



UN-HABITAT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME  
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya  
unhabitat-info@un.org | www.unhabitat.org

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## PRESS RELEASE

# World Habitat Day 2024: Engaging youth to create a better urban future

**Querétaro, Mexico, 7 October 2024** – On this World Habitat Day 2024, UN-Habitat – the United Nations entity responsible for cities and human settlements – is holding a global observance to highlight the contributions by the youth to sustainable urban development.

World Habitat Day, observed this year on 7 October, is designated by the United Nations to reflect on the state of cities and human settlements and promote the right to adequate shelter. This year's global ceremony is taking place in the city of Querétaro, Mexico. Co-organized with the State of Querétaro, the Municipality of Querétaro and the Government of Mexico, under the theme "Engaging youth to create a better urban future," the event seeks to empower the youth to take the lead in shaping their urban present and future through participatory processes and local leadership.

"Young people are crucial to building a more equitable and sustainable future," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said in his message for the Day. "As we celebrate World Habitat Day, let us support youth everywhere, include young people in decision-making, and build cities where people of all ages can thrive."

The programme of World Habitat Day features a high-level ceremony followed by two roundtables exploring youth-led initiatives in climate action and sustainable urban mobility. More than 2,500 participants from 88 countries, including 1,700 in person, attended the event in-person and online. Globally, 22 World Habitat Day celebrations were planned in 20 cities, in a total of 15 countries.

"On this World Habitat Day, we invite [the youth] to engage with us to find solutions and ensure that the right to housing and sustainable cities and communities is our reality," said Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, during the opening ceremony of World Habitat Day. "You are the heartbeat of our cities, the force driving us toward a better future."

Recommendations and messages from the debates during the Day will be shared during World Cities Day on 31 October, during the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum in Cairo and at the Ministerial Meeting on Urban Action and Climate Change at COP29 in November 2024.

World Habitat Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1985 and first celebrated in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1986.

**About UN-Habitat**

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit [unhabitat.org](https://unhabitat.org) or follow us on X @UNHABITAT.

**For further information, please contact:**

Katerina Bezgachina  
Chief of Communications  
UN-Habitat  
[ekaterina.bezgachina@un.org](mailto:ekaterina.bezgachina@un.org)