

### WORLD URBAN FORUM GOALS

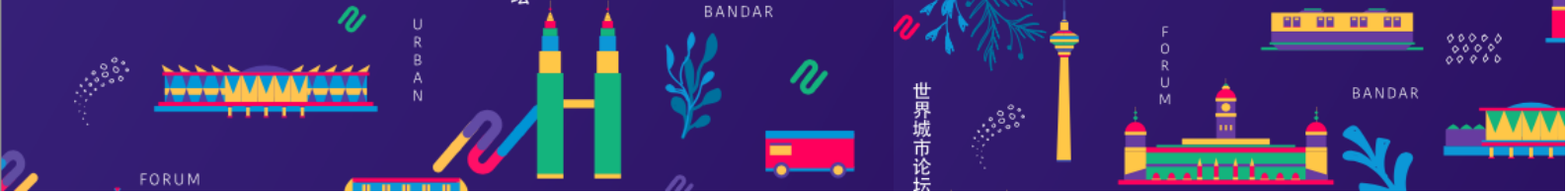
Raise awareness on sustainable urbanization amongst stakeholders and constituencies, including the general public.

Improve collective knowledge on sustainable urban development through inclusive open debates, sharing lessons learned and exchanging best practices and good policies.

Increase coordination and cooperation between different stakeholders and constituencies to advance the achievement of sustainable urbanization.

Gather inputs of multilateral organizations and stakeholders into the reporting of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (aligned with Op. 167 of the New Urban Agenda).

The Forum is a key platform supporting the strategy and work of UN-Habitat and its partners towards improving effectiveness and impact of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. New ideas, priorities and working models are identified in the Forum and incorporated on a cyclical basis into the strategic plan and the subsequent work programme and budget of UN-Habitat.



**WORLD URBAN FORUM AS A KEY PLATFORM FOR UN-HABITAT STRATEGY AND WORK**

Contributes to the implementation and delivery of the current Work Programme and Budget, as well as the global and regional strategies of the Agency.

Provides inputs to the formulation of subsequent Work Programme and Budget, as well as the strategic plan through the WUF report to the UN-Habitat Governing Council.

Contributes to fulfilling UN-Habitat’s mandated role as a United Nations focal point on sustainable urbanization.

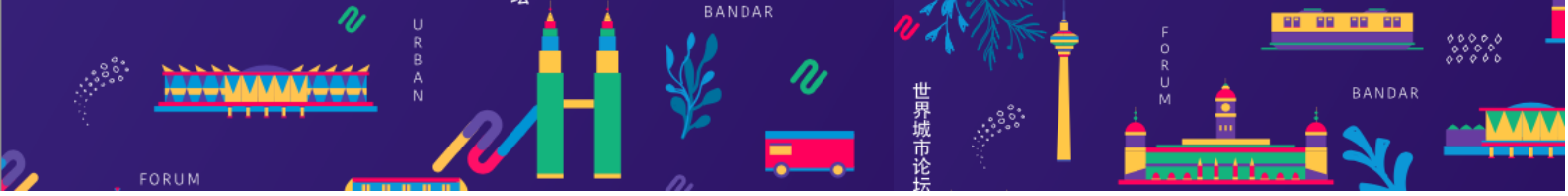
The WUF9 will be hosted by Malaysia, a country with a population of 31 million, out of which 77 per cent live in urban areas. Malaysia is clearly committed to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through several specific policies and programmes that are addressing cities and human settlements in conformity with the needs of the local community, considering all aspects of fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, focusing on the full respect for diversity and cultural backgrounds of individuals and communities.

**MALAYSIA GROWTH SCENARIO**

The government of Malaysia launched the New Economic Model (NEM) on 30 March 2010 whose key objectives are to achieve the high income nation status, sustainability and inclusiveness, and to shift the ethnic based affirmative action to one that is need-based. This is implemented through four key pillars, viz.

- (a) The 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now conceived to unite all Malaysians to face the challenges ahead;
- (b) The Government Transformation Programme (GTP) to strengthen public services in the National Key Result Areas (NKRAs);
- (c) The Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) which will propel Malaysia to be an advanced nation with inclusiveness and sustainability in line with the goals set forth in Vision 2020; and
- (d) The 10th Malaysia Plan 2011-2015, and subsequently the 11th Malaysia Plan 2016-2020.

Malaysia commitment to social inclusion was made in its 10th Malaysia Plan 2011-2015, that clearly stipulates the focus on people-centric development, and distinguishing between ‘the capital economy’ and ‘the people economy’. The Plan specifically addresses the ‘Bottom 40 percent’ households income earners by moving towards Inclusive socioeconomic development and elevating their livelihoods.



## **WUF9 Theme**

### ***Cities 2030, Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda***

The main theme chosen for this session of the WUF aims to resonate to the realization of the vision of cities in the year 2030, embedded in the Sustainable Development Goal 11, where no one should be left behind from the urban advantages and opportunities.

The complementarity of the New Urban Agenda and SDG11 provides the opportunity to bring together a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to integrate policies and actions that address multiple urban related issues, and to develop integrated multi-level governance, territorial strategies and urban plans to achieve sustainable urban development.

“Cities 2030” promotes a future of cities and human settlements that are environmentally sustainable and resilient, socially inclusive, safe and violence-free, and economically productive, while territorially connected and contributing towards sustained rural development and prosperity.

“Cities for All” refers to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, and seeks to promote inclusivity and ensure that all city’s inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all.

In Kuala Lumpur heads of states, high-level national and sub-national government representatives will be present at the same table with representatives of the civil society, experts and the private sector, to discuss policies and actions, synergies and innovative solutions for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and to review and exchange mechanisms for its effective scale up.

The WUF9 programme, building on the main theme, “Cities 2030, Cities for all: Implementing the New Urban Agenda” will provide a space to articulate, in a results and action-oriented way, several key dimensions of sustainable urban development that are of importance for diverse stakeholders, decision makers and urban advocates.

## **WUF9 Thematic events**

### **High-Level Roundtables**

The first and highest-level segment, featuring key decision makers and the most iconic figures, will deliberate a set of subjects that revolve around the key role of cities as transformative forces to accelerate development.

These topics will incorporate the new paradigms introduced in the New Urban Agenda, including high profile emerging issues and global trends. The High-level Roundtables to be held at WUF9 will aim to take the debate on the linkages between sustainable urbanization and the development agenda to the next level, collecting key reflections on the status of and way forward to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda on these following six themes:





**1. HLRT 1: Cities for All and housing at the center.**

Development must protect the planet and enable all inhabitants, whether living in formal or informal settlements and slums, to lead decent, dignified, and rewarding lives, and to achieve their full human potential. The Urban space is promoted as a new commons and cultural diversity as an asset for inclusive and cohesive cities with socio-economic integration and a strong sense of belonging through a people-centred approach. Housing exerts a catalytic role in economic development, employment generation, poverty eradication and mitigation of a range of vulnerabilities in cities. Housing, as an essential element of urbanization, must be at the center of the actions towards sustainable and inclusive urban development, including ensuring equal opportunities and better living conditions to the most vulnerable.

**2. HLRT 2: The urban dimension in climate change action.**

Implementing the New Urban Agenda allows addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation effects, as well as contributing to the environmental sustainability and resilience. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, loss of biodiversity, pressure on ecosystems, pollution, natural and human-made disasters and related risks will be tackled by an integrated implementation of the New Urban Agenda in cities and territories.

**3. HLRT 3: An integrated territorial approach to sustainable development.**

A balanced approach to territorial development considers different scales of cities and human settlements, systemically connected among them and with their territories, thus ensuring reliable supply and value chains that connect urban and rural supply and demand, while contributing to food security and nutrition systems. Urban and territorial planning and management that puts housing at the centre, builds infrastructure and services, and facilitates trade should be at the basis of the quest towards sustainable development.

**4. HLRT 4: Innovative governance for open and inclusive cities.**

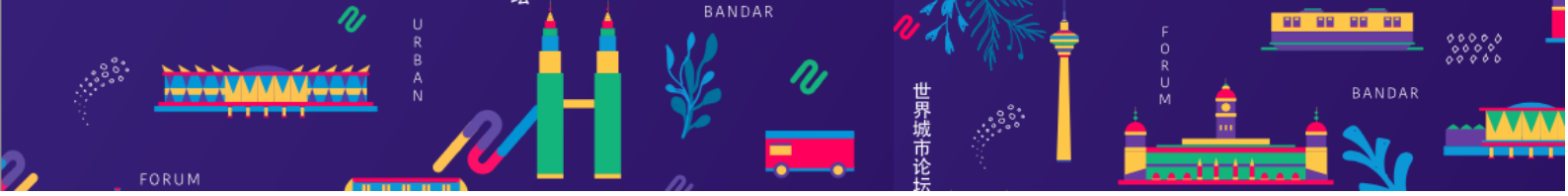
Inclusive governance structures ensures participatory processes for urban policies and plans that mainstream sustainable urban and territorial development as part of integrated development strategies. This to be supported by institutional and regulatory frameworks linked to transparent and accountable governance and finance mechanisms. Open data and use of new technologies are key for meaningful citizens' engagement and improved service delivery.

**5. HLRT 5: Urbanization and Development: investing in the transformative force of cities.**

Sustainable urbanization can generate prosperity and create opportunities for all and assess financial capacity for sustainable and well targeted investments. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with full and productive employment and decent work for all are key elements of sustainable urban development towards ensuring healthy, productive, prosperous, and fulfilling lives to all while enabling joint contribution to the urban economy.

**6. HLTR 6: Sustainable urban development for peace and security.**

Well-planned, inclusive and prosperous cities are less prone to instability and crises. Reconstruction and recovery programming provides an opportunity to “plan out” risk and “build



in resilience”, for a more functional city. Linking humanitarian action and development enables cities and communities in post-crisis situations to “build back better”. The New Urban Agenda provides tools and reasserts the relevance of sustainable urban development in operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus and sustaining peace.

## WUF9 Dialogues

The WUF9 dialogues will aim to focus the attention on policy action areas identified in the strategic delivery of the New Urban Agenda, mainly in the UN-Habitat Action Framework of the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA), but also in other key aspects on the way cities are being re-thought and reimagined in line with the New Urban Agenda and innovative means that are being deployed to achieve its effective implementation.

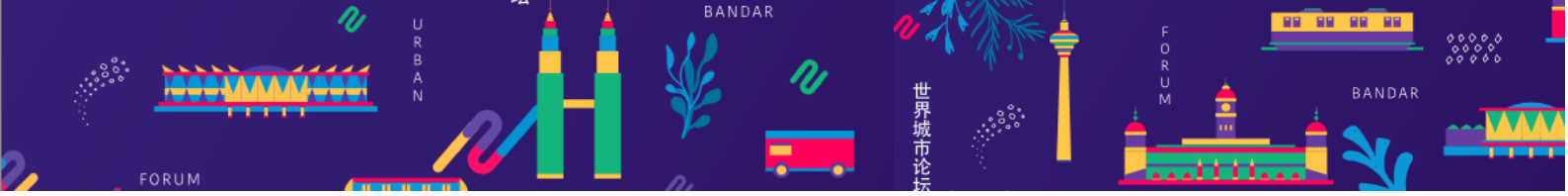
- A. **Strategic delivery of the New Urban Agenda:**
  1. *National Urban Policies*
  2. *Governance and legislative frameworks*
  3. *Urban economies, productive cities and municipal finance*
- B. **Rethink and reimagine our cities**
  4. *Urban planning and design for local implementation*
  5. *Making resilient cities*
  6. *Addressing urban complex crisis and conflict*
- C. **Innovative means in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**
  7. *Open and big data: measuring the urban reality*
  8. *Transformative partnerships in urban management*

The WUF9 Dialogues intend to collect inputs on key aspects of sustainable urbanization directly related to the main action areas. These dialogues will explore and deepen the knowledge on:

- Innovations that have been introduced since 2015 for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda;
- Existing and new partnerships built to achieve results in each of these areas;
- Tools and indicators introduced in each of these areas for capacity development and monitoring;
- Examples (e.g. urban solutions) of integrated approach in each of the areas, as well as solutions for local implementation;
- Inclusive approaches to age and gender responsiveness and human rights mainstreaming in each area.

## WUF9 Special Sessions

The WUF9 special sessions will generate debate on specific technical aspects of the urban issues categorized below. A total of 20 Special Sessions will provide space for technical discussions on the implementation of initiatives in each identified topic and consider the strategic delivery of the New Urban Agenda in all of them.



### **A. Strategic delivery of the New Urban Agenda**

- Leveraging diversity and culture, shaping the cities for all
- Housing at the centre, as a vector for socio-economic inclusion
- Urban-rural linkages: Territorial development and food security
- Security of tenure, land market and segregation
- Local economic development, productivity and youth employment in cities
- Access to basic services for all
- Urban ecological landscapes: Achieving urban health addressing climate change

### **B. Rethink and reimagine our cities**

- Urban labs for urban extension and urban renewal
- Urban safety and accessibility: Shared public and people spaces
- Informal settlements and slum upgrading
- Affordable housing for all (diverse income and multi-generational cities)
- Urban mobility and safe and accessible transport for all
- Low carbon and energy efficient cities
- Risk reduction (resilient building)
- Restoring hope: Building back cities and communities together after disaster
- Unlocking positive impacts of migration in cities

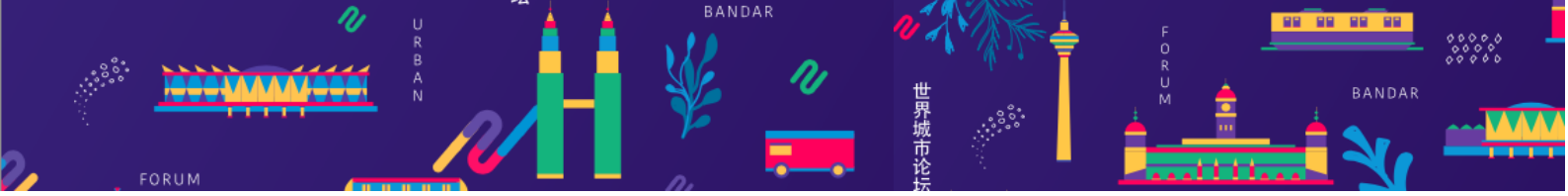
### **C. Innovative means in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

- Smart Cities and the growing role of frontier technologies in sustainable urbanization
- Creative investment and financing mechanism for local government
- Inclusive multi-stakeholders platforms
- Urban data
- Civic engagement and participation

## **WUF9 events focussing on the integrated implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

### **AFINUA room**

The integrative nature of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda across the five key action areas will take into consideration national and local priorities and specificities. This will allow addressing cross-cutting contexts that can be the ground for the identification of new research areas, ad-hoc evidence based policies and urban solutions, innovative approaches and new action oriented partnerships.



This context-specific approach will deepen consensus based on the vision and provisions of the New Urban Agenda as a political commitment, breaking the sectorial, constituency and geographical silos, looking for cross-cutting linkages that can trigger new issues with better partnerships, synergies and coordination. A few examples are listed below:

*The regional dimension*

Presentation of the regional frameworks for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

*The cross regional dimension*

- South-South Cooperation
- Least Developed Countries
- SIDS
- Landlocked countries
- One Belt One Road Initiative
- Andean cities

*The enabler dimension*

- Inter-agency collaborative frameworks
- Stakeholder collaborative framework

*The systemic dimension*

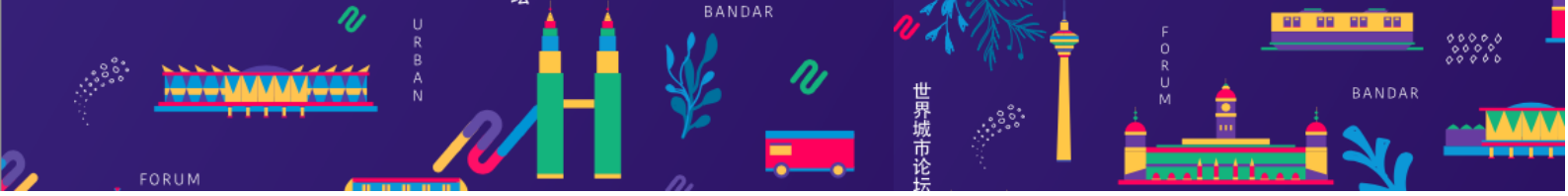
- Metropolitan areas
- Intermediate cities
- Market towns

*The ecologic dimension*

- Delta cities
- Tropical cities
- Desert cities
- Arctic cities
- Amazonian cities and territories

*The transitional dimension (shocks and stresses)*

- Cities in crisis
- Post natural disasters recovery
- Post conflict urbanization



## **WUF9 National-subnational dialogue**

### **Listen to Cities room**

The WUF9 will also be an opportunity to continue increasing the dialogue between national and subnational authorities on the New Urban Agenda implementation. In this context, specific events will be created to ensure effective discussion on action-oriented solutions involving representatives at all levels of government.

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments will have the possibility to continue engaging in discussion for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, its follow-up and review.

The World Urban Forum will be a space for the subnational authorities to bring their tested examples on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as city to city collaboration and national-subnational experiences on vertical and horizontal cooperation.

## **WUF9 stakeholders' events**

The World Urban Forum, as a non-legislative stakeholders' Forum, promotes the strong participation of stakeholders ensuring their inclusion in the identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of urban solutions and policies for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

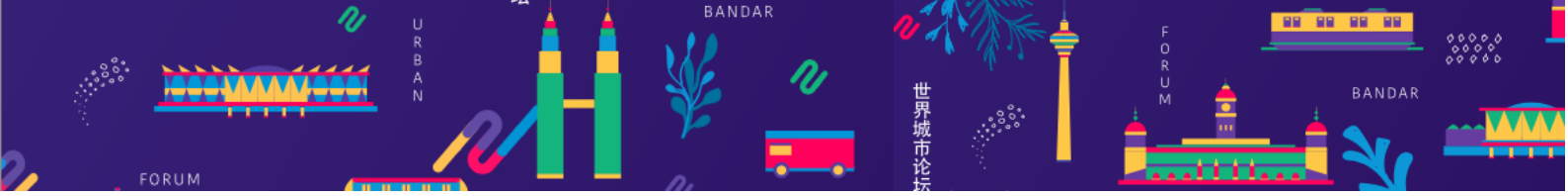
### **Assemblies**

The WUF9 will feature Assemblies, created to give voice to key stakeholders groups from broader segments of the society, particularly instrumental to support an inclusive and participatory decision making process for a scaled up implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all levels.

The Assemblies are designed and organized to mobilize a large audience at the Forum and discuss the most relevant issues for the constituency to advance on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Recommendations from the Assemblies are expected to inform the participation and contributions of the related groups across the successive programme of sessions during the whole week.

The WUF9 Assemblies will be the following:

1. World Urban Children and Youth Assembly
2. Women's Assembly
3. Business Assembly
4. Grassroots Assembly
5. World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments



## Roundtables

The peers Roundtables to be held at the World Urban Forum will provide the opportunity for focussed discussions, reviews and way forward to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into consideration priorities and concerns from the specific stakeholders' groups. The roundtables are traditionally the space for a cyclical review of a common position and planned actions for an effective contribution of the constituency to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Roundtables included in the programme will be the following:

1. Ministers
2. Mayors
3. Women
4. Children and youth
5. Business and industries
6. Civil Society Organizations
7. Farmers
8. Foundations and philanthropies
9. Grassroots organizations
10. Indigenous peoples
11. Media
12. Older Persons
13. Parliamentarians
14. Persons with disabilities
15. Professionals
16. Trade Unions and workers
17. Research and Academia

## Networking, side and training events

The World Urban Forum 9 will also create an inclusive space for a wide range of participants from all over the world to discuss specific issues, solutions and approaches related to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Organizations will be able to present their proposals to organize networking, side and training events, connected to specific principles and provisions of the New Urban Agenda. This will be also an opportunity to contribute to and leverage the relevance of the Forum for strengthening partnerships, call for new alliances as well as launching joint initiatives on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and further strengthening the knowledge, awareness and capacity development dimensions of the World Urban Forum.