



PROGRAMME

- Observance of “World Cities Day 2025”-

**The 20th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human
Settlements & New Sustainable Cities and Human
Settlements Awards Ceremony (GFHS 2025)**

Theme:

**Advance Local Innovation and Collaboration
for a Resilient and Sustainable Urban Future**

4-5 November 2025

**World Meteorological Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland**

Co-organized by

Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)

In Collaboration With

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Global Human Settlements Foundation (GHSF)

European Committee of the Regions (CoR), European Union

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB) Urban Land Institute (ULI)

International Ocean Institute (IOI) Global Cities Hub (GCH)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) ENERGIES 2050

World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO)

Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE)

Sub-Committee on Science and Technology Collaborative Innovation, Science and
Technology Committee, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China
(SCSTCI, STC, MoHURD)

(In no particular order)

Day 1: 4 November 2025, Tuesday

Local Time/Place	Main Activity	Leading Organization/ Language
09:30-10:30 Salle Obasi	Opening Session	Co-organizers/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Dr. Johan Stander, Senior Director, Services Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) ♦ Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Chairman of Global Forum on Human Settlements, Former UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative ♦ Professor Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) ♦ Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)- DSDG/UN DESA ♦ Mr. Charles Karangwa, Director, Nature-based Solution, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ♦ Mr. Frank D'hondt, Secretary General, International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) ♦ Observance of GFHS's 20th Anniversary and World Cities Day & Group Photo	
10:30-10:50	Coffee Break	
10:50-11:50 Salle Obasi	Keynote Statement Advance local innovation and collaboration for a resilient and sustainable urban future	Co-organizers/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Mr. Haifeng Lyu, Co-founder & Secretary General, Global Forum on Human Settlements Speakers: ♦ Mr. Dmitry Mariyasyn, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) ♦ Mr. Nikhil Seth, Rector, SDG Management School (SDGMS), former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of United Nations Institute for Training and Research ♦ Dr. Serge Salat, President, Urban Morphology and	

	Complex Systems Institute, Paris, France, Senior Advisor to the UN and World Bank, Leading Expert of International Green Model City Standards 3.0 ♦ Mr. Leng Fei, Director, Chaoyang District Ecology and Environment Bureau, Beijing, China	
11:50-12:50 Salle Obasi	High-level Dialogue Invigorate innovation and leadership towards greener and smarter cities	Co-organizers/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Dr. Arab Hoballah, Senior Sustainability Expert, former Chief, Sustainable Consumption and Production, UNEP Panelists: ♦ Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief of Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity Development at United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) ♦ Dato' Ir. Rajendran P. Anthony, Mayor, Penang Island, Malaysia ♦ Mr. Teo Eng Cheong, Chief Executive Officer, Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City Investment and Development Co., Ltd. ♦ Ms. Orsolya Barsi, Head of Department for Climate and Environmental Affairs, Municipality of Budapest, Hungary ♦ Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Alrayees, Director of Waste Strategy and Projects Department, Dubai Municipality, UAE ♦ Ms. Anh Thu Duong, Co-Director, Policy and Partnerships, Global Cities Hub	
12:50-14:20	Lunch Break	
14:20-15:40 Salle Obasi	Parallel Session 1A Increase climate resilience through integrated urban heat and water resource management	WMO/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Ms. Anh Thu Duong, Co-Director, Policy and Partnerships, Global Cities Hub Speakers: ♦ Dr. Johan Stander, Senior Director, Services Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) ♦ Ms. Orsolya Barsi, Head of Department for Climate and Environmental Affairs, Municipality of Budapest, Hungary	

	♦ Mr. Sebastian Grey, Scientific Officer for Agrometeorology at the World Meteorological Organization ♦ Ms. Nadia Verjee, Executive Director at Expo City Dubai, UAE ♦ Mr. Ronald Jackson, Head, Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery for Building Resilience, Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
14:20-15:40 C1	Parallel Session 1B Coastal cities as source and solution: shifting the plastics pollution paradigm	IOI&UNCTAD/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Dr. Andràs Szorényi, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Cities Hub (GCH) Speakers: ♦ Mr. Régis Farret, Counsellor for Sustainable Development, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations ♦ Ms. Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director, International Ocean Institute Headquarters ♦ Mr. Graham Alabaster, Head of UN-Habitat Geneva Office ♦ Mr. Gabriel Boichat Sancho, Head of the Delegation of Catalonia to Switzerland, Member of the Local and Subnational Governments Coalition ♦ Dato' Ir. Rajendran P. Anthony, Mayor, Penang Island, Malaysia	
15:40-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30 Salle Obasi	Parallel Session 2A Future-proof carbon-neutral cities and human settlements	GFHS&UNCRD/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)- DSDG/UN DESA Speakers: ♦ Dr. Frank Wolter, Professor for Automotive and Mobility Management, SRH University of Applied Sciences, Berlin, Germany ♦ Mr. Xing Peng, Deputy Chief of Xiangcheng District People's Government, Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province,	

	China ♦ Dr. Zhai Shengqiang, Founder & CEO of Huanzhi (Shenzhen) Green Development Co., Ltd ♦ Mr. Stéphane Pouffary, Chief Executive Officer and Honorary President, ENERGIES 2050, France ♦ Mr. Chen Xingcen, General Manager, Abo Building Materials (Kunshan) Co., Ltd ♦ Mr. Liu Hanzheng, Executive Director, Hebei Huazhong Real Estate Development Co., Ltd Commentator: ♦ Ms. Li Shan, Group Chief Designer & General Manager of Planning and Design Center, Shenzhen Coast Investment Group Co., Ltd. ♦ Prof. Dr. Maneeratana Sawasdiwat Na Ayutthaya, Member of Royal Society of Thailand, Director of ASEAN MTI ♦ Ms. Wang Miao, Secretary-General, Sustainable Urban Development Committee, Construction Industry Branch, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)	
16:00-17:30 C1	Parallel Session 2B Nature-based solutions for livability and climate adaptation	IUCN&IISD/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Mr. Charles Karangwa, Director, Nature-based Solution, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Speakers: ♦ Dr. Robert McDonald, Lead Scientist for Nature-Based Solutions at The Nature Conservancy ♦ Ms. Liesbeth Casier, Lead, Public Procurement and Sustainable Infrastructure Policy & Coordinator, NBI Global Resource Centre, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) ♦ Mr. Isaltino Afonso Morais, Mayor, Oeiras, Portugal ♦ Ms. Yang Liuyan, Deputy Director, Forestry Bureau, Kaizhou District, City of Chongqing, China ♦ Ms. Tabea Stöckel, Nature and Climate Adaptation Lead, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB) ♦ Ms. Jessie Press-Williams, Senior Analyst at Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)	

18:00-20:00 Top Floor	Welcome Reception	GFHS/ Consecutive interpretation English/Chinese
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Day 2: 5 November 2025, Wednesday

Local Time/Place	Main Activity	Leading Organization/ Language
09:30-10:30 Salle Obasi	Summary and Recommendation	Co-organizers/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
	Moderator: Dr. Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad, Vice Chairman of Global Forum on Human Settlement (GFHS), Co-founder of Global Human Settlements Foundation Speakers: ♦ Mr. Iñiqui Carnicero, Secretary General of Urban Agenda, Housing and Architecture at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda, Spain ♦ Dr. Awni Behnam, former United Nations Assistant Secretary General, Hon. President, International Ocean Institute, Affiliate Professor, University of Malta ♦ Summaries from parallel session moderators ♦ Release the Geneva Declaration	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:30 Salle Obasi	New Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2025	GFHS/ Simultaneous interpretation: English/Chinese
12:30-13:45	Lunch Break	