



The Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum

WUF11 will be accessible to all

The Government of Poland, the City of Katowice and UN-Habitat are working hard to make the Eleventh World Urban Forum (WUF11), being held from 26 to 30 June 2022, the most accessible World Urban Forum ever. This will enable all participants to engage and participate in events and meetings.

WUF11 will bring together a wide range of global experiences on how to create inclusive and accessible cities with opportunities for all.



“Good urban planning, one that considers culture, will need to embrace innovation to make the future accessible to all.”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, WUF10, Abu Dhabi, UAE in 2020.

The World Urban Forum is the global platform to enhance partnerships for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and is setting the urban scene for the years to come. Under the theme “Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future.” participants in WUF11 will debate how to improve the accessibility of cities, ensuring the digital and physical inclusion of all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and other groups of people with specific needs as a condition for the future of sustainable urban development. A Roundtable will be dedicated to the priorities of persons with disabilities, and provide critical opportunities for this community to raise their voices and share their collective knowledge and expertise to support decision makers and urban stakeholders with key steps towards inclusion and accessibility.

Engaging youth @WUF11



How can urban regeneration transform socially, economically and environmentally deprived areas within a city into connected, dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods?

This requires community inclusion and direct engagement of youth to ensure that urban regeneration efforts are sustainable. Youth can help identify urban development issues and solutions. WUF11 will showcase Katowice as the site of visible and significant socio-economic transformation with involvement of a dedicated Youth Council established in December 2020.

The Polish Youth Council has been very active in the development and implementation of initiatives related to preparations for WUF11. The Youth Council will organise competitions, debates and interviews on key challenges surrounding urban policy and the opportunities that sustainable cities offer young people in the lead up to WUF11.

The WUF11 Youth Council is a platform that aims to involve young people not only in terms of participation, but also in the preparations for WUF11. The Council will gather students who are passionate about urban issues and the future of our cities. The Council plays a vital role in coordinating initiatives directed to young people and facilitating meaningful youth participation prior and during WUF11 as part of its programme planning process.

Call for youth actions

Placing particular emphasis on the interest of young people in the subject of sustainable and accessible solutions in the creation of urban spaces, Katowice welcomes and encourages the youth to participate in WUF11 to bring innovative solutions for urban space, accessibility, green transformation, resilience, among others.



The International Congress Centre for global debates on the future of cities



Katowice International Congress Centre / JEMS © ArchDaily

The International Congress Centre (ICC) was established in the heart of the Culture Zone in a new and revitalized space near the iconic Spodek and other unique buildings such as the seat of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Silesian Museum. The building is a multifunctional complex service facility designed to host up to 15,000 guests and is fitted with modern multimedia equipment, enabling communication with visitors and effective event organization.

The Spodek (meaning “Saucer” in Polish) Arena, built in 1962, is one of the most remarkable pieces of work in the modern Polish architecture. It is the symbol of Katowice city and the Upper Silesia industrial region. The main idea was to channel the modernist architecture of Katowice together with Spodek that creates an appealing recreational area. WUF11 will take place in this ICC, one of the foremost icons in Poland which is contemporary architecture situated in its historical area.



The Green Valley runs through the ICC, connecting it with Spodek and generating a synergy between the two buildings and the events taking place therein.

Katowice International Congress Centre / JEMS © ArchDaily

ICC was designed in an innovative way which the facility not only provides functional solutions to use green nature, but also creates conditions for its existence within the social space of the city. This modern architecture is connecting such space in front of Bogucice — a city’s oldest historic district.



Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy - The Government Plenipotentiary for the organisation of the World Urban Forum in Katowice in 2022 (right), Marcin Krupa, the Mayor of Katowice (left)

The clock has been set in the city of Katowice to countdown days to start the premier global meeting on cities @WUF11.

WUF11 is excited to welcome all participants to this historical and contemporary iconic venue in Katowice, the perfect venue to discuss the future of cities.

Urban October starts with World Habitat Day on Monday 4 October and ends on World Cities Day on Sunday 31 October. Suggestions for events are in this toolkit and can be publicized by posting here. The theme for World Habitat Day is Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world and for World Cities Day - Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience.



Contact unhabitat-whd@un.org or unhabitat-wcd@un.org for more information or go to <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/>.

Check out the new WUF website!
www.worldurbanforum.org

Join Us On Our Social Media Platforms

For more information about the #WUF11, contact us on unhabitat-wuf@un.org or go to www.unhabitat.org, www.worldurbanforum.org or wuf11.katowice.eu



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