Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Urban Dimensions of the SDGs: Towards the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
Wednesday 29 March, 17:15 – 18:30 hours (GMT+7)
Meeting Room H, 1st floor (In Person)
United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand

Organizers
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Co-organizers
ESCAP Environment and Development Division

Registration
To attend this side event, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD by March 13 using the link here: https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.

Background
Urbanisation continues to be a defining megatrend across the Asia-Pacific. Cities in the region are at the global forefront of economic opportunity and in efforts to securing a more sustainable future. They have provided unprecedented opportunity and employment, access to goods and services, and a better quality of life for millions. Despite significant progress in many areas, the most recent SDG
A profile revealed some regression in indicators across the region, particularly those focusing on disaster risk reduction. For many indicators, data remains insufficient or unavailable. It is essential that Member States across Asia-Pacific continue to support efforts to deliver sustainable urbanisation, and that milestones and challenges across the region are elevated at regional and global events.

**Side event**

The purpose of this side event is to engage Member States across Asia-Pacific in the regional and global dialogue on the achievement of the urban dimension of the SDGs, and to contribute to strengthening the Asia-Pacific contribution to the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (the Assembly).

The Assembly, held every four years, is a milestone event to:

- Review progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.
- Assess the main trends of urbanization;
- Define the thematic and normative priorities, governance, and strategic direction of UN-Habitat.
- Enhance UN-Habitat’s mandate – to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities as the focal point for all urbanisation and human settlement matters within the UN system.

Through this side event, Member States and partners across Asia-Pacific will engage in dialogue on and share perspectives on the priorities and focal areas of the Assembly. Collected inputs from the side event will contribute to the APFSD’s Outcome Report, as well as enhance attention on Asia-Pacific priorities to implement the New Urban Agenda and SDGs at the Assembly.

Member States and partners will have the opportunity to reflect upon the role of inclusive and effective multilateralism and multilateral forums to accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

The Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly will take place from 5 to 9 June 2023. The special theme of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly is “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”.
Among the key issues to be considered by the Assembly at its Second Session are the following:

- Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Reports on the main outcomes and messages of the World Urban Forum.
- Dialogue on the special theme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Inputs to the side event and Assembly may also serve as a timely lead-in to the Eighth Session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF8), to be held in Suwon, Republic of Korea from 23 to 25 October 2023. APUF8 will be a multi-stakeholder event that brings together the experiences of cities across the Asia-Pacific, synthesising the region's diverse approaches to building multidimensional urban resilience for the New Urban Agenda and SDGs.

**Timeline of key events**

- 29 March 2023 – Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Urban Dimensions of the SDGs: Towards the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly Side Event, Bangkok, Thailand
- 5 to 9 June 2023 – Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya
- 23 to 25 October 2023 – Eighth Session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF8), Suwon, Republic of Korea

**Key Questions and Outcomes**

- Contribute to the APFSD’s dialogue on sustainable urbanisation, as well as formulate a strong message on priorities to implement the New Urban Agenda and 2030 Agenda across Asia-Pacific, which can feed into the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (the Assembly);
- Engage Member States and partners across Asia-Pacific in meaningful dialogue on the priorities and focal areas of the Assembly.
- Strengthen the contribution and interest of Member States across Asia-Pacific in global and regional milestone events such as the Assembly and APUF8.
- Add to perspectives on the role of inclusive and effective multilateralism and multilateral forums to accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

**Programme**

| Welcome and opening remarks |  
| Moderator: TBC |  
|  
|  
|  
| Mr. Bruno Dercon, Officer in Charge, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat  
| ESCAP (TBC)  
| Line Minister (TBC) |  
| 10 mins  
| 17:15 – 17:25 |  

| Presentation on Habitat Assembly |  
| Mr. Bruno Dercon, Officer in Charge, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat |  
| Presentation outlining the Report of the Executive Director on the Special Theme of the 2nd Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”, and its five key priority areas:  
1. Global crises demand urgent urban action  
2. Innovative approaches on inclusive and effective multilateralism in priority thematic areas  
3. Drivers of inclusive and effective multilateralism  
4. Opportunities for expanding inclusive and effective multilateralism to advance UN-Habitat’s mandate  
5. Ways forward |  
| 15 mins  
| 17:25 – 17:40 |  

| Panel discussion |  
| Moderator: TBC |  
| Panel discussion on the role of inclusive and effective multilateralism and multilateral |  
| 30 mins |
forums to accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

- Panellist 1 – UN Resident Coordinator from the Asia-Pacific
- Panellist 2 – ADB representative
- Panellist 3 – National government/ASEAN representative
- Panellist 4 – Local government representative
- Panellist 5 – International NGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:40</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
<td>Moderator: TBC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:45</td>
<td>Moderator: TBC</td>
<td>Question and answer session and opportunity for participant reflection.</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:10</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
<td>Mr. Bruno Dercon, Officer in Charge, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:20</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
<td>Conclusions and closing remarks. Thank participants and close the session.</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information, please contact

Mr. Bruno Dercon, Officer in Charge, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, bruno.dercon@un.org, and

Mr. Riccardo Maroso, Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat Bangkok Programme Office, riccardo.maroso@un.org

#APFSD #GlobalGoals #SDGs #2030Agenda #AsiaPacific