Urban Innovations Fair at the
Eighty-first session of the Commission
Bangkok, 21–25 April 2025

I. Background and objective

Asia-Pacific is the world's urban powerhouse, home to over 2.2 billion city dwellers and some of the planet's largest mega-cities. By 2050, this urban population is expected to grow by 50%, adding 1.2 billion people. However, the region faces some challenges with population growth slowing, and demographers project a decline starting around 2051 and elderly population set to double by 2050, creating demand for age-friendly urban infrastructure.

Realizing the ambitions of the global development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda, require significant actions in the region's cities. Furthermore, ESCAP resolution 79/7, entitled "Advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific", emphasized 'the positive contributions of national, subnational and local governments to implementing and localizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Against this background, the Urban Innovations Fair, at the eighty-first session of the Commission, will provide a space to engage with a broad range of partners and stakeholders to showcase urban innovations that are advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in an inclusive way across the development spectrum of the region.

II. Theme

The Urban Innovations Fair will support discussions on the theme of the session "Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific",

The exhibition should focus on cross-cutting opportunities, experiences or best practices for resilient and sustainable urban development that contribute to the region's socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. These could showcase practices at the regional, sub-regional, national or subnational level. Furthermore, exhibitions should showcase concrete success stories and examples of urban innovations and applied solutions that support the implementation of one or more Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Dates

The fair will be held during the session of the Commission, from 21 to 25 April 2025. **On Wednesday, 23 April 2025**, from 11.15 to 17.00 hours, participants will have the opportunity to interact with the exhibitors at the fair who will be able to present or showcase their initiatives. All participants attending the session of the Commission will be invited to visit the fair throughout the week.

IV. Venue

The fair will be held in the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok.

V. Criteria for submitting proposals

- Members and associate members of the Commission, permanent observers to ESCAP or other UN Member States interested in showcasing solutions at the Urban Innovations Fair during the 81st session of the Commission can submit a proposal to set up a "Country Booth". Each "Country Booth" may showcase initiatives led by government, private sector, local authorities, non-governmental organizations or other stakeholders.

- Proposals may also be submitted by UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, private sector, local authorities or other stakeholders invited to the Commission. UN entities submitting joint proposal are invited to set up a booth under the UN pavilion.

- The proposal should contribute to theme and focus areas outlined in section I and II.

- Organizers are invited to involve multiple organizing partners in order to allow the participation of as many organizations as possible.

- Proposals will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

- Organizers are encouraged to use interactive and engaging means to present their solutions.

- The fair will be open to all participants attending the Commission. **On Wednesday 23 April 2025**, from 11.15–17.00 hours participants will have the opportunity to interact with the exhibitors at the fair who will be able to present or showcase their initiatives.

VI. Link to submit proposals

- To submit proposals the following online form should be completed https://forms.office.com/e/49MnwRLSdp **by Friday, 7 March 2025**.

VII. Responsibility of organizers

- Organizers will be fully responsible for all aspects of their booth, including arranging outreach and any related logistics or costs.

- The secretariat will publicize the fair but will not produce fliers or run other publicity efforts for particular initiatives.

- In using United Nations premises, due respect must be maintained for the dignity of the Organization. Events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and must be non-commercial in nature. The managing entity reserves the right to reject booking requests, request change to materials presented for approval or cancel previously authorized bookings should it determine that an event or exhibit is not consistent with the foregoing.

- The content of events or exhibits shall be the sole responsibility of their sponsor or sponsors, and any questions or concerns pertaining to meetings, conferences, events or exhibits should be referred to the sponsor or sponsors.

VIII. Questions

- All queries related to the Urban Innovations Fair should be addressed to Ms. Kavita Sukanandan, Public Information Officer, at sukanandan@un.org with a copy to Ms. Eunji Shin, Junior Professional Officer, at eunji.shin@un.org and santucci@un.org, canalesc@un.org, and aurtaveekul@un.org.