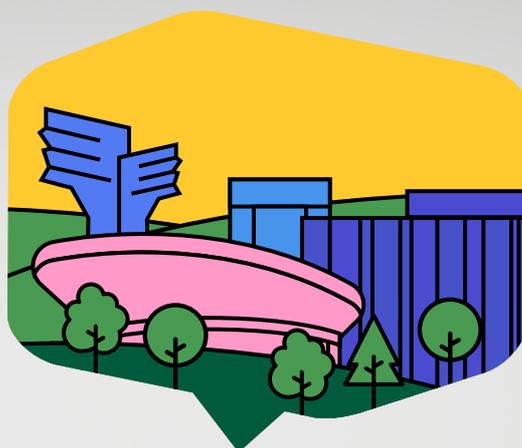


# WORLD URBAN FORUM

ELEVENTH SESSION



KATOWICE, POLAND | 26-30 JUNE 2022

## WUF 11 SDG LOCALIZATION

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



# Welcome!

We at UN-Habitat are pleased to share details of the SDG Localization events at the World Urban Forum and to invite your participation. The World Urban Forum will be held at the international congress centre in Katowice, Poland from 26 to 30 June 2022. WUF 11 will be organized jointly with the government of Poland represented by the ministry of Development Funds and Regional policy, and the city of Katowice.

The theme for WUF 11, transforming our cities for a better urban future, will provide greater insights and clarity on the future of cities based on existing trends, challenges, and opportunities, as well as suggest ways cities can be better prepared to address future pandemics and a wide range of other shocks. WUF11 presents a strategic opportunity for multi-stakeholder cooperation in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11—make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Participants



will be local and national leaders, government officials, representatives of civil society, academia, the private sector, and grassroots organizations, as well as other policymakers and decision makers from around the world. We believe that your expertise and contribution will be of great benefit to the forum. The events will be both in-person and hybrid, and should you wish to participate, please register using the following [link](#) before 25 June 2022, and you will also find below a brief description of the various events to be held.

## Background of SDG Localization

Local leadership and local action plans on the SDGs have been identified as central to realizing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. UN-Habitat has designed a strategy to support the localization of the SDGs by adopting a territorial approach looking at sustainable development through multi-level, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder lenses.

The approach connects all components of the SDG implementation chain from data to project implementations, to monitoring systems. The strategy has three components: the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, the Voluntary Local Reviews, and the SDG Cities Flagship Programme

## Priorities of UN-Habitat 2022-2023

UN-Habitat has identified three integrated action areas to address major urban challenges and accelerate progress towards the sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

The first of the priorities is to provide adequate housing for all, the second addresses the key role of cities as contributors to climate solutions and the third priority is localizing the sustainable development Goals- local leadership and local actions plans on the

SDG have been identified as the central to realizing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Integrated "whole-of-society" and "whole-of-government" approaches that gather communities and the different spheres of the government towards a common objective of inclusive and sustainable development is needed. UN-Habitat believes that immediate investment in these three strategic areas would create tangible impacts within the global community's limited time span.



## Events List

### 1 20 'Unicorns' meet Mayors: How to fasttrack SDG Implementation with solid finance

Event type: Exhibition

Organizer: UNGSII

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/exhibitor/ungsii-foundation>

Date: 26th - 30th June

Venue: Urban Expo Hall 2.4, Stand #35

#### Summary

The World Urban Forum 2022 in Katowice will host the UN-Habitat/UNGSII matchmaking space «20 Unicorns meet Mayors - how to fast track SDG Implementation with solid finance».

At UNGSII SDG Lab companies, Mayors and representatives from Finance with a strong focus on Infra-Structure-Finance will start exchange about how concrete challenges within the 1000 SDG Cities/25+5 SDG Cities can be solved by a selection of companies who developed

and implemented stellar solutions on one continent - and now being ready for acceleration across the globe. After the initial dialogue in Davos, the mayors and companies will continue their dialogue regarding the concrete ask as well as how their projects can become lighthouses for other cities.

The focus will be on these 6 growth areas : affordable housing, public transport, health, energy, waste, services.

### 2 World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

Event type: Assembly

Organizer: Convened by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/world-assembly-local-and-regional-governments>

Date: 26th June

Time: 15:00 - 18:00

Venue: Roundtable room 1

#### Summary

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments is organized by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments. The World Assembly has been officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly for the role local and regional governments play in sustainable urban development and in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

It offers a mechanism through which local and regional governments provide inputs to the global agenda, building on the expertise of communities.

This event will follow up on the commitments set forward during the high-level meeting on the review of the New Urban Agenda in New York in April 2022.

### **3 Making Sense of the SDGs in Cities: Sustainable Cities SDG Sensemaking Tool workshop, Finland case**

**Date:** 27th June  
**Time:** 13:30 - 15:00  
**Venue:** Multifunction Hall Room 12

Event type: Networking Event

Organizer: Finland Ministry of Environment, City of Espoo, City of Helsinki, Kuntaliitto, UN-Habitat

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/making-sense-sdgs-cities-sustainable-cities-sdg-sensemaking-tool-workshop-finland-case>

### **4 Local and Regional Governments Roundtable: reimagining cities for a better future for all** **Event type: Roundtable**

**Date:** 27th June  
**Time:** 16:00 - 18:00  
**Venue:** Roundtable Room 1

Event type: Roundtable

Organizer: UN-Habitat and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/local-and-regional-governments-roundtable>

#### **Summary**

With six out of every ten people in the world expected to reside in urban areas by 2030, rising to nearly 70 percent by 2050, cities are where the future of sustainability will be defined. Local and regional governments and

leaders are facing critical challenges in the provision of public services, including housing, health, digitalization and financing, which have been exacerbated by conflicts, health emergencies and climate change.

### **5 Harnessing the potential of Voluntary Local Reviews for transformative change at local level**

**Date:** 28th June  
**Time:** 14:30 - 16:00  
**Venue:** ICC: Voices from Cities Room A

Event type: Voices from Cities

Organizer: UN-Habitat, UNESWA, UNDESA

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/harnessing-potential-voluntary-local-reviews-transformative-change-local-level>

#### **Summary**

Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) have become the tool of choice for local and regional governments to keep track on the implementation of the SDGs in their territories. VLRs have emerged as an innovation by and for cities, contributing to demonstrate the centrality of the mandate of local governments and local communities in the achievement of sustainable development.

Four years into the VLR movement, over 100 VLRs have been published by more than 100 local and regional authorities from more than 30 countries. Complimentary to VLRs, Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) provide an aggregated country-wide analysis of subnational efforts and challenges of localizing the SDGs.

This input from VSRs can contribute to VLRs and VNRs with first-hand information from the subnational government level. It is important to take stock of where the VLR movement stands and look forward into its future, specifically connecting VLRs to the wider and deeper SDG localization process. Some of the challenges mainly faced are linked to the limited capacities in data collection and availability, lack of adequate human, financial and technical resources, limited engagement within national SDG review processes and difficulties in engaging communities and vulnerable groups into truly inclusive and participatory processes, limited

engagement within national SDG review processes and difficulties in engaging communities and vulnerable groups into truly inclusive and participatory processes. This session will bring together experts and practitioners with experience in the development of VLRs and cities development strategies. It aims to highlight the aspects of VLRs that have driven their adoption as the preferred tool for local reporting all over the globe, while also fostering the conversation across experts on how to harness their potential to promote change at the local level.

## **Future Urban Economy and Finance**

Event type: Dialogue

Organizer:

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/dialogue-3-future-urban-economy-and-finance>

**Date: 29th June**  
**Time: 10:00 – 12:30**  
**Venue: Spodek**  
**Arena**

### **Summary**

The classical view on the role of the cities in economic development is that when firms and people locate near one another in cities, agglomeration economies occur. They benefit from density and resulting connectivity, thus increasing the productivity of economic activity.

In the last decades, the role of cities as consumption centres have also been explored, and important debates have centred around the growth of cities in Africa without industrialization, and thus not contributing to increasing productivity.

The question arises on how urbanization can best be harnessed for productive growth? Investments in infrastructure and services require revenues to return the capital costs, support maintenance and operation, and accumulate new capital for further expansions and improvement.

Hence, another important dimension arises in achieving coherence of national, sub-national and external finance to support investment infrastructure and urban development.

# 7 Leave No One and No Place Behind: Addressing Inequalities Within and Between Cities Through SDG Localization

Date: 29th June  
Time: 10:45 - 12:15  
Venue: ICC: Voices from Cities Room A

Event type: Voices from Cities

Organizer: UN-Habitat

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/leave-no-one-and-no-place-behind-addressing-inequalities-within-and-between-cities-through>

## Summary

75% of the world's cities are more unequal in recent times compared to the two previous decades. Inequalities are deeply entrenched by structural drivers that intersect and bolster each other, reinforcing a systematic disadvantage of the most marginalized. The current global trend of rapid urbanization has exacerbated these existent inequalities, leaving many behind. Urban areas are hosting more than a half of today's world population. Over the next decades, global population growth is expected to take place almost exclusively in the world's cities and towns. In this way, urbanization is two-edged: it has the power to create engines of growth and at the same time, inequality traps, where the poor are getting poorer and the rich, richer. What is more, the onset of

rapid urbanization has contributed to widening the development gap between urban and rural areas, with 85% of the global poor living in them. Urban areas are hosting more than a half of today's world population. Over the next decades, global population growth is expected to take place almost exclusively in the world's cities and towns. In this way, urbanization is two-edged: it has the power to create engines of growth and at the same time, inequality traps, where the poor are getting poorer and the rich, richer. What is more, the onset of rapid urbanization has contributed to widening the development gap between urban and rural areas, with 85% of the global poor living in them.

# 8 SDG Cities: Women-led businesses supporting Women-led cities

Date: 29th June  
Time: 12:30-14:00  
Venue: Multifunction Hall Room 15

Event type: Networking events

Organizer: Blendgroup-Blendlab

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/sdg-cities-women-led-businesses-supporting-women-led-cities>

## Summary

SDG Cities aims to support 1000 cities accelerate their achievement of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and positively impact on 1 billion lives, by offering a systematic way to support cities becoming sustainable and resilient. The global initiative does this by connecting data to inclusive, evidence-based strategic planning to high impact project

development and financing, and measuring for impact. It accompanies this process through diagnosing and strengthening local institutional capacity and systems in key areas of data management, governance, planning, financing, and service delivery, as foundations for urban transformation.

SDG Cities is comprised of six implementation windows, one of which is women-led businesses supporting women-led cities, thus championing women leadership while delivering local impact.

Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential. Women's equal participation and leadership in political, public life and private sector are essential to achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) by 2030. However, data shows that women are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making worldwide and achieving gender-parity is far off.

Encouraging women to take on leadership roles allows for financial independence, confidence, self-esteem, and role modelling for young women.

This session will bring together women speakers, including Liane Freire of BLENDGroup | BLENDLab who is dedicated to promoting sustainable development impact investments, and Carole Crist who is the Former First Lady of Florida and an accomplished international businesswoman. Additionally, women mayors will share their experiences and bring light to the challenges and opportunities they have faced during their journey to leadership.



## **Financing the SDGs in Cities: UNCDF/UN-Habitat Fused Offering for Cities**

Event type: ONE UN

Organizer: UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/financing-sdgs-cities-uncdfun-habitat-fused-offering-cities>

**Date: 29th June**

**Time: 12:30-14:00**

**Venue: Multifunction**

**Hall: ONE UN Room**

### **Summary**

Through this Technical Roundtable, the UN Capital Development Fund aims to gather experts, practitioners including city government representatives and development partners to discuss how to address growing gender inequality and climate related vulnerabilities in cities and how to make cities of the future more inclusive and resilient for all citizens including women and youth. The event will particularly focus on the importance of investing in local solutions that address the needs of the most vulnerable populations and

increase their access to economic opportunities, better services and infrastructure. The event will showcase important tools and best practices for incorporating gender responsive and inclusive priorities in urban development agenda. The event will also highlight the centrality of local investments to build inclusive and climate resilient cities and will provide a forum for key recommendations and way forward for promoting local based solutions for inclusive urbanization.

# 10 Prerequisites for financing sustainable urban development

Date: 29th June  
Time: 13:30-15:30  
Venue: Special  
Session Room 1

Event type: Special session

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/prerequisites-productive-investment-infrastructure-and-sustainable-urban-development>

## Summary

For urbanization to serve as a vehicle for economic development of a country, it is key that more effective and productive investments in urban infrastructure and services underpin structural transformation. Furthermore, the structural transformation process and related investment should be conceived in a way that enhances shared prosperity and improves quality of life,

with the aim of leaving no-one behind. This session will attempt to remove some of the bottlenecks within current multi-level governance frameworks and the integration of spatial and investment planning and public and private finance. Experts will share practical experiences from around the world and discuss how to overcome the current challenges.

# 11 Localizing the SDGs: transformative partnerships to accelerate achievement of the Global Goals at local level

Date: 29th June  
Time: 13:30 - 15:30  
Venue: Special  
Session Room 2

Event type: Special session

Organizer: UN-Habitat

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/localizing-sdgs>

## Summary

All the SDGs have targets which are directly or indirectly related to the daily work of local and regional governments and local stakeholders. While the SDGs are global in their ambition, their achievement will depend on local action and local leadership. SDG localization is the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level, in line with national frameworks and with communities' priorities. To be successful, localization needs to be anchored in the principles of inclusion,

partnership and multilevel governance, and to build on adequate data and financing availability at the local level.

This session aims to create an engaging debate with a wide array of stakeholders from different spheres of government and sectors. It is an opportunity to present and discuss the main global initiatives on SDG localization supported by the United Nations system and by UN-Habitat.

# 12 **Flagship 5: SDG Cities: Accelerating the Localization of the SDGs for a Sustainable Urban Future**

**Date:** 29th June  
**Time:** 13:30 – 15:30  
**Venue:** UN-Habitat Arena

Event type: UN-Habitat Arena  
Organizer: UN-Habitat  
Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/flagship-5-sdg-cities-accelerating-localization-sdgs-sustainable-urban-future>

## Summary

The impacts of the pandemic have shaken up our society and systems. Nevertheless, as stated by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, “like any disruptive force, COVID-19 presents us with an opportunity to re-imagine a better future through our response—a fairer and more equal world.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains the best framework for doing just that”. This session will bring together international speakers from different backgrounds to present cutting-edge initiatives to localize the SDGs in their territories.

# 13 **Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews: catalyzing global alliances for the localization of the SDGs**

**Date:** 29th June  
**Time:** 16:30-18:00  
**Venue:** Multifunction Hall Room 12

Event type: Networking  
Organizer: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UN-Habitat  
Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/voluntary-local-and-subnational-reviews-catalyzing-global-alliances-localization-sdgs>

## Summary

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, local and regional governments (LRGs)’ involvement in monitoring and reporting on SDG implementation has expanded to all regions, as did the support of international institutions. Over the past two years, the total number of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) available worldwide has tripled (from approximately 40 VLRs in June 2020 to more than 120 in January 2022).

While VLRs are developed by individual LRGs and circumscribed to a specific city or region, VSRs are produced by LGAs based on inputs from all their members, therefore offering a country-wide analysis of subnational efforts for the localization of the SDG. VLRs provide first-hand information about the way in which LRGs are leading the way in the implementation

of the SDGs, aligning their policymaking to the goals and targets, engaging citizens and local stakeholders, and increasing accountability and transparency goals and targets, engaging citizens and local stakeholders, and increasing accountability and transparency. VSRs are powerful levers for creating a comprehensive, nationwide and multi-level approach to governance related to the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs. They contribute from the local level to the VNR processes. Together, these two modalities of SDG reporting from the local level are becoming more and more widely recognized as inspiring and influential tools for stimulating bottom-up transformations.

However, these efforts should be accelerated to boost the involvement of a majority of LRGs in all regions with the support of global local government networks and international institutions. This event would be a good opportunity to discuss ways to bring the VLR and VSR processes and partners closer together, to share their progress, challenges and results in terms of methodology and advocacy, so as to strengthen the capacities and resources of both LRGs and LGAs.

VLRs and VSRs have indeed the same objective: to highlight the progress of the LRGs in the localization of the SDGs to make their efforts visible and to foster a “whole of government” and a “whole of society” approach to achieve the SDGs.

## **14 SDG Cities: Effective Local Institutions Track: Training on Diagnostic Tools**

**Date: 30th June**

**Time: 09:00-11:45**

**Venue: Multifunction  
Hall Room 10**

Event type: Training events

Organizer: Global CEO Alliance

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/sdg-cities-effective-local-institutions-track-training-diagnostic-tools>

### **Summary**

SDG Cities aims to support 1000 cities accelerate their achievement of SDGs, and positively impact on 1 billion lives, by offering a systematic way to support cities becoming sustainable and resilient. This global initiative does this by supporting an inter-connected process of data analysis, strategic planning and impact project identification, development and financing. In parallel, it strengthens local institutions in key areas of data management, governance, planning, financing, and service delivery, as foundations for urban transformation as per the New Urban Agenda.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) provides guidance in planning, design, finance, development, governance and management to address both the challenges and opportunities of urbanization. Frequently, drivers of sustainable urban development are lacking: These include multi-level, inclusive urban governance, effective legal frameworks, long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning, well-functioning municipal financing systems, and equitable infrastructure development.

# 15 Mobilizing and Equipping Multi-Faith Organizations to be Key Implementation Partners for SDG11 Through UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme SDG Cities

**Time:** 30th June 12:15-13:45  
**Venue:** Multifunction Hall Room 12

Event type: Networking Events

Organizer: World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Religions for Peace, UN-Habitat SDG Cities.

Link: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/mobilizing-and-equipping-multi-faith-organizations-be-key-implementation-partners-sdg11>

## Summary

The United Nations is actively engaging with faith-based organizations co-committed to common causes and the common good. Since Habitat III faith-based organizations and UN-Habitat have slowly but deliberately engaged in a constructive relationship starting in 2017 with the first-ever faith-based Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) followed by five more faith-based UTCs. In 2022 UN-Habitat's flagship Program SDG Cities made faith communities its sixth "implementing window," and a dialogue entitled Faith-based Organizations and the New Urban Agenda. This proposed event, co-led by UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Programme and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) (which was also the co-leader of the dialogue at the High Level Meeting), is designed to be a forum for mutual dialogue pertaining to multi-faith organizations becoming SDG Cities Implementing partners, especially through involvement in faith-based investment in urban projects that advance the SDG's through the SDG Cities Programme.

This perfectly fits dialogue 6 "Building Urban Resilience" where it states "sustainable urban futures is a multi-sectorial, multidimensional, and multi-stakeholder effort, which requires effective collaboration and cooperation across all scales, and the various dimensions of resilience are interrelated and mutually reinforcing."

The design of the event entails: Step 1. Bringing together multi-faith FBO's focused on urbanism, especially from the faith-based investment sector. Step 2. Introducing the SDG Cities Programme to multi-faith PBO's and on-ramps for them to be SDG Cities partners, especially where it pertains to impact investment. Step 3. Dialogue between SDG Cities and multi-faith FBO's focused on how to become effective SDG Cities implementing partners, and exploration of mutually beneficial opportunities.

## WUF11 Venue Map



- |                              |                 |                              |                             |                            |                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Registration              | 06 Foodcourt    | 07 Chill zone 2 (outdoor)    | 13 SDGs in Action           | 17 Press Conference Centre | 20 UN-Habitat Arena |
| 02 Expo Visitor Registration | 06 Spodek Arena | 08 European Track Room       | 14 Urban Crisis Track Rooms | 18 Special Session Room 1  | 21 Polish Pavilion  |
| 03 Roundtable Room 1         |                 | 09 Voices from Cities Room A | 15 One UN Room              | 19 Special Session Room 2  | 22 Urban Cinema     |
| 04 Roundtable Room 2         |                 | 10 Voices from Cities Room B | 16 Networking / Training    |                            | 23 Urban Library    |
|                              |                 | 11 Chill Zone 1 (outdoor)    |                             |                            |                     |
|                              |                 | 12 Auditorium                |                             |                            |                     |