

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

HOSTING OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE
WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF10) – in 2020

WUF10

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

6 June 2016

1. INTRODUCTION – THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the world's premier conference on urban issues. It was established in 2001 by the United Nations¹ to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

The Forum is intended to re-examine on a cyclical basis and feed into the strategy and work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat and its partners in order to improve their effectiveness and relevance. New ideas and working models are identified in the Forum, are fed into the strategic plan of UN-Habitat and form part of the subsequent work programme.

Organized and convened by UN-Habitat, the Forum has become one of the most open gatherings on the international arena, for exchanging views and experiences on urban challenges. The inclusive nature of the Forum, combined with high-level participation, makes it a unique United Nations conference and the premier international gathering on urban issues.

2. BACKGROUND

The Forum is held in a different host city and country biennially, drawing a wide range of experts from every walk of life. The objectives and mode of work of WUF, were adopted during the First session and have been the blue print for all subsequent sessions:

WUF Sessions	Date	Location	Participation
WUF1	29 April-3 May 2002	Nairobi, Kenya	1,200
WUF2	13-17 September 2004	Barcelona, Spain	4,300
WUF3	19-23 June 2006	Vancouver, Canada	10,400
WUF4	3-6 November 2008	Nanjing, China	8,000
WUF5	22-26 March 2010	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	10,600
WUF6	1-7 September 2012	Naples, Italy	6,500
WUF7	5-11 April 2014	Medellin, Colombia	18,000
WUF9 ²	February 2018	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	---
WUF10	2020	(Announced by 20 October 2016)	---

1 Governing Council resolution HSP/GC/18/5; General Assembly resolutions A/RES/56/205 and A/RES/56/206

2 WUF8 in 2016 has not been called for by UN-Habitat, as it would have coincided with the main Habitat III Conference in October 2016. A stakeholders Forum is being organized in parallel with the Conference in Quito with similar structure than the World Urban Forum.

3. PARTICIPATION

The participation in the Forum has seen an increase over the last years and steadied at around 18,000 participants from all over the world in WUF7.

Participants at 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, United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE FORUM

The World Urban Forum has the following objectives:

- raise awareness of sustainable urbanization among stakeholders and constituencies, including the general public;
- improve the collective knowledge of sustainable urban development through inclusive open debates, sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies; and
- increase coordination and cooperation between different stakeholders and constituencies for the advancement and implementation of sustainable urbanization.

WUF9 has been recognized by the General Assembly resolution 70/210 as the first session to have a thematic focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at Habitat III. In this sense, WUF10 will continue the effort to monitor progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The New Urban Agenda will feed into the overall Forum discussions as a key element with a review of the ongoing implementation by UN-Habitat and other stakeholders.

Find more information on past sessions at www.unhabitat.org/wuf

5. WORLD URBAN FORUM 2020

Since 2008, over 50% of the world's population lives in cities. Urban areas have become agents of change and development, and have played a major transformative role. Today, urban areas exist as a living combination of history, civilization, diversity and culture. Urbanization has been a force that has changed almost everything: ways of thinking and acting, ways of using space, lifestyles, social and economic relations, and consumption and production patterns. Cities, as economic and productive innovation spaces, provide opportunities for improving access to resources and services, as well as options in the social, legal, economic, cultural and environmental fields. Urbanization has ushered in economic growth, development and prosperity for many.

However, cities are also spaces where poverty and marginalization in various forms exist. Cities also face increasing climate change and environmental degradation, and are vulnerable to disasters. All these are further compounded by rising levels of inequality globally. Today, more than half of the world's urban population lives in cities where income inequality has steadily increased since the 1980s.

In this context, the World Urban Forum aims to gather participants in a city recognized globally for its innovation in sustainable urban development in order to search for ways and provide lesson and insights that can promote inclusive development in all parts of the world.

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6. IMPORTANT DATES

The closing date for receiving of the Expression of Interest for WUF10 is 15 July 2016. The table below outlines the time frame of important dates for the complete bidding process.

Milestones	Date
Call for expression of interest	6 June 2016
Deadline for receiving expressions of interest	15 July 2016
Follow up with the potential hosts (only with expressions of interest received within set deadline) and provision of the bidding proposal	From 16 July 2016
Deadline for receiving bidding proposals	15 September 2016
Bidding evaluation	16 Sept. – 10 October 2016
Announcement of selected WUF10 host city/country	20 October 2016
Signing of Host Country Agreement and Conference Agreement at UN-Habitat's twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council	April 2017
Starting of preparations for WUF10	April 2017

7. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

To host the World Urban Forum a financial contribution is required. The host country for WUF10 is expected to make a minimal contribution of seven million US dollars (USD 7,000,000) total cash contribution to UN-Habitat spread over 4 years. Information on the purpose of the cash contribution to UN-Habitat will be provided as part of the bidding proposal.

Additionally, the host country is required to provide an in-kind contribution of: the venue with its conference facilities; services and requirements for registration and accreditation; security services and equipment according to United Nations security regulations within the city, around and within the venue; interpretation services for the main sessions; operational and logistical needs with respective human resources in the country, city and at the venue.

8. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For any clarifications on the call for expression of interest, please contact the UN-Habitat WUF Secretariat at the below email address. A city wishing to express its interest to officially host the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) is required to send an official communication (on letter head and with signature) to the UN-Habitat WUF Secretariat, addressed to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos, within the above mentioned deadline via the following email address: wuf10bid@unhabitat.org

Any submission for the call for expression of interest which is not of official nature or is received after the deadline will not be considered.