



Summary:

This session will present emerging regional trends from the mid-term review of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), while giving countries a platform to share their experiences. It will focus on how National Progress Reports can move beyond reporting to inform policy, guide investment, and drive implementation. By providing a platform for peer exchange, the session aims to strengthen the link between reporting and action and accelerate impact across the Arab region.

The session also serves as a regional consultation under the “Road to Baku: The Local Way” initiative of the Local2030 Coalition, in partnership with ESCWA and UN-Habitat, contributing Arab regional perspectives and local experiences to global discussions at the World Urban Forum (WUF13) taking place from 17 to 22 May 2026 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Objectives:

- Present key regional trends and insights emerging from National Progress Reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Arab region.
- Provide a platform for countries to share experiences and lessons learned in preparing and using NUA progress reports to inform policy and planning.
- Explore how national reporting can be leveraged for action and impact, including its role in guiding investments, strengthening governance, and supporting local implementation.
- Identify common regional priorities and opportunities for cooperation, including peer learning, partnerships, and coordinated approaches to accelerate progress on SDG 11.
- Contribute Arab regional perspectives to global processes, including the Road to Baku: The Local Way, by highlighting locally grounded solutions and experience.

Moderator:

- **Ms. Rania Hedeya**, Director, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States

NUA Regional Analysis Presentation:

- **Ms. Nihal El-Megharbel**, Former Vice-Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt, Regional Expert on Urban Policies

Panel discussion:

- **Jumana Attiyat**, General Manager, Housing and Urban Development Corporation, Jordan
- **Fatna Chihab**, Secretary General, National Housing Council, Morocco
- **Hafsa Alwahaibia**, Urban Indicators Analyst, Urban Observatory, Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Oman

Road to Baku: City Initiative Spotlight

- **Safa Dwaik**, Head of GIS Department, Ramallah Municipality, State of Palestine

This special session is organized as an online event. To participate, please register [here](#).