



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nairobi, 24 September 2021

Dear Partner,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the key ongoing preparations for Urban October 2021 and to provide an update on the key events and advocacy campaigns we are organising with Member States and partners to raise awareness of sustainable urbanization during Urban October.

Throughout the month of October, national, local and regional governments and other urban stakeholders are organizing a wide array of activities to advocate and mobilize action towards a better urban future.

Urban October opens with World Habitat Day which is celebrated on the first Monday of October every year. This year's theme is *Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world*. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for hosting this year's Global Observance of [World Habitat Day](#) on 4 October 2021 in Yaoundé. The celebration will be hybrid and registration to attend in person or online is [here](#) at <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/whd-2021-registration>. The day's events will be streamed live [here](#).

Urban October will conclude with [World Cities Day](#) on 31 October 2021. I am very grateful to the Government of Egypt which will host the Global Observance of World Cities Day on 31 October 2021 in Luxor on the theme *Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience*.

Urban October will also provide an opportunity for our valued partners, the inter-governmental organisations and other stakeholders to showcase their contribution to sustainable urban development and the solutions to local and global challenges especially climate change.

World Habitat Day and World Cities Day will amplify UN-Habitat's [ClimateAction4Cities](#) and other global campaigns to encourage local and regional governments to develop actionable plans in the run up to the international climate change summit COP26.

I would very much appreciate support from all stakeholders to organize events which highlight urban opportunities, challenges and solutions during Urban October. Advocacy activities may range from awarding best practices, discussion forums on urban themes, media events, site visits, to e-campaigns and launches of new urban programmes or policy, with more ideas available in this [toolkit](#). UN-Habitat has developed concept notes, climate crisis key messages and [branding](#) to support events.

Planned activities can be posted [here](#) at <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/post-your-event> and will publicized on UN-Habitat's online platforms. Last year more than 750 events were registered and are described in the [Urban October 2020 Report](#).

I am also pleased to inform you that the winners of the 2021 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour will be presented with their awards at the Global Observance of World Habitat Day either in person or online.

This year, UN-Habitat received over 170 nominations of an extremely high standard. I would like to congratulate the winners below:

1. New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA), Egypt
For its role in providing safe, affordable social housing projects in Egypt.
2. Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), Kenya
For being a leading example of community-led change to eradicate extreme poverty in Kenya's urban slums.
3. Baoji City, China
For its innovative housing provision project serving low and middle income residents in Baoji City.
4. Let's do it World (LDIW), Estonia
For organizing three World Cleanup Days (WCD) to tackle the global waste crisis and reduce carbon emissions
5. Ciudad Emergente (CEM), Chile
For its innovative approach on piloting a Shared Streets concept (Calles Compartidas) for low carbon cities.

I look forward working with you so that, together, we can make Urban October a resounding success to increase the momentum for action to improve the quality of life for all in an urbanizing world. For more information please contact Ms. Susannah Price, Head of Communication (susannah.price@un.org).

Yours Sincerely,



Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director