Side-event on COP29 Declaration on
Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) to Resilient and Healthy Cities
within the framework of the 81st session of UNESCAP

Logistics

Date: 22 April 2025
Time: 12:45 - 13:45
Location: Conference Room 4

Overview of this Side-event

COP29 Declaration on Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) to Resilient and Healthy Cities, signed by more than 150 stakeholders, including 52 national governments, cities and other stakeholders, highlights the need to take a multisectoral approach to urban climate action. Its uniqueness lies not only in its approach but also in its coverage of new issues such as nature and health, disaster resilience and early warning in cities, urban afforestation and reforestation, urban agriculture, technology, green skills and green jobs. This can be done through urban planning, policies, science, finance, multilevel and multistakeholder collaboration.

In addition, the declaration encourages: 1) stronger partnerships to enhance climate finance in urban areas; 2) building linkages between World Urban Forums, UNFCCC COPs and World Environment days, including through encouraging the WUF host countries to appoint a Special Envoy for Urban Climate Action; and 3) collaboration between past, current and future COP Presidencies through the Baku Continuity Coalition.

The momentum for urban climate action has never been stronger. Since 2022, Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs have been bringing together Ministers of Housing, Urbanization and Climate Change, local leaders and financing institutions to highlight how multilevel collaboration can help achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, COP outcomes and initiatives are driving the global recognition of the critical role local governments and cities play in tackling climate change. At COP29, during the third Ministerial Meeting, the MAP declaration was launched, which as one of its core elements highlights the importance of continuity and collaboration between past, present and future COP Presidencies.

This idea is embodied in the ***Baku Continuity Coalition for Urban, Multilevel and Multisectoral Climate Action*** which brings together four COP Presidencies (Azerbaijan - COP29; United Arab Emirates - COP28; Egypt COP27 and Brazil as the future COP30 host) and UN-Habitat to ensure continuity and complementarity between urban climate initiatives. Further information about the MAP initiatives can be found here: https://cop29.az/en/pages/cop29-declaration-on-multisectoral-actions-pathways-map-to-resilient-and-healthy-cities

In addition to global achievements made via the launch of MAP and the Baku Continuity Coalition, COP29 was also an important regional moment with the launch of the Forum of Climate Smart Cities of the UN Special Program for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

This side-event will reflect on the achievements of these initiatives and will contribute to the regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific in the context of the realization of aforementioned global and regional initiatives on the way to the next World Urban Forum (WUF13) to be held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in 2026.

The side event will also provide an opportunity for participating delegations to ask questions and intervene from the floor.

Agenda

Time	
12:45 - 12:50	**Introduction by the moderator** • Dr. Sangmin Nam, Director Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP
12:50 - 13:05	**Opening remarks** • H.E. Ambassador Elchin Bashirov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to UNESCAP • H.E. Anaclaudia Rossbach, Under-Secretary-General of the UN, Executive Director of UN-Habitat • H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the UN, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
13:05 - 13:15	**COP29 Team presentation: progress, achievements and way forward for the COP29 MAP Declaration, the Baku Continuity Coalition and SPECA Forum of Climate Smart Cities**

	• Mr. Elmar Mammadov, Co-Chair, COP29 Action Agenda's Global and Regional Initiatives Team
13:15 - 13:25	**Roadmap to WUF13** • Ms. Gulshan Rzayeva, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
13:25 – 13:35	Interventions from the floor
13:35 - 13:45	Conclusions and way forward by the moderator