ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

81st Commission Session

21 to 25 Apr 2025
United Nations Conference Centre,
Bangkok, Thailand

SIDE EVENT

Proposed Topic :

The Asia Pacific Urban Agenda Platform (AP-UAP) : A Collaborative Platform to Accelerate the Sustainable Urban Agenda in Asia-Pacific Region

Preferred Date and Time :
[23 April 2025]
[14.00pm – 15.00pm]

INTRODUCTION

Asia Pacific Urban Agenda Platform (AP-UAP) is an initiative by the Government of Malaysia through its Ministry of Housing and Local Government and UN-Habitat to encourage like-minded member states to work collaboratively to implement the New Urban Agenda as part of their national development policy to achieve sustainable urban development.

It is in response to the 2022 High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the NUA where member states reiterated their commitment to increase knowledge sharing, data collection and reporting on implementing the New Urban Agenda and SDG11.

The regional initiative will be implemented by Urbanice Malaysia, representing the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and the UN-Habitat Malaysia office, under the guidance of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, represented by the UN-Habitat ERSKID as the focal point of the global Urban Agenda Platform and UN-Habitat ROAP as the Office responsible for the UN-Habitat Malaysia Office.

THEME

The Asia Pacific Urban Agenda Platform (AP-UAP) : A Collaborative Platform to Accelerate the Sustainable Urban Agenda in Asia-Pacific Region - emphasise on the importance of promoting regional cooperation and fostering collaboration to support sustainable urban development. By providing tools, models, and evidence of best practices, we aim to ensure that cities are well-equipped to navigate the complex challenges of the future.

AP-UAP is a regional platform that accelerates the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific Region. It serves as a reporting and learning hub to support Member States of the region in their voluntary reporting on the New Urban Agenda for the Secretary General's third Quadrennial Report, due in 2026.

The platform facilitates knowledge exchange, fosters interactions, and supports capacity development, aiming to establish communities of practice devoted to sustainable urbanization development. It is overseen by UN-Habitat and acts as an operational and multistakeholder platform to:

- Facilitate incremental and continuous reporting on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- Facilitate participation and engagement of Member States and other stakeholders; and
- Provide and share strategic resources to support awareness raising, learning, knowledge exchange and capacity development to scale the implementation of the NUA in view of accelerating progress towards the SDGs and other global agendas.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

This event serves as a platform for promoting awareness and providing information about the AP-UAP training workshops, while also facilitating engagement in monitoring and reporting through the platform.

- Highlight the importance of AP-UAP as a reporting and learning hub, supporting Member States in their voluntary reporting on the New Urban Agenda for the Secretary General's third Quadrennial Report, due in 2026.
- Offer hands-on training for participants on how to effectively use the regional platform portal.
- Create a collaborative network of Member States to advance the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs within the region.

OUTCOME

- **Accelerating Progress NUA Reporting**
  Member states in the region increase the reporting and their capacity thereto for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and 17 SDGs. Support countries in the Asia-Pacific region in achieving the SDGs by providing tools, models, and evidence of best practices.
- **Fostering Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**
  The initiative promotes regional cooperation by linking cities with developed solutions to those in need and providing a platform for dialogue between national and local governments. It encourages the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions, enhancing cooperation among cities to learn from each other.
- **Strengthen Regional Cooperation**
  The Urban Agenda Platform can support sustainable urbanization in the rapidly urbanizing Asia-Pacific region by helping countries build governance structures and policy frameworks for effective urban growth.