



Welcome to the first edition of the UN-Habitat Urban October Newsletter.

The Newsletter aims to provide you with all the information you need to know about Urban October 2020 and how to participate.



Discussions at the UN-Habitat booth in the Habitat Village, Yaounde, Cameroon. © UNHabitat/Ivy Mutisya

Every October we encourage countries, cities, communities and individuals to focus on how to make life in urban areas better for everyone. The month begins with **World Habitat Day** on the first Monday of the month, 5 October this year, and ends with **World Cities Day** on 31 October. Everyone can organize activities on those specific days (more details on this year's themes for World Habitat Day and World Cities Day below) or at any time during the month.

Last year, cities around the world held events to celebrate Urban October, World Habitat Day and World Cities Day ranging from high level ceremonies and university symposiums to festivals, radio debates, cinema showings and exhibitions. See the report on last year's activities [here](#). Given the restrictions due to COVID-19, this year there are also plans for virtual meetings and webinars too.

If you tell us what you are planning – we can let the world know on our website and social media. And afterwards we can feature your report, photos, and video.

Urban October 2020

Urban October is an opportunity for everyone to put on an event and be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities presented by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns.

It is a time to focus international attention on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by world leaders in 2015 and particularly the 'urban' Sustainable Development Goal 11 "to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". In addition, the New Urban Agenda sets a new global standard for sustainable urban development, and helps us rethink how we plan, manage and live in cities.

National, regional, and local government, NGOs, universities, schools, local media, communities and individuals are encouraged to organize

events to raise awareness. There are plenty of great ideas in our **Event Toolkit**.

Once you have decided on what event you will organize, when and where you can put it up on the UN-Habitat Urban October page. **Please post your event or activity [here](#)**. You can promote it on your social media - #UrbanOctober #WorldHabitatDay #WorldCitiesDay

Please feel free to contact us on unhabitat-events@un.org or for World Habitat Day unhabitat-whd@un.org and for World Cities Day unhabitat-wcd@un.org

Once the event is over – do send a report about your event and it will be featured in the Urban October Report. **Please send your event or activity report [here](#)**

...make life in urban areas better for everyone.



World Habitat Day 2020 celebrations – we are going virtual this year –

This year's World Habitat Day global observance will be held virtually on 5 October, hosted by the city of Surabaya, in Indonesia. The theme is ***Housing For All: A Better Urban Future***.

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations

General Assembly through Resolution 40/202 and was first celebrated in 1986.

Information on the previous World Habitat Day celebrations is available [here](#).

Please post information about your upcoming event – and send details when it is over as above.

Feel free to contact us on our email address: unhabitat-whd@un.org

Join us on social media - [#WorldHabitatDay](#)



Call for Nominations for the 2020 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour – Now Open

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour award is one of the highlights of World Habitat Day global observance. The award, a plaque engraved with the name of the winner, will be presented to the selected winners during the Global Observance of the Day.

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour award was launched in 1989 and is one of the most prestigious human settlements award in the world. It aims to acknowledge initiatives which have made outstanding contributions in the field of human settlements, provision of housing, highlighting the plight of people living in poverty or who have been displaced, developing and improving human settlements and the quality of urban life to leave no one behind.

Detailed guidelines for the 2020 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award nomination and downloadable PDF version

The deadline for submitting entries for the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award for this year is 17 August 2020. Please either fill in the nomination form on the website [here](#). Or download/copy paste the nomination form, fill it in and send it with the required attachments to unhabitat-whd@un.org. For information on the last winners see [here](#) and for more information contact us on: unhabitat-whd@un.org



Valuing our communities and cities

World Cities Day celebrations 2020

World Cities Day 2020 is the seventh global celebration since the day was launched on 31 October 2014 in Shanghai, China. Under overarching theme of Better City, Better Life, the aim of the day is to focus the international community's attention on urbanisation as a central issue for development and to encourage cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing urban challenges towards sustainable development

Each year a different sub-theme is selected, to either promote successes of urbanization, or address specific challenges resulting from urbanization. The sub-theme for this year is *Valuing our communities and cities*.

World Cities Day seeks to promote global interest in urbanization and engender international cooperation to address the challenges of urbanization, thereby contributing to sustainable urban development.


Information on the previous World Cities Day celebrations is available [here](#).

Please feel free to contact us on our email address: unhabitat-wcd@un.org

Join us on social media - [#WorldCitiesDay](#)


NEW → WUF12 Expression of Interest deadline extended to 30 November 2020

Connect to UN-Habitat social media

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/un-habitat-united-nation-human-settlements-programme->

 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unhabitat/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/unhabitat/>

 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxkn7WqOdNdNB3AfG65NQ_A

 <https://twitter.com/UNHABITAT>

 https://web.facebook.com/UNHABITAT/?_rdc=1&_rdr

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