The World Urban Forum Alumni Network

Creating WUF Legacy in Host Cities

Background

UN-Habitat has a decade-long experience in organizing and convening the World Urban Forum (WUF) as a premier international gathering on urban issues. Taking stock since the inaugural WUF session held in Nairobi in 2002, Barcelona in 2004, Vancouver in 2006, Nanjing in 2008, Rio in 2010, Naples in 2012, Medellin in 2014, and Kuala Lumpur in 2018, there is a wealth of experience and best practices that can be harnessed to expand and measure the impact and legacy of WUF in future host cities.

Purpose

The proposed WUF Alumni Network, to be launched at the tenth session of WUF in Abu Dhabi in February 2020, will promote cross-learning and sharing of best practices among the Forum’s host cities to improve the impact and legacy that go beyond WUF itself. Members of the Alumni Network will address four main issues, among others:

1. Improving the impact and legacy of WUF in host cities and their regions.
2. Offering practical guidance to new WUF host cities.
3. Promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban-related SDGs.
4. Support the monitoring of implementation of WUF Declarations.

1. Improving the impact and legacy of WUF in host cities and their regions

While UN-Habitat is working to improve inclusiveness in the participation of various stakeholder groups, including gender and regional representation and quality of discussions at WUF, it is also keen on making legacy initiatives a key deliverable of WUF. The broader goal is to move beyond reporting on WUF attendance numbers and session outcomes, which are equally important, but also to identify and activate legacy projects that fortify the impact of WUF in host cities and transform their communities on a long-term basis. To achieve this, UN-Habitat will work closely with the proposed WUF Alumni Network to support future host cities on how best to identify, plan, activate and measure the impact of WUF legacy projects.

2. Offering practical guidance to new WUF host cities

The key to building a lasting legacy of WUF is knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer exchange between previous and future host cities. The wealth of experience in the previous host cities on planning, executing and measuring the impact of WUF will provide invaluable guidance and practical support to the future host cities on what it takes to host a successful WUF whose legacy will remain long after the event.
3. Promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban-related SDGs

WUF offers a global platform for promoting the implementation and reporting on the New Urban Agenda and the urban-related SDGs, in particular SDG 11 on sustainable cities. The WUF Alumni Network will support the achievement of this objective by sharing lessons learned from NUA and SDG implementation and exchange of best practices from their cities during WUF. This will feed into the formal SDG and NUA monitoring and reporting frameworks.

4. Support the monitoring of implementation of WUF Declarations

UN-Habitat is committed to ensuring that the implementation of commitments and follow-up actions in WUF declarations is closely monitored and reported. The WUF Alumni Network will facilitate the monitoring of WUF Declarations and showcase how the commitments and follow up actions are translated into actions to improve the living conditions of local communities in their own cities. The Alumni Network will also work closely with the WUF Advisory Board to take stock of all the previous WUF Declarations, analyzing the implementation of the Declarations and establishing a follow-up and monitoring framework for WUF Declarations.

Next Steps

The WUF Alumni Network will be inaugurated in Abu Dhabi, during the tenth session of the World Urban Forum, 8-13 February. The first official meeting of the WUF Alumni Network will be held during WUF10 to deliberate on issues pertaining to governance structure, roles and responsibilities. A preparatory teleconference meeting will be held in January (date to be confirmed) and all relevant documentation will be shared in advance upon confirmation from alumni members.

For more information please contact Mr. Pireh Otieno at pireh.otieno@un.org