

WORLD  
URBAN  
FORUM  
THIRTEENTH SESSION




## MEDIA KIT

# WORLD URBAN FORUM 13

Baku Olympic Stadium, Baku, Azerbaijan, 17–22 May 2026

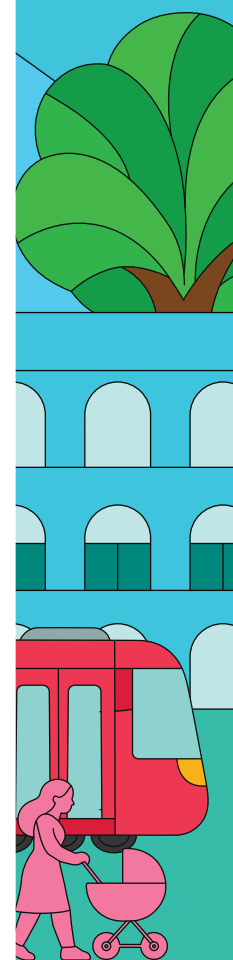




**Baku, Azerbaijan, will host the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) from 17 to 22 May 2026, under the theme “Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities.”**

The Forum will explore solutions to transform informal settlements and slums and address the global housing crisis.

Established in 2001, the World Urban Forum is the United Nations’ premier global conference on cities and sustainable urbanization.



# Event details

**Dates:** 17–22 May 2026

**Location:** Baku Olympic Stadium

**Organizers:** UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Government of Azerbaijan

**Official website:** [wuf.unhabitat.org](http://wuf.unhabitat.org)

Co-organized by UN-Habitat and the Government of Azerbaijan, this is the first time WUF is being held in the Caucasus region.

WUF13 will gather ministers, regional governors, mayors, urban planners, policymakers, the private sector, community leaders, civil society, academics and UN agencies to share their knowledge and collaborate on sustainable urban development.



## Anacláudia Rossbach

*Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat*

Anacláudia Rossbach is an economist with more than 20 years of experience in housing, informal settlements and urban policies. She was appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat in June 2024. Prior to her appointment, she oversaw the development and implementation of Brazilian housing and slum-upgrading policies at the World Bank and was Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.



## Anar Guliyev

*Chairman, State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture, and WUF13 National Coordinator*

Anar Guliyev began his professional career in 1999 within the system of state property management. He later worked in economic development, cultural heritage management, and housing development, holding senior management positions. From 2018, he served as Chief of Staff of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture. By orders of the President Ilham Aliyev, he was appointed First Deputy Chairman in June 2019 and subsequently Chairman in January 2020. He was awarded the medal “For Distinction in Civil Service” by the President Ilham Aliyev. Since 2024, he has been President of the Azerbaijan Archery Federation. In April 2025, he was appointed National Coordinator for WUF13 by the President, Ilham Aliyev.



# What to expect

WUF13 is a unique opportunity for all those interested in all aspects of urbanization to discuss how cities are built, planned and managed, and for media covering those issues.

It aims to advance the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities.

## Key features:

- Press conferences with leading figures at the event, details to be confirmed.
- 500+ sessions and events, covering numerous urban development topics, including an opening and closing session, assemblies, dialogues, special sessions and roundtables, alongside opportunities for networking and informal exchange.
- Urban Expo: showcasing the latest innovations and solutions to urban challenges.
- Livestreaming in the six United Nations languages, accessible globally, plus international sign language.

## WUF13 Media partnerships

In addition to welcoming media from around the world, WUF13 is engaging leading international, regional, and specialist media organizations as strategic partners in shaping the global public discourse on cities and urbanization.

For further details, please see the addendum at the end of the media kit.

# Agenda Snapshot



## Dialogues

WUF13 Dialogues are key events shaping policy and action

### Dialogue 1:

#### **The Global Housing Crisis: What is the Plan?**

How are governments, the private sector and non-profits addressing severe problems of affordability that are a prominent factor in cities worldwide?

### Dialogue 2:

#### **Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums**

Explores how these urban areas can be transformed without penalizing informal housing and how higher quality services and infrastructure can be offered to residents.

### Dialogue 3:

#### **Housing at the Centre of Crisis Recovery and Reconstruction**

How we can redefine reconstruction after crisis to prioritize adequate housing, and how can cities embed the issues created by displacement into their planning and housing policies?

### Dialogue 4:

#### **The Climate-Housing Nexus**

Examines ways of ensuring that climate-resilient housing policies don't lead to forced evictions and gentrification, and how new housing initiatives can focus on people as well as decarbonization.

### Dialogue 5:

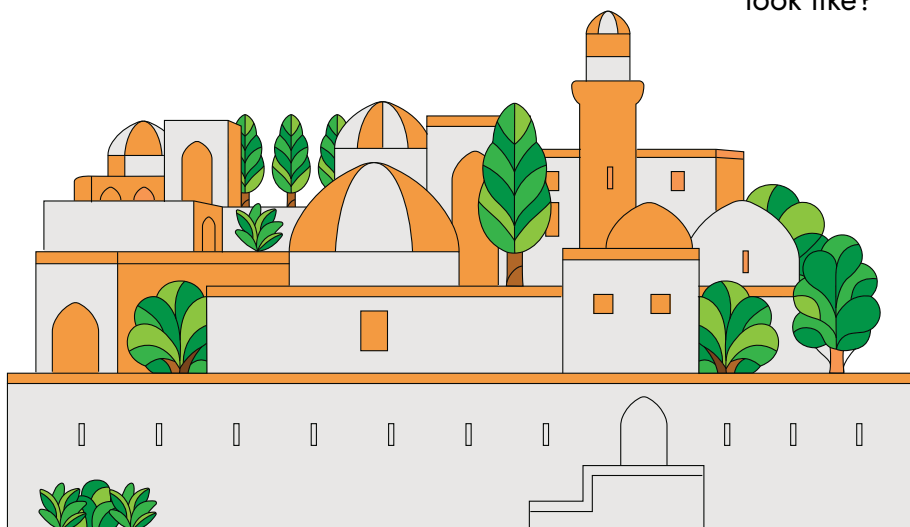
#### **The Social and Economic Power of Housing**

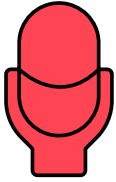
How to reconcile the dual role of housing as a driver of economic development and provider of adequate shelter, and the role of local government in promoting the economic role of housing.

### Dialogue 6:

#### **A New Deal for Housing Finance**

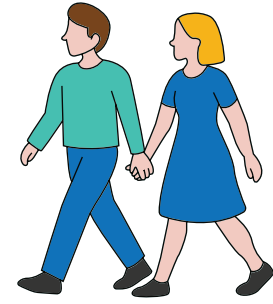
Alternatives to conventional housing finance have emerged but remain underrecognized. What would a new deal in housing finance that is inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to diverse needs look like?





# Special Sessions

Eight Special Sessions on the following topics:



## Housing at the centre of global coalitions

*#housingcoalitions #housingaction*

The session will identify practical actions to strengthen cooperation and accelerate progress toward SDG 11.1.

## Advancing waste management towards a circular economy

*#circulareconomy*

Concrete guidance on new opportunities for collaboration through Waste Wise Cities, the African Clean Cities Platform and global circularity partners.

## Inclusive urban resilience, blue economy and sustainable tourism in Small Island and Developing States

*#islandresilience #islandinnovations*

A showcase for policy and planning innovations that strengthen housing systems, protect coastal communities and support the blue economy.

## Cities as playing fields

*#sportinthecity*

An exploration of how sport can serve as an essential urban service that strengthens inclusion, health and community resilience.

## Pulse of healthy homes

*#housingforhealth #housingforwellbeing*

Highlighting how housing and services shape well-being and why they are vital for inclusive, climate-resilient cities.

## Africa affordable housing compact – deal room investor Special Session

*#investordealroom #affordablehousing*

Selected developers will pitch bankable projects and receive direct feedback from financiers and the audience.

## Rethinking cultural heritage and inclusive urban regeneration

*#inclusiveheritage #inclusiveregeneration*

The session will feature immersive storytelling, live performances, high-level dialogues and contributions from city leaders, cultural experts and development partners across regions.

## Stories from the frontline: advancing the urban climate legacy

*#resilientcities #financingresilience*

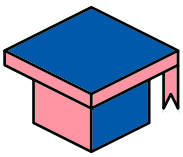
A blend of storytelling and practical insight to shape shared priorities for people-centred, climate-resilient urban futures, particularly from Amazonian and other climate-vulnerable cities.



# Innovations at WUF13



WUF13 introduces the **Practices Hub** – a new space dedicated to showcasing tested solutions, innovations and best practices from cities and countries around the world.



Another novelty, the **WUF Academy**, invites universities, training institutes and partner organizations to host learning sessions designed to build skills and capacities to address urban challenges.



# Media Hub

At the heart of WUF13, the Media Hub is designed to enable high-quality, real-time coverage of the world’s leading global forum on cities and sustainable urbanization. It offers accredited journalists and broadcasters a central base to report, produce live content, conduct interviews and engage directly with key newsmakers throughout the Forum.

Some of the facilities and services:

**Dedicated media zones** for live broadcasts, stand-ups and remote reporting

**Spaces for interviews and commentary**, including areas for live broadcasting as needed

**A press conference room** for official media engagements

**Reporting desks** with power outlets

Cable and wireless **internet connectivity**

**Lounge area** with light refreshments





**The thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum will be a key opportunity to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and tackle the global housing crisis.**

In an increasingly urban world, delivering the promise of safe and resilient cities and communities under SDG 11 is more urgent than ever.

WUF13 will examine how to translate existing commitments into action to shape the cities of tomorrow, placing housing at the centre of the development agenda.

Join us in Baku from 17–22 May 2026.







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