

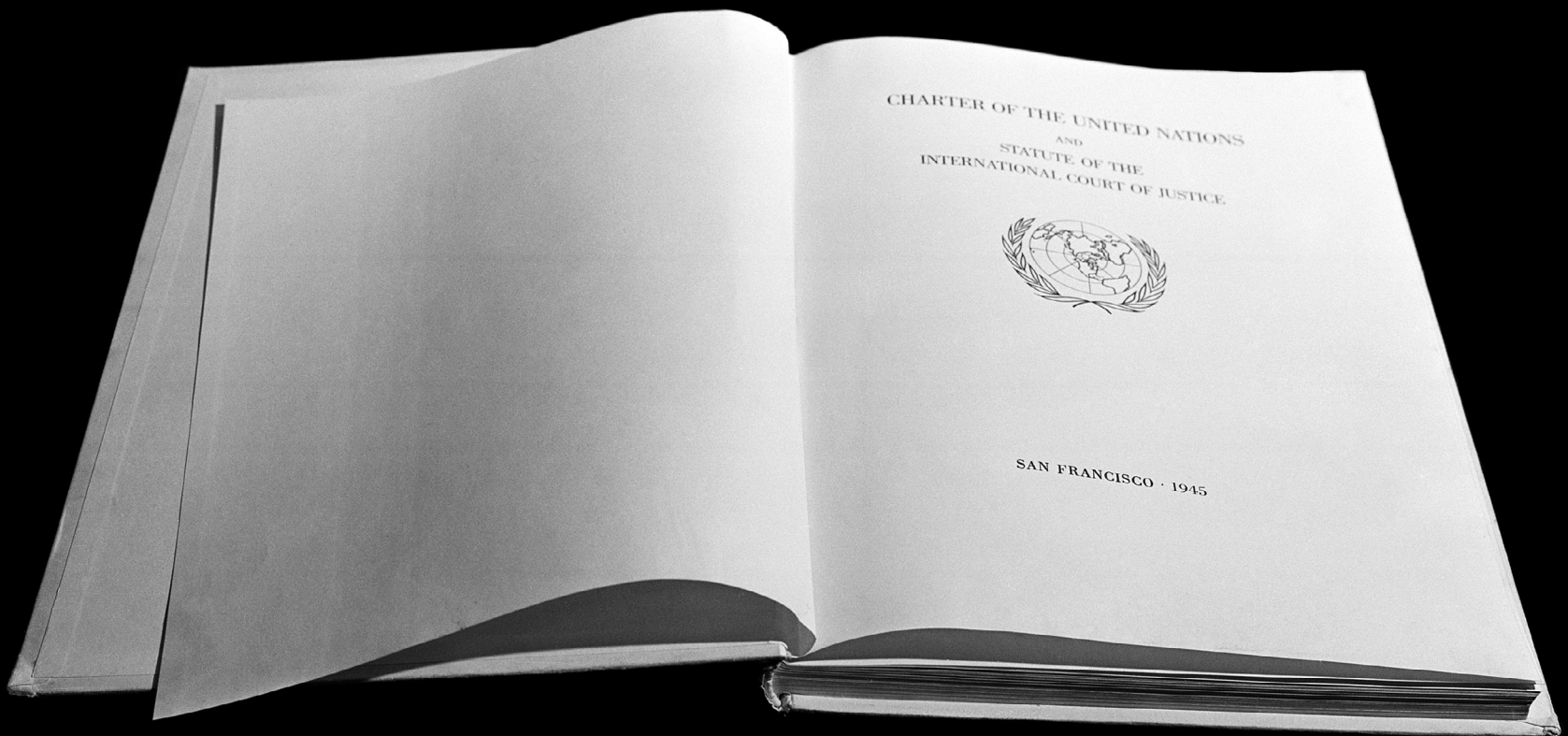
Hab Post

Updates from
UN-Habitat

UN HABITAT
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75 years in the making:
what's next?



Editor's note

Dear Reader,

75 years ago, the UN Charter was signed. It would set the stage for years of cooperation towards peace and security, and make the United Nations a catalyst for what we now know as sustainable development.

Somewhere in between, urbanization and its impacts started to gain traction in the UN agenda. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme was born, and in 2015 the UN made cities and communities a centrepiece of the Sustainable Development Goals framework.

Today, our leaders reflect on the UN@75, the role of UN-Habitat, and what we might see next. Read or listen to their statements in this issue.

Happy Reading!

The HabPost Team



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Alerts

COVID-19

- As of 20 October 2020, there were over 40 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including over 1,1 million deaths, reported to WHO. Monitor the situation [here](#).
- In [Belgium](#), bars and restaurants are closed for four weeks and a night-time curfew is currently in place. The situation in the country is said to be worse than when the lockdown was decided.
- [Wales](#) will impose a two-week lockdown from Friday to combat an accelerating second wave of infections.
- In [France](#), a curfew has been put in place in the capital, Paris and some of the country's major cities.
- [Kenya](#) is facing a second wave of coronavirus infections, just weeks after lifting or easing some restrictions.
- [UNICEF](#) will stockpile over half a billion syringes by year end as part of efforts to prepare for eventual COVID-19 vaccinations.





75 years in the making: what's next?



About a month ago, we asked some of you how they related to the UN@75. We received inspiring, critical, and forward-looking insights – insights that shape our everyday work. We feel these are truly a reflection of the future we want, and the UN we need.

Today, we want to convey the voices of our leaders. You will find on the next page a statement by our Executive Director on the occasion of the anniversary of the UN, and a link to a podcast by our Deputy Executive Director on the UN@75 and the contributions by UN-Habitat to the work of our global organization. This concludes our special issues on the UN@75, and we will refocus our stories on the work and initiatives bubbling up across the house – save for an Urban October wrap-up.

Before we close, we wanted to share one highlight from the UN General Assembly, an intervention by our

Executive Director during the High-level week on SDG Action Zone.

SDG Action Zone is part of an annual event mandated by Heads of States and Governments to check in on the state of play of SDG progress. This is a space where leaders engage in deep conversations, debates, and showcases on core areas for accelerating SDG action vis-a-vis the themes of People, Planet and Partnerships.

During the event, short sessions (called UN Digests) invite UN leaders to highlight their respective UN entities' commitment and contribution to accelerating SDG implementation. Find out ours ([and others'](#)) in this video!



Statement by our Executive Director

On this occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, we must not forget the good works of past generations, whose commitment to peace and a “rules based” co-existence of nations has lifted millions out of poverty and misery.

COVID-19, like other global crises, is bigger than any one nation and reinforces the unique role of the United Nations to bring the world together as one. The United Nations has made significant progress over the decades in improving peace and security, poverty reduction, clean water, improved sanitation, gender equality, and other critical areas of development.

In 2000, the world was introduced to the ground-breaking concept of the Millennium Development Goals. Fifteen years later, we adopted the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with clear targets to be achieved by 2030. The New Urban Agenda will help nations harness urbanization as a catalytic force to deliver the SDGs.

In the past 75 years, the world has come a long way in our commitment to ensure adequate shelter for all. The built environment and the rapid rate of urbanization is now changing the very nature of the planet. By 2050, 70 per cent of humanity will live in urban areas; in 2020, 95 per cent of all COVID-19 cases are found in our towns and cities. Our fate is inextricably bound up with the places we call home — be it a slum, the virtual village, or the city.

No journey is smooth. At this point in our history, the SDGs may seem far and away. Yet, I believe we can achieve these goals by empowering individuals, communities, neighbourhoods, and cities to take small steps together.

We need to be inspired by the moral character of past generations, we need to harness the drive of our youth, capture the wisdom of our elders, and encourage innovation and creativity at all levels.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, United
Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat)

If humankind is to survive, we need a global revolution of empathy. The next 75 years will be crucial as future generations will depend on us to make the right decisions today.

If humankind is to survive, we need a global revolution of empathy. The next 75 years will be crucial as future generations will depend on us to make the right decisions today.

Above all, we need action on the ground, advocacy in the virtual world and commitment to do whatever it takes to leave future generations a better world, where no one and no place is left behind.

So let us do it!

Insights on the go: Introducing HabTalk

When was the last time you *actually* read an email attachment?

If you're like us, chances are you scroll, you skim, you close your document, and you go back to work as fast as possible.

We work more, and we have little time to read. To mitigate lack of time, we've started to use new ways of sharing and presenting information to buy us time and preserve impact.

[Infographics](#), [web stories](#), [interactive maps](#) are examples of visual and written communication that rely on snappy facts to get the message across. But is that all there is?

In 2004, podcasts were introduced to the world. They followed a tradition of audio-based story telling starting with audiobooks in 1932 to the more recent audio blogs that multiplied with the ever-increasing access to the world wide web.

Today, much like [the UN at large has been doing](#), we're happy to bring you the first episode of HabTalk, your internal podcast series. The idea is to let you consume insights and news on the go on topics that matter to us as personnel members of UN-Habitat.

For this first episode, we've interviewed Victor Kisob, our Deputy Executive Director, on the UN@75. Click the banner below to find out his thoughts about the milestone.

We hope you will enjoy this new experience!



HabTalk Episode 1:

The UN@75, interview
with Victor Kisob



**30 September
was International
Podcast Day**

**How much do you
really know about
podcasting? Take
the quiz and find
out! Go to quiz**



Public Podcasts

**UN-Habitat will
also be producing
public-oriented
podcasts to reflect
on urban issues
and showcase the
work of the agency.
Keep an eye out!**

What else is there?

Storytelling today takes many forms, where audio and illustrations are combined to make an impression. Engage with *The Fallen of World War II*, which should make you reflect further on the UN@75. Or immerse yourself aboard *The Boat* and walk in a Vietnamese refugee's shoes.

Vacancies

Role
Programme
Management Officer,
Human Settlements,
P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
24 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)

Role
Statistician, P3
(Temporary Job
Opening)
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
27 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)

Role
Associate Programme
Management Officer,
Human Settlements,
P2 (Temporary Job
Opening)
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
28 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)

Role
Associate Programme
Management Officer
- Human Settlements,
P2 (Temporary Job
Opening)
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
28 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)

Role
Senior Research
Assistant, Social
Affairs, G7
(Temporary Job
Opening)
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
28 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)

Role
Programme
Management Officer
(National Programme
Manager), Project
Post, NOC
Duty Station
Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso
Deadline
29 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)

Role
Intern, Donor
Relations and
Strategic Resource
Partnerships
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
27 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)

Role
Intern, Research,
Analytics and
Coordination
Duty Station
Shanghai, China
Deadline
27 October 2020
[Apply Here](#)



Upcoming events and corporate calendar



UN HABITAT



2020 second session of the Executive Board

The Executive Board of UN-Habitat will hold its second session for the year 2020 from 27 to 29 October 2020. The session will be held online. [More information](#)



World Cities Day 2020

Under the overarching theme of Better City, Better Life, the aim of the 2020 version of World Cities Day is to focus the attention of the international community on urbanization as a central issue for development, and to encourage cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing urban challenges towards sustainable development. [More information](#)



Valuing our communities and cities

Other organizers



Sustainable Places 2020

Sustainability targets and climate change objectives cannot be met without addressing buildings and the built environment at the building, district and urban scale to include transport and energy infrastructures. The Sustainable Places conference is a platform for the dissemination of research, the conduct of workshops, EU project clustering, and networking between stakeholders of all types. [More information](#)



Accelerating Urban Innovation in the Age of COVID-19

As a result of COVID-19, urban innovation, which was scheduled to deploy over many years, is getting deployed in weeks. The benefits of today's accelerated innovation will have positive consequences that far outlive the current pandemic. This event will discuss the intersection of urban innovation and resilience, as well as practical solutions that cities can begin taking to prepare for future shocks. [More information](#)



UrbanXFest 2020

This conference will highlight ideas, concepts and solutions for enhancing and humanising everybody's urban experience. There will also be discussions on how cities can change for the better after COVID-19. [More information](#)





Learning

Leadership Dialogue 2020



1.5 hour discussion

We all face ethical challenges in our day-to-day work. As we mark the 75th anniversary of the UN, the United Nations Leadership Dialogue is an opportunity for all personnel to discuss topics that bear great meaning for our work.

Under the theme of *Acknowledging Dignity through Civility: How can I communicate for a more harmonious workplace?*, this year's Dialogue will focus on creating a respectful environment for providing constructive feedback and for challenging ideas. The Dialogue is an opportunity to shift mindsets and to explore a new possible dynamic of workplace interactions.

The session is mandatory for all personnel and runs for about 1.5 hours. The deadline for completion of this year's session is 30 November 2020.

Remember to actively participate, ask questions, contribute relevant examples, and discuss situations that you may know of or have heard about!

If you need more information, please feel free to contact UN-Habitat's Legal Office.

The United Nations Leadership Dialogue is an initiative launched in 2013 for managers in the Secretariat to host a yearly conversation with their direct reports on the ethical challenges we face in our day-to-day work. The UN Ethics Office provides managers with a Leadership Dialogue Guide and a model presentation as well as the participants with a Participant's Guide. The topics vary from year to year, based on the evolving focus of the Organization.

Documents



[Leaders Guide and Materials 2020](#)

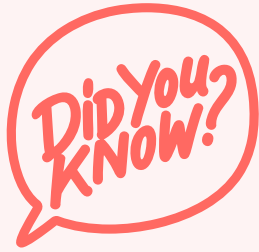


[Participants' Guide and Materials 2020](#)



[Presentation](#)

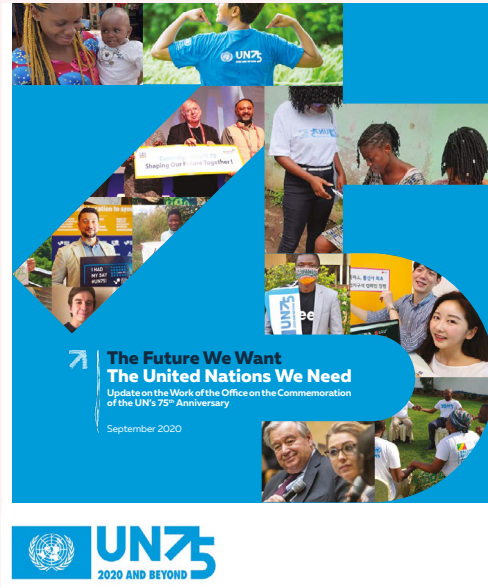




Report of the UN75 Office

To coincide with the General Assembly’s official commemoration of the UN anniversary, answers to the global consultation to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN were released in September. The results are available in this [report](#).

The global consultation was launched in January 2020 and invited, through surveys and dialogues, people from all walks of life to share their hopes and fears for the future as well as their priorities for international cooperation, and for the United Nations in particular.



Over one million answers were collected across all UN Member States and Observer States. The top priority of most respondents everywhere is improved access to basic services. How does shelter rank? Find out in the report.



Participate!

Want your story featured? Submit your ideas or reach out to us at unhabitat-habpost@un.org.

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