

WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

PROFESSIONALS ROUNDTABLE

Stepping-up Partnerships for Impact on Sustainable Urban Development

1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- UN Habitat Professionals Forum & members
- UCLG
- World Health Organization

2. Key words:

- SDG's
- NUA
- Habitat Professionals Forum
- HPF
- Covid Recovery
- Resiliency
- Local Government
- Capacity Building
- Equitable Urban Future

3. Objectives of the Session:

- To solicit support from urban professional organizations to sign on to the Habitat Professionals Forum and contribute to its ongoing work.
- To help accelerate commitment to and implementation of the New Urban Agenda, identifying barriers to and opportunities for implementing the NUA for urban professionals and governments alike.
- To serve as the official launch event for the HPF Roadmap and to solicit support from urban professional organizations to sign on to the Roadmap declaration at the end of WUF 2022.

4. Summary:

The Professionals of the built environment will gather in this roundtable convened by the Habitat Professional Forum, the voluntary mechanism gathering over 24 international associations of the built environment professionals, to review progress since WUF 10 and set in motion the achievement of the SDGs in the post-pandemic recovery era. The key background document will be the Professionals' Roadmap for a Green and Sustainable Recovery prepared by the HPF.

The event is an interactive conversation to inform and engage attendees about four strategic topics that will be discussed through the lens of WUF11's key dialogue themes:

1. Professionals' contribution to the pandemic recovery: from principles to action (implementing the Roadmap)
2. The acceleration of SDGs achievement through the NUA: reinforcing urban action (coordination)
3. Professionals engagement in SDGs localization (partnership with local governments)
4. Looking inward: for a professional community fit for purpose (capacity building)

An initial keynote segment and discussion around these topics will be moderated by the Chair and Co-Chair of the Habitat Professionals Forum, followed by break-out discussions engaging session attendees and seeking their input. Conclusions from these discussions will be reported back and will inform the next work plan of the Habitat Professional Forum and its efforts to mobilize the professionals globally towards sustainable urban development, and highlight the commitments by professional organizations and partners to further action and impact towards sustainable urbanization.

5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:

- How can professionals contribute to a just and restorative pandemic recovery?
- How can professionals reinforce urban action to accelerate SDGs achievement through the NUA?
- How can professionals better foster engagement in SDGs localization through partnerships with local governments?
- How can professionals improve their own approaches to provide better professional community fit for purpose globally?

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:

- Inform and engage attendees about the Roadmap HPF's ongoing work, and encourage attending urban professionals to consider signing on and committing to the Roadmap and the HPF.
- Initiate on-going interactive networking that is engaging and active for those involved, by breaking from traditional presenter-and-audience format events.

7. Session Format:

The roundtable aims at gathering inputs from the broader constituency and from key partners to better reflect the diversity of professionals' efforts on sustainable urban development and to provide avenues for more synergic and effective role of professionals at global and local level. It will be organized in plenary and working group sessions, with 60 minutes of key notes and messages, 40 minutes of break-out discussions, and 20 minutes of feedback and conclusion. Additional facilitators will be available from HPF if required due to high turn-out from attendees. Conclusions will be recorded and incorporated into WUF11's overall concluding document.