

First National Urban Forum of Lebanon

Towards a more sustainable and inclusive future for Lebanese cities

Under the Patronage of the President of the Council of Ministers of the Lebanese Republic

H.E. Mr. Najib Mikati

23–24 March 2022, Beirut, Lebanon

Day 1 | Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Location: UN House ESCWA (Conference Hall), Beirut.

9:00 a.m.–12:35 p.m. Opening of the National Urban Forum and launch of the UN-Habitat–ESCWA State of the Lebanese Cities Report.

9:00 a.m.–1:35 p.m. Urban Fair

Time	Speakers	Agenda item
9:00–9:30 a.m.	-	Arrival and registration
9:30–10:00 a.m.	Ms. Taina Christiansen (moderator), Head of UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme	Session I: Opening remarks and launch of the UN-Habitat–ESCWA <i>State of the Lebanese Cities Report</i>
	Dr. Erfan Ali , UN-Habitat Regional Representative, Office for Arab States	
	Dr. Najat Rochdi , United Nations Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon	
	Dr. Rola Dashti , UN Under-Secretary-General, ESCWA Executive Secretary	
	Representative, Government of Lebanon	
10:00–10:45 a.m.	Session II: The state of urbanization in Lebanon This session provides an overview of urbanization in Lebanon through the launch of the <i>State of the Lebanese Cities Report</i> . The report is a multisectoral stock-taking of urbanity in Lebanon, helping to identify entry points for more sustainable urban development. It aims to support local and central government entities, as well as humanitarian and development partners, with an existing or potential role in advancing sustainable urban development.	
	Dr. Sukaina Al-Nasrawi , Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development Lead, Gender Justice, Population, and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA	Introduction to the launch of the UN-Habitat–ESCWA <i>State of the Lebanese Cities Report</i>
	Ms. Suzanne Maguire , UN-Habitat Urban Analysis and Housing Specialist	Presentation of current state of urbanization in Lebanon across 10 cities

	Dr. Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Ms. Suzanne Maguire	Q&A with the audience
10:45–10:50 a.m.	Ms. Taina Christiansen (moderator), Head of UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme	Urban Fair opening
10:50–11:20 a.m.	Coffee break	
11:20 a.m. –12:35 p.m.	Session III: The significance of urban data: Data generation and evidence-led decision-making for urban crisis response and longer-term development	
11:20 a.m.–11:45 p.m.	<p>Dr. Sukaina Al-Nasrawi (co-moderator), Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development Lead, Gender Justice, Population, and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p>Dr. Nanor Karageozian (co-moderator), Social Analyst–Head of UN-Habitat Urban Analysis and Policy Unit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the session and speakers • Framing the session by presenting a stock-taking of ESCWA’s and UN-Habitat’s work on urban data and analysis
11:45–11:55 a.m.	Mr. Jad Ghosn , Information Management Officer for the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit – UNHCR	Data for urban crisis response
11:55 a.m.–12:05 p.m.	Dr. Ziad Abdallah , Statistician–Head of IT Department, Central Administration of Statistics	National statistical system: Capacities, challenges and vision
12:05–12:15 p.m.	Mrs. Yusra Sidani , Beirut Municipality, Municipal Council Member	The role of data for municipal decision-making
12:15–12:35 p.m.	Summary and Q&A with the audience	

Day 2 | Thursday, 24 March 2022.

Location: UN House ESCWA (Conference Hall), Beirut.

9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Thematic sessions: Housing, transport, and energy

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Urban Fair

Time	Speaker	Agenda item
9:00–9:30 a.m.	-	Arrival and registration
9:30–10:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Taina Christiansen (moderator), Head of UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme • Dr. Erfan Ali, UN-Habitat Regional Representative, Office for Arab States • Mr. Rein Nieland, Head of Section for Governance, Social Development and Civil Society, Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon • Mrs. Faten Abou Hassan, Director General, DGLAC, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities • Representative, Government of Lebanon 	Session I: Opening remarks
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Session II: Towards the development of a national urban transport and mobility policy (launch of UN-Habitat’s <i>Guide on Mainstreaming Transport and Mobility in Lebanon’s National Urban Policy</i> and discussion on way forward)	

10:00–10:05 a.m.	Ms. Zeina Nazer, P.E. (moderator), Co-Founder of Cities Forum	Introduction of the session and speakers
10:05–10:25 a.m.	Dr. Marc Haddad , Associate Professor, Lebanese American University (consultant to UN-Habitat)	Presentation of UN-Habitat’s <i>Guide on Mainstreaming Transport and Mobility in Lebanon’s National Urban Policy</i>
10:25–10:35 a.m.	Mr. Ziad Nasr , Director General, Railway and Public Transport Authority	Prospects of urban policymaking in Lebanon, with a focus on transport policy
10:35 a.m.-10:45	Ms. Zeina Nazer, P.E. , Co-Founder of Cities Forum	On-demand public transport service
10:45–11:05 a.m.	Dr. Tammam Nakkash , Transportation Specialist, Teams International	Transport policy priorities in Lebanon
11:05–11:15 a.m.	Mr. Chadi Faraj , Co-founder, Riders’ Rights NGO	The informal transport sector and its inclusion in future transport policies
11:15–11:30 a.m.	Summary and Q&A with the audience	
11:30–12:00 p.m.	Coffee break	
12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Session III: Towards the development of an inclusive national housing policy (launch of UN-Habitat’s <i>Guide on Mainstreaming Housing in Lebanon’s National Urban Policy</i> and discussion on way forward)	
12:00–12:10 p.m.	Dr. Mona Fawaz (moderator), Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, American University of Beirut	Introduction of the session and speakers
12:10–12:30 p.m.	Dr. Bruno Marot , Urban Planner and Housing Specialist (consultant to UN-Habitat)	Presentation of UN-Habitat’s <i>Guide on Mainstreaming Housing in Lebanon’s National Urban Policy</i>
12:30–12:40 p.m.	Mr. Rony Lahoud , Chairman and General Director, Public Corporation for Housing	Prospects of urban policymaking in Lebanon, with a focus on inclusive housing policy
12:40–12:50 p.m.	Dr. Karima Ben Bih , Urban and Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank	Post-explosion, Beirut housing recovery as entry point for policy reform
12:50–1:00 p.m.	Ms. Maya Geara , Lawyer, National Committee for Tenants	Tenants' right in a future housing policy
1:00–1:10 p.m.	Mr. Walid Moussa , President, Real Estate Syndicate of Lebanon	Needed policy reforms for a well-balanced and functional real estate market
1:10 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Summary and Q&A with the audience	
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	Lunch break	
2:30–3:45 p.m.	Session IV: Towards sustainable energy solutions for an urbanizing Lebanon	

2:30–2:35 p.m.	Ms. Nisrin Obeid (moderator), Chief of Trade and Senior Advisor, Danish Embassy in Lebanon	Introduction of the session and panellists
2:35–2:50 p.m.	Interactive Poll Questions	
2:50–2:58 p.m.	Mr. Rani Al-Achkar , Executive Director, Lebanese Centre for Energy Conservation	Lebanon’s energy commitments, institutional framework, and strategies
2:58–3:06 p.m.	Mr. Trevor McIntyre , Placemaking Global Director, IBI Group	International experience on designing an energy-efficient built environment through placemaking
3:06–3:14 p.m.	Mr. Niels Hansen , Technical Director, Future Energy	The Danish energy experience: Legal aspects, infrastructure and innovation
3:14–3:22 p.m.	Mr. Marc Ayoub , Associate Fellow, AUB Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs	Building blocks for developing an ESCO market in Lebanon: Lessons learned from the MENA region and policy recommendations
3:22–3:30 p.m.	Mr. Philippe El Khoury , Managing Director, ME Green	The private sector’s engagement in Lebanon’s energy field: Challenges and how energy solutions can be localized
3:30–3:45 p.m.	Q&A	
3:45–4:00 p.m.	Plenary recap: Adoption of NUF1 Declared Actions Declaration will be read by Ms. Sera Saad, Architect and Urban Planner, Live Love Beirut	



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