



# The Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum

KATOWICE, POLAND | 26-30 JUNE 2022

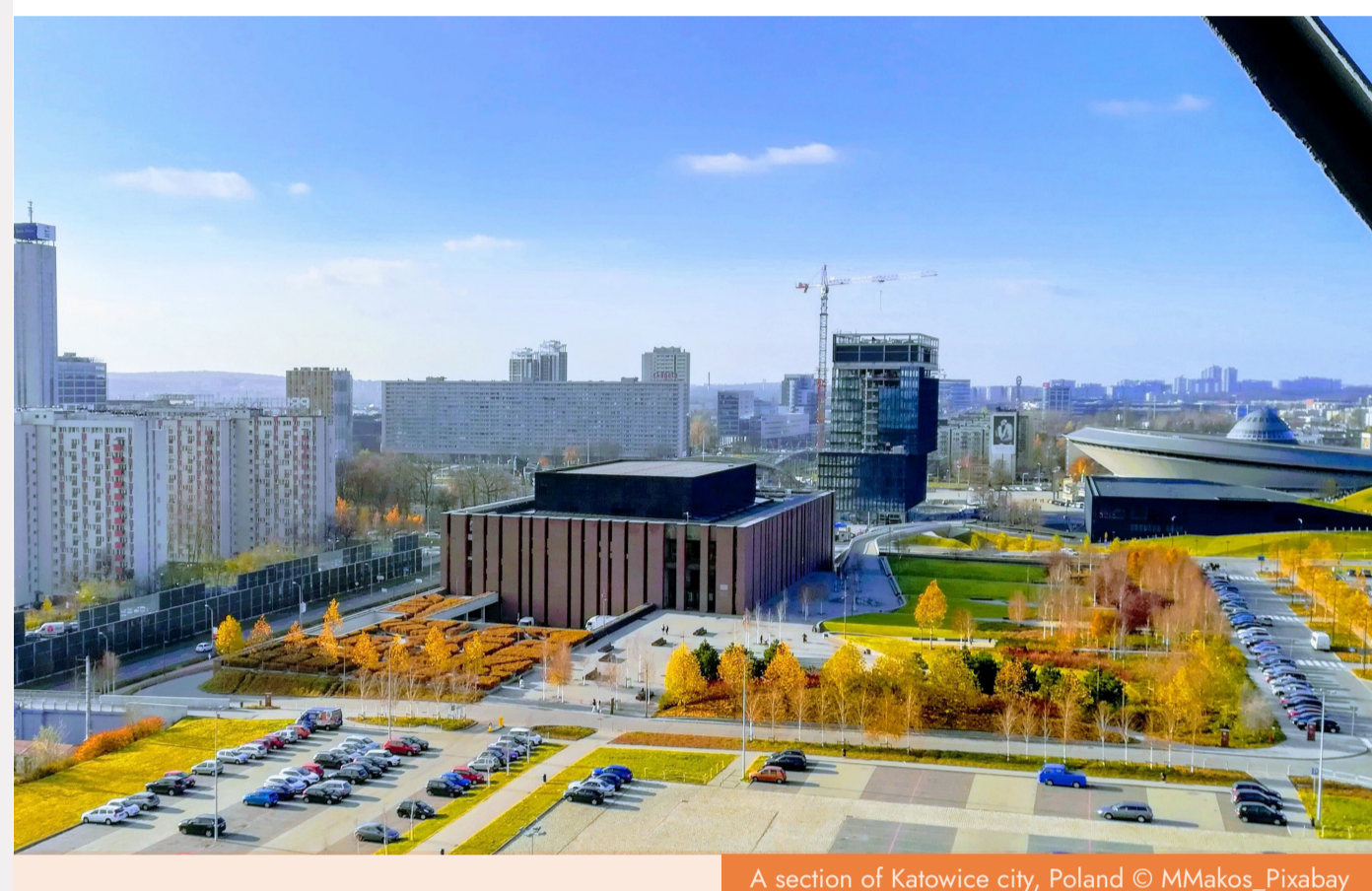
## Shaping the future of cities

The COVID-19 pandemic has cost lives, livelihoods and quality of life across the globe – with most of the hardest hits borne by cities. Whether in Nairobi or New York, Rome or Rio de Janeiro, the pandemic has illustrated the vulnerability of people in densely populated cities, particularly those urban environments that are mostly unplanned and forcing far too many into informal living spaces.

We need a more concerted and deliberate effort to interrogate the unique challenges of urban spaces, as relate to infrastructure and transportation, pollution and climate change, access to services and the right to live in dignity and security no matter who you are.

In June 2022, a large number of people will congregate in Katowice, Poland, to envision what is possible in our emerging, vibrant urban spaces. The eleventh World Urban Forum (WUF11) provides a platform for visionary urban innovators to shape the future of cities, raise awareness and promote sustainable urbanization. The forum, Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future, seeks to strengthen relationships and create linkages to promote accelerated implementation of global urban commitments, grounded in the achievement of SDG11: to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Linked closely to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda, WUF11's main Dialogue sessions as well as other policy debates and interactive activities will emphasize six themes:



A section of Katowice city, Poland © MMakos\_Pixabay

## Engaging persons living with disabilities @WUF11

Without deliberate attention to making spaces more inhabitable for people with disabilities we risk failing to meet the global Sustainable Development agenda. Three years since the historic first UN flagship report on disability and the SDGs, we are pleased to see exceptional progress and commitment made in Poland, our host for the June 2022 WUF11.

In keeping with its commitments to leaving no one behind, Poland has achieved a number of milestones in concrete action to include people with physical, emotional and psycho-social disabilities into its infrastructure and policy planning:

- **Adoption of the accessibility programme by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy to support people with special needs across the country**
- **Adoption of a new act on persons with special needs by parliament**
- **Establishment of the accessibility council with a representation of over 50 stakeholders and other major groups drawn from the different parts of the country**

In line with our partnership with the Polish government to host WUF11, UN-Habitat has made its own commitments to ensure people with disabilities are considered in the planning of the event and engaged in ensuring its success. Representatives from civil society and academia with expertise in navigating issues of ability are part of the planning and steering of the event, to ensure WUF11 is a space of social inclusion, education and full access.

We look forward to bringing a great complement of technical expertise and partnership in issues of ability and access to WUF11, to support Poland's own development and refinement of national standards for accessibility. WUF11 represents an unparalleled opportunity for knowledge exchange around best practices and opening spaces to all who wish to speak on their own behalf.

## World Habitat Day 2021



For the annual observance of World Habitat Day 2021, this year on 4 October, Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Poland's Secretary of State, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy and Host of WUF11, delivered a powerful video message about the power and responsibility each of us has to shape the future of our cities and towns.

Speaking to a COVID-19 safe gathering from Yaounde, Cameroon, where over 1,200 people participated both at the Town Hall, or through live streaming or Zoom in a reflection on the state of towns and cities, Secretary Jarosińska-Jedynak emphasized the importance of inclusion and dignity at the basis of the basic right of all to adequate shelter.

## WUF Brand Hub

Are you ready to flex your creative muscles to promote the World Urban Forum next June? Join us at our brand new brand hub where you can take our universal WUF logo and make it your own.

Show your pride and power in your urban space by using our package of graphics to depict yourself and your city and community. Then follow us on social media behind the #WUF11 hashtag and share with our community of urban explorers, all of whom are finding new and different ways to make their cities sustainable.

Check out the WUF brand hub!

<https://wufbrand.unhabitat.org>

## Urban Thinkers Campus: Urban Futures - The City We Need NOW!



Leading to WUF11, the World Urban Campaign will organise a series of Urban Thinkers Campus to exchange on Urban Futures under the banner *The City We Need NOW!* A call for proposals was released on 1 September 2021 to engage potential partner organisations to run their own Urban Thinkers Campus.

Each campus event is meant to contribute to the theme of the WUF11, Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future, while focusing on the principles of *The City We Need NOW!*

Concrete recommendations and solutions are expected from the campus sessions.

Complete this application to be a platform for solutions as we head towards Katowice for WUF11 in June 2022. Application form and guidelines are available on the UTC 7.0 Platform. The deadline for applications is 20 November 2021.

<https://www.worldurbancampaign.org/utc7>

### Join Us on Our Social Media Platforms #WUF11

For more information about how you can participate in WUF11 and find us on social media #WUF11!

Twitter: @WUF\_UNHabitat  
Facebook: @worldurbanforum



### Corporate Social Media

Twitter & Facebook: @UNHABITAT  
Instagram: @unhabitat

### Katowice

Twitter: @KrupaMarcinpl @BiuroPrasoweKce  
Facebook: @krupamarcinpl @Katowice.eu  
Instagram: @miasto\_katowice

For more information about WUF11, contact us on [unhabitat-wuf@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-wuf@un.org) or go to [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org), [www.worldurbanforum.org](http://www.worldurbanforum.org) or [wuf11.katowice.eu](http://wuf11.katowice.eu)

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