

**NATIONAL  
URBAN FORUM**



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

**RESILIENT CITIES AS A DRIVING FORCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND FIGHTING INEQUALITIES**

**Zangilan-Baku,  
AZERBAIJAN | 29 SEP. - 1 OCT. 2023**

## **Context**

The Azerbaijan National Urban Forum is an annual non-legislative event convened by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

This forum has become a highly anticipated and prestigious gathering in the region, attracting participants from around the world. It serves as a recurring platform for addressing urban challenges, focusing on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of human settlements in post-conflict regions.

Additionally, the forum aims to showcase the latest achievements in sustainable urban planning and development, while facilitating the exchange of international experiences in this field.

## **Why an Urban Forum?**

The National Urban Forum (NUF) is a multi-stakeholder platform for policy dialogue to support sustainable urban development decision-making and review processes at all levels, including through advocacy, knowledge sharing, capacity development, partnership and networking at the country level.

National Urban Forums have already been established with excellent results in a number of countries creating an enabling environment to promote dialogue and consensus among stakeholders, including national government, local authorities, grass root organizations, private sector and academia among others.

## **Proposed Time and Venue**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Azerbaijan National Urban Forum will take place from September 29 to October 1, 2023.

The opening ceremony will be held at the "Oxçuçay centre" in the city of Zangilan on September 29.

The second and third days of the forum will be held at the "Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard" in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan.

## **Azerbaijan National Urban Forum Objectives**

The main goal of the NUFA #2 is to foster sustainable urban development, particularly in post-conflict regions, by addressing emerging urban challenges, promoting the reconstruction

and rehabilitation of human settlements, and showcasing innovative approaches to inclusive and resilient urban planning. The forum serves as an annual platform for knowledge exchange, international collaboration, and the formulation of strategies and policies that contribute to the economic development and reduction of inequalities within cities.

The forum's objectives remain consistent each year and include the following:

- Providing a recurring platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing on emerging urban challenges.
- Highlighting successful approaches to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of post-conflict human settlements.
- Showcasing sustainable urban planning and development practices, with an emphasis on resilience and inclusivity.
- Fostering ongoing international collaboration and exchange of experiences in urban development.
- Facilitating the formulation of actionable strategies and policies for sustainable urbanization.

## **Expected Results**

- Enhanced economic empowerment and opportunities within urban areas.
- Promotion of inclusive urban planning and design to reduce inequalities.
- Collaboration for effective solutions in reducing urban disparities.
- Advancement of sustainable and green urban development practices.
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building for resilient and inclusive cities.

## **Participation**

Participants to the event will include representatives from regional, national and local governments, representatives of non-governmental and community-based organizations, academics, research and training institutes, the private sector, international organizations and donors.