

05 MAY 2014

# CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

## HOSTING OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF9) - 2018

### Background

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is a non-legislative technical forum convened by UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. It has become one of the major international events for exchanging views and experience on urban challenges.

The objectives and mode of work of WUF were adopted during the First session of the Forum which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 April to 3 May 2002. The Second session took place in Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 September 2004; the Third in Vancouver, Canada, 19-23 June 2006; the Fourth session in Nanjing, China, 3-6 November 2008, the Fifth session in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22-26 March 2010, the Sixth session in Naples, Italy, 1-7 September 2012 and the Seventh session in Medellín, Colombia, from 5-11 April 2014. The participation in the Forum has seen an increase over the last years and steadied at around 18,000 participants from all over the world in WUF7.

The Forum gathers a wide range of experts from every walk of life. Participants at the Forum include, but are not limited to, national, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, professionals, research institutions and academies, professionals, private sector, development finance institutions, foundations, media and United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

The main goals of the World Urban Forum are:

- Advocate for and raise awareness on Sustainable Urbanization Development
- Advance the collective knowledge on sustainable urbanization through inclusive open debates, exchange of experiences and best practices
- Further coordination and cooperation within and between different constituencies towards the advancement and implementation of the Habitat Agenda

For more information on past sessions: [www.unhabitat.org/wuf](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf)

### World Urban Forum 2018

Since 2008, the majority of the world's population has lived in cities. Today, urban areas are a living combination of history, civilization, diversity and culture. Urbanization has been a force that has changed almost everything: ways of thinking and acting, ways of using space, lifestyles, social and economic relations, and consumption and production patterns. Cities, as economic and productive innovation spaces, provide opportunities for improving access to resources and services, as well as options in the social, legal, economic, cultural and environmental fields. Urbanization has ushered in economic growth, development and prosperity for many.

However, cities are also spaces where multidimensional poverty, environmental degradation, and vulnerability to disasters and the impact of climate change are present. Today, more than two thirds of the global population lives in cities with greater levels of inequality than 20 years ago.

In this context, the World Urban Forum aims to gather participants in a city recognized globally for its innovation in sustainable urban development to search for ways to promote inclusive development in all parts of the world.

WUF9 will be the first Forum to be held after the Post 2015 Development Agenda Process and the Habitat III Conference in 2016, which is a global legislative conference organized every 20 years to review and define the urban agenda and pave way for UN-Habitat's vision towards a better urban future. At WUF9, the outcome of Habitat III will feed into the overall Forum discussion as a key element.

### **Bid process and time frame**

1. Call for expression of interest (5 May 2014)
2. Deadline for receiving expressions of interest (6 June 2014)
3. Follow up with the potential hosts (expressions of interest received) and provision of the bid questionnaire/bid criteria (9 June - 20 June 2014)
4. Deadline for receiving bid proposals (15 August 2014)
5. Bid evaluation (15 August – 15 September 2014)
6. Announcement of selected WUF9 host city/country (1 October 2014)
7. Host country agreement with UN-Habitat (December 2014)
8. Starting of preparations for WUF9 (January 2015)

### **Expression of interest**

A city wishing to express its interest to officially host the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) is required to send an official communication to the UN-Habitat WUF Secretariat, addressed to the World Urban Forum Coordinator, Ms. Ana Moreno, within the above mentioned deadline and to the following email address: **wuf9bid@unhabitat.org**

### **Disclaimer**

UN-Habitat reserves the right to convene WUF8 in 2016, after the announcement of the Habitat III host country/city and the location of its third preparatory committee meeting at the UN General Assembly.