



Katowice Declared Actions: Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future



1. We, the participants of the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum, convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) hosted by the Government of the Republic of Poland in the City of Katowice and co-organized by UN-Habitat, Poland's Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy and the Municipal Office of Katowice, representing national, subnational and local governments, international and regional organizations, humanitarian and development actors, parliamentarians, civil society, older persons, children and youth, women, persons with disabilities, grassroots groups, business leaders, indigenous peoples and local communities, professionals, the private sector, foundations and philanthropies, academia, professionals and other relevant stakeholders.
2. Together, we gathered here in Katowice, Poland, to dialogue on the theme "*Transforming our Cities for a Better Urban Future*." Now, at the conclusion of this World Urban Forum we declare our voluntary actions and commitments for the next two years and beyond. We call for more international, multi-stakeholder and multi-generational cooperation and collective actions in support of the speedy implementation of the New Urban Agenda and reposition the New Urban Agenda strategically as a road map for accelerating sustainable development, climate action, and building peace.
3. We welcome the increased use of Declared Actions from members states and other relevant stakeholders as set out in the Annex of Declared Actions, committed by members states at the [United Nations High-Level Meeting](#) (April 2022) on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, convened by the President of the General Assembly, and Global Stakeholder Declaration and other global fora.
4. We are concerned by the lack of progress towards the SDGs and the Paris Agreement and call for urgent transformative action. We need to focus on pathways to transformative change and investigate examples of cities that have reached a tipping point and turned the corner by instituting innovative and progressive policies and planning regimes. We urge urban leaders to move from incrementalism and work to achieve fundamental shifts in urban environments, systems of governance and forms of habitation, in line with human rights treaties. COVID-19 has shown that substantial change is possible in the short term, but the challenge is in delivering long-term and sustainable change.
5. We need to focus on increasingly imminent urban crises. The climate and biodiversity emergencies, pandemics, violence and conflicts, and other natural and man-made disasters, all converge in cities and surrounding territories. Being prepared for and overcoming these crises becomes a pre-condition to transform towards a better urban future.

6. We welcome the use of an Urban Crises Track during WUF 11 to galvanize the exchange of knowledge and practices between stakeholders in all countries dealing with or affected by conflict and disaster, including from countries newly affected by conflict and disaster, such as Ukraine.
7. We, the participants of WUF 11, reconfirm that culture, as a core component of local identity including heritage, creativity and diversity, is an integral part of the solution to the challenges of urbanization, including urban crises, and to achieving the New Urban Agenda.
8. We recognize that WUF 11 set a new level of accessibility, and reconfirm that accessibility and universal design are an integral part of the solution to the challenges of urbanisation, including urban crisis, and constitutes the agent of transformative action for a more equitable urban future.
12. The commitment to partnership and the empowerment of all stakeholder groups in an inclusive way to influence decision making that affects them and to contribute meaningfully to urban governance. We call for a multi-generational approach ensuring that children, youth and older persons are an integral part of all Declared Actions.
13. We urge United Nations agencies and programmes to develop urban integrated approaches to their respective mandates including health, food, migration and for the Resident Coordinator to commit to mainstreaming sustainable urban integrated development at country level.
14. We acknowledge the UN taskforce on the future of cities and the President of the General Assembly's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanisation as mechanisms to enhance the structural dialogue on local and regional governments within the UN system and opening the path to the creation of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Local and Regional Governments.

THEREFORE, in line with the consultations at WUF 11, we resolve to promote and advance the following:

9. The renewal of the multilateral system to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the urban era, including the presence of local and regional governments in decision making forums affecting the interests of their residents to allow them to build peace, sustainability, and the protection of our planet from the bottom-up.
10. The recognition of local and regional governments as empowering actors safeguarding their local communities and ensuring that no one is left behind and, as a consequence, building their capacity to deliver local services, and to care for all, particularly those facing the greatest vulnerability and marginalisation.
11. The prioritisation of gender transformative policies and administrative actions in all areas of urban governance and service delivery, including representation and leadership by women, the prioritization of support systems and disaggregated data by gender, age and disability, related to their participation and access to services and social protection and the consistent consideration of global issues through a gendered lens.
15. We emphasize the need to put the science, research and the data on the future of urban crises at the fingertips of local governments so they can mobilize the political will and resources to take the needed actions at scale and shift fundamental policies and practices to accelerate progress.
16. We reiterate the call to support local governments so they can drive urban recovery through people-centered bottom-up, accessible participatory approaches, complementary to nationally-led reconstruction efforts. We encourage the use of urban recovery frameworks, detailing the necessary multi-level and multi-generational governance arrangements, addressing policy gaps, ensuring coordination and strengthening financing instruments that can support local governments.
17. We stress the importance of urban recovery to not just focus on the places with physical damage but also on places hosting large number of the displaced, which are often putting huge pressures on service delivery, housing markets and livelihoods. Urban recovery frameworks allow also to work across different scale levels from neighborhoods, to cities, to regions and territories and to rebuild the social contract.

18. We draw attention to the need to develop new financing mechanisms to support bottom-up urban recovery, including through de-risking public and private sector investments, supporting domestic resource mobilization.
19. We commit to improving accountability and transparency in progress towards increased equality of outcome in the achievement of all aspects of the right to an adequate standard of living, including access to basic services, transport, public space and sustainable, green and adequate housing that are essential to inclusion, and implement protection mechanisms that effectively guarantee access to those facing the greatest marginalisation or vulnerability.
20. We recognise the importance of public – private collaboration and private sector initiative in contributing to social impact and environmental sustainability, promote public institutional structures, and processes, including acknowledging the role of civil society including youth leadership, that recognise and facilitate these and integrate them into sustainable urban development planning and reporting.
21. We appreciate the role of local and regional governments, including through municipalisation, in the provision of, and monitoring of access to, basic services and the promotion of decent work for all and regularly review the availability of appropriate financial resources for this role and associated activities for the implementation of global sustainable urban development agendas, including the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary Subnational Reviews of progress towards the SDGs.
22. We acknowledge the social function of housing and public or cooperative housing as an essential foundation for universal access to sustainable, green and adequate housing while promoting good governance and predictable policy frameworks as necessary prerequisites to housing finance at scale.
23. We recognise and guarantee women's land rights and security of tenure, through a continuum of land rights, as fundamental to the achievement of adequate housing for all and essential to clean, healthy and just cities and human settlements.
24. The best way to ensure human settlements are equipped to absorb the effects of urban crises, is by understanding the strengths and vulnerabilities of urban systems. Effective preventative, risk reduction and adaptation strategies necessary to maximize the resilience of the urban systems can only be realized if the perspectives, concerns, and knowledge of all stakeholders and communities, through multistakeholder synergies, are valued.
24. Urban economies need to be diversified to ensure urban economic resilience and productive urban futures.
25. Cities and their citizens do not exist in isolation. Territorial approaches, including integrated urban development strategies, to urban resilience are imperative. To meet global challenges, we need local action informed by wide territorial realities that acknowledges the importance of intermediary cities.
26. We encourage cultural and behavioral shifts to adopt more sustainable, responsible and resilient lifestyles, as a necessary contribution to urban development.
27. Affirm that smart cities need to be inclusive, accessible, sustainable and people-centered, prioritizing people's needs, human rights and inclusion. Smart city initiatives need to be conceptualized in a way that they contribute to the urban sustainability goals set out in the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
28. Recognising the importance of the environmental dimensions of digital technologies and smart cities, we urge all levels of government to carefully assess the emissions resulting from the use of advanced machines and technologies and invest in renewable energy generation, electric mobility, smart grids, shared mobility services and predictive analytics.
29. We call upon national and local governments to have a digitalization plan that sets out specific objectives with clear targets, inclusive governance structures, interoperability models, financing of digital infrastructure and capacity-building, and is aligned with national and local development plans.
30. Recognising the need for global digital cooperation, as called for in the UN Secretary General's roadmap for digital cooperation, we call upon UN Member States

to develop guidelines for national and local smart city policies, to include consideration of the acquisition of advanced technologies, collection and sharing of data, interoperability, to govern new technologies considering their social implications and human rights in digital environments.

31. Acknowledging that there are significant gaps in national and local governments' capacity to acquire and appropriately deploy and govern new technologies, we emphasize the need for national policies and strategies to prioritize capacity-building and allocate appropriate resources. To be effective, these will require support from development partners who should ensure that their initiatives are people-centred, inclusive and sustainable as well as prioritising open-source technologies and digital public goods.
32. We need to prioritise public value at the city level. Public services are the often-underestimated investments that local government make to both increase and direct innovation as well as foster capabilities across sectors. To talk about urban futures is to talk about new organisational, multigenerational structures and institutions that foster co-creation, strategic partnerships, and risk-sharing culture
33. We stress the importance of collecting and utilising disaggregated data and of using new technologies to better understand the unequal access to basic services and transportation on different groups, in particular for people with disabilities and intersecting groups.
34. Reaffirm the urgency to significantly increase developed countries' financial, mostly grant-based, resources, for mitigation and adaptation projects in developing countries, in order to enable the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
35. We call upon cities to leverage the transformative powers of planning and design in delivering social and environmental objectives and ensure integration of planning principles within city wide visions.
36. We encourage transformative change that starts at the neighbourhood level, allowing for more inclusive, accessible people-centred multigenerational

approaches and practices, which when replicated at scale can transform cities and territories.

37. We encourage the interconnection between multi-level governance and spatial planning allowing cities to make critical progress on multiple SDGs, simultaneously impacting areas of poverty and social exclusion, food systems, health, territorial cohesion, local climate action, migration, integrated digital transformation strategies, improved private sector involvement and enhanced local employment opportunities, including by recognising the challenges faced by children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.
38. We acknowledge urban policy for the common good and we call for scaled-up use of national urban policies to improve the effectiveness of public intervention and the coordination of sectoral policies and urban stakeholders; and the use of new participatory planning and design tools to inspire creative urban solutions, based on intergenerational cooperation with public, private and social sectors.
39. We need to better analyse the potential of urban and rural linkages for development and improved well-being as better integration is important for socio-economic and environmental outcomes.
40. We recognize the centrality of sustainable urban mobility in sustainable urban development since its effects are far reaching, including on health, climate action, job creation and overcoming inequalities.
41. We call for inclusive design and investments in housing, infrastructure and sustainable green urban space to support health and wellbeing, and to use challenge funds to attract financing for urban health interventions.
42. We urge the development of multi-level and multigenerational governance mechanisms that facilitate access to climate finance for local governments, with a stronger focus on adaptation and ecosystem-based approaches, and highlighting co-benefits
- 42bis. We stress that a stronger collaboration between local and national governments in partnership with citizens and urban stakeholders can live up to the

urgency for zero-carbon and resilient development. This also requires cities' engagement in global climate negotiations, the strengthening of the urban dimension of national climate frameworks (such as NDCs, National Climate Policies) and the integration of climate change into National Urban Policies and spatial frameworks and urban legislation.

- 42ter. We call upon national governments to make clearer commitments in supporting cities to develop and implement comprehensive climate change and resilience strategies.
43. We support the self-organised constituency of local and regional governments gathered within the Global Taskforce, in organizing a track on Sustainable Urbanization, together with UN-Habitat, at COP 27. We welcome the acknowledgement of the urgent need for multilevel, intergenerational, and cooperative action under the Glasgow climate pact adopted at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021.
44. We welcome and support decision of the UN-Habitat Executive Board that mandates UN-Habitat Executive Director to collaborate with the COP27 incoming presidency to convene a ministerial meeting on housing, urban development and sustainable cities and climate change at COP 27, together with the local and regional governments constituency.

Conclusion

45. We encourage all development actors gathered in Katowice to mobilize their respective capacities in this Decade of Action. We will continue to call for actions that track progress through a monitoring and reporting mechanism. We make an urgent appeal to all governments to better fund UN-Habitat to ensure that its elevated mandate is met by enhanced resources and capacity of UN-Habitat.
46. We call upon all stakeholders to implement their Declared Actions and provide updates through the Urban Agenda Platform, highlighting the transformative nature of their commitments. The Declared Actions are aligned with the thematic areas that emerged from the High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in New York. We encourage participants to further develop their Declared Actions to make them measurable.
47. We thank the Government of Poland and the City of Katowice, and UN-Habitat for convening the Forum. And we commit to providing continuous cooperation to the next hosts, the Government of Egypt and the City of Cairo.

Katowice, 30 June 2022



WORLD URBAN FORUM



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Stakeholders submitted their Declared Actions for the World Urban Forum 11 through the Urban Agenda Platform, highlighting the transformative nature of their commitments, and UN-Habitat will continue to monitor progress made in consultation with the WUF 11 Advisory Group. Some Declared Actions are listed below. The full list is available on the Urban Agenda Platform.



1. WUF Alumni Network of Cities

Action Plan for Cities; Model Locality. 104 Polish cities signed a common vision for sustainable development and implementation of SDGs at local level as the Polish WUF11 legacy [Polish Government].

WUF10 Legacy Initiatives for Climate Action. Mitigating urban heat through sustainable planning and design practices; water-efficient planning and design; promoting active mobility including the continued development of walking and cycling infrastructure [Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates].

Malaysia SDG Cities. Ensure integration between national and state policies at all levels are aligned to the SDG by realizing their aspirations and ensuring effective implementation locally [Urbanice Malaysia].



2. National governments and inter-governmental organizations

Flagship Program 2 "People-centered Smart Cities". To support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda [France].

New pact for sustainable cities and territories in France focusing on four political challenges: sobriety, resilience, inclusion and value creation [France].

Focus on Intermediary Cities. Pursue a proactive policy in favour of sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities [France].

Renewal of the Urban Agenda for the European Union. This forms part of the European Union and its member States' commitment to fostering multi-level governance and improving the urban dimension of European Union policies [European Union].

Climate-neutral cities by 2030. Support 100 European cities to act as hubs of experimentation and innovation for green, digital and inclusive transformations. These cities will serve as models and inspiration for cities worldwide, through initiatives such as the [European Union].

New European Bauhaus. This multi sector initiative aims to inspire a global green transformation while simultaneously addressing other global challenges -such as digital transition- by combining sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics [European Union].

Enhancing support to external cooperation and international partnerships. Within the framework of the Global Gateway and the external dimension of the European Green Deal, the EU will significantly scale up its engagement on, and support to, integrated sustainable urban development in EU partner countries, including enhancing access to finance through the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+) [European Union].

Public Space Program in Serbia: Improving the quality of public space in the cities of Belgrade, Niš, Kruševac, Niš and Kruševac [Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbia].

Certification and Localizing SDG Goal 11 in Nepalese Cities: further implement the National Urban Development Strategy (NUDS), including the revision of the National Urban Policy (NUP) and drafting relevant acts like Urban Development Act and Utility Corridor Act [Ministry of Urban Development, Nepal].



3. Local and regional governments

Our Pact for the Future to place our communities at the core of decision-making mechanisms, building resilience and sustainability for a better shared future. It will address the development of capacities for local and regional governments, the potential of transformative diplomacy and a stronger, structural dialogue with national governments to ensure we can deliver our ambitious targets and objectives laid out in the global agendas, connecting UN Summit of the Future, as well as the recommendations of the UNSG's Common Agenda, and build on concepts such as the global commons and

ambitious actions to protect our planet. [Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments].

Global Task Force on Migration: Sharing the best practices on urban migration management, and fostering creation of a positive discourse on migration, in a view to impact local migration policies, through the Global Task Force on Migration, an initiative led by UCLG-MEWA as a follow up to the Gaziantep Declaration adopted in 2019 during the Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement held in Gaziantep, Türkiye [United Cities and Local Governments-Middle East and West Asia section].

Promoting UN Habitat's Flagship Program "SDG Cities" in MEWA Region: Committing to mainstreaming SDG Cities Program in MEWA cities, and requesting UN-Habitat's Executive Director to initiate a process within the UN System to establish an official SDG Cities Certification mechanism that recognizes the efforts and achievements of cities to accelerate the achievement of SDGs [United Cities and Local Governments-Middle East and West Asia section].

Building Coalitions for linking NUA and the Urban Agenda for the EU. Through these coalitions inspire national and local urban agendas to support implementation of the SDGs and the NUA [French Partnership for Cities and Territories].

Harnessing Linkages for NUA and SDGs: Formulate context-specific proposals to better link the NUA and SDG with the Agenda for the European Union through strategic partnerships and like-minded coalitions. [French Partnership for Cities and Territories].

Advocating for the New Urban Agenda: Disseminating, training, brokering agreements and actions for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, between municipal, state and national governments, as well as with social actors [Association of Local Authorities in Mexico].

Local Green Deal Mannheim: Implement systemic change through participatory action and innovation focusing on energy, mobility and housing [City of Mannheim, Germany].

SDG Cities: Localizing the SDGs in our city through participatory action as set out in Vitoria-Gasteiz Urban Agenda 2030 [City of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain].

Mafra SDG LAB: Establish with the Catolica University a SDGs Urban Lab that researches and shares relevant knowledge and best practices on implementing SDGs

in Cities, supporting the mobilization of SDG Cities across Portugal and in Portuguese-speaking countries. [Municipality of Mafra, Portugal].



4. Civil Society Organizations

Housing at the center of SDGs and Sustainable Urban

Development: global advocacy campaign focused on increasing equitable access to adequate housing specifically for residents of informal settlements through improved policies and systems in climate adaptation, empowered participation, land tenure, and basic services. [Habitat for Humanity].

WBU Global Program on inclusive and accessible urban

development: Make a comprehensive stocktaking and sharing of the learnings, knowledge, and practices generated since WUF10, to inform and accelerate actions and partnerships between OPDs and urban stakeholders, including UN Habitat and local and regional governments, supporting localisation and realisation of the CRPD and the New Urban Agenda [World Blind Union].

Mainstreaming youth-led voices: Build the capacity of young champions raising awareness on the importance of youth-led and youth-friendly policies on sustainable urbanization to policy makers across the Commonwealth. [Commonwealth Youth for Sustainable Urbanization].

Investing in research for sustainable cities. Support local partners scaling up research efforts aimed at providing evidence-base on the transformative impact of urban development initiatives that address climate resilient and inclusion of persons with disabilities. [Global Disability Innovation Hub].

University from and for Waste pickers tackling SDGs:

Creating a university of and for waste pickers as a hybrid (online and in person) university based on Paulo Freire's popular education pedagogy and "pair learning", including forming pilot groups of waste pickers in the metropolitan region of Sao Paulo who will participate in the first extension courses for waste pickers, tackling topics such as waste governance, circular Economy [Waste pickers Brazil].

Access to WASH for indigenous communities. Engage with local governments and government agencies to improve access to basic services for indigenous communities of Abuja, Nigeria and inclusion of these communities in government project design on basic healthcare, basic education and WASH. [HipCity Innovation Center]

Increase awareness on the needs for housing, mobility sanitation, social protection of elderly people

in Kenya. Organize older people-lead events with the Council of Governors, city planners and other relevant city officers. Prepare participatory policy briefs, position papers and factsheets for these meetings [HelpAge International].

Participatory urban greening. Turn abandoned unused urban areas in the city of Attica, Greece into green spaces to increase urban green spaces, promote a sense of place and reconnect people with nature [Organization Earth].

Commitment to Climate Smart Agriculture: Providing technical assistance to local communities in the establishment of nursery gardens and growing bamboo plantations towards the maintenance of ecological balance in The Gambia. [The Bamboo Foundation, The Gambia].

Developing Healthy Cities: Promote physical activity options to enhance the health and wellbeing of urban citizens which contributes to the diversification of urban and inter-urban transport leading to the growth of sustainable cities. [SNAIL STEP].

Regenerating urban spaces: Renovate abandoned and unused urban areas into green spaces with the aim of reconnecting the Greek people with nature and ensuring climate change compliant urban areas. [Participatory Urban Greening].

Mainstream Older Persons Welfare: Amplify the voices of older persons and their welfare in urban planning discourse in Kenya in the areas of housing, mobility, social protection and access to quality and affordable services. [Mangu Integrated Community Project].

Productive greening and circular waste: Implementing the 500,000 fruit trees project and reduce, reuse and recycle waste for circular industrial economy and clean environment in Kibera informal settlements Nairobi Kenya [Mazingira Women Initiative].



5. United Nations

Integrating food systems into urban governance. Bridging the capacity gap between local and national governments by promoting inclusive socioeconomic growth that contributes to a more just, green and healthy urban future. [FAO].

Action Plan for Urban Nutrition. Supporting the creation of enabling policies by cities and local governments that will improve nutrition and healthy diets, making a strong contribution to sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban food systems transformation. [FAO].

Urban Thinkers Campuses. The 224 World Urban Campaign Partners will collect good practices, with evidence on impacts produced, and share them in key international events to build capacity of the new generation of urban professionals around the world. [UN-Habitat, World Urban Campaign].

Global Partnership for Local Investment: mobilize a coalition of industry leaders, investors, international institutions, multilateral development banks, and national, regional and city governments to serve as first-movers for joint planning and co-investment in cities, curating successful models of public-private collaboration; and develop new tools, forums and platforms to catalyze new models of collaboration and co-investment [World Economic Forum and UN-Habitat].



6. Academia and Research

15 min city Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan and Master Plan for the historic center of the City of Huancayo, Peru with the objective to generate an intermediate city that reinforces the characteristics of the 15-minute city [Universidad Nacional del Centro del Peru].

Platform of Cities Ecosystems multidisciplinary network of researchers support to the production, organization, systematization and monitoring of data related to urban dynamics and assist local municipalities to develop urbanization plans that promotes a synergy among several governmental areas, [Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil].

UrbanCare, capacity building to develop informed neighborhood public spaces (and streets) for climate and health [Building Health Lab, EU].

Knowledge and data platform on homelessness: To drive a global movement to end homelessness by advocating for policy, data collection, knowledge sharing, and concrete actions at local and national levels to address homelessness [Institute of Global Homelessness].

Public Space Academy: free, interdisciplinary educational program entirely dedicated to public space, promoting a new approach to urban complexity built around public space, aimed at including public space as a priority in urban agendas of local governments [City Space Architecture].



7. Private Sector

Sustainable Waste Management: Stimulating the authorities to solve environmental problems and implementing engineering solutions towards energy recovery and sustainable waste management. [Intereko Energia sp. z o.o].

Public private partnerships: Partnership with the private sector to upgrade Mapolotto Chibolya and Kanyama into better configured dwellings for municipal service provision in a win-win situation. [GRZ].



8. Professional Associations

Support the upcoming Road Map on Digital

Transformation. Contributing to the French Flagship Program “People-centred Smart Cities” by deepening knowledge about innovative governance, policies and tools for digital inclusion, digital sobriety, and territorial data management [French Network of Urban Planning Agencies].

Measuring Transformative Impact: Invest in research methodologies and training of young researchers to measure impact of transformative programmes towards the resilience of cities and urban areas. [Association of European School of Planning].

Building the capacity of communities: Build the capacity of communities to engage in local-led solutions in transforming our cities and regions for a better urban future. [Global Planners Network].



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