



**Cities of Opportunities:  
Connecting Culture and Innovation**  
*Report to the Executive Board, October 2020*

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

# WUF10 OBJECTIVES

*The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 69/226 recognizes the WUF as **the foremost global arena** for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental organisations and expert practitioners of **sustainable urban development** and **human settlements**.*

1. Raise **awareness of sustainable urbanisation** among stakeholders and constituencies, including the general public
2. Improve the **collective knowledge of sustainable urbanisation** through inclusive open debates, sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies
3. Increase **coordination and cooperation** within the **UN System** and with different **stakeholders** and constituencies for an effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the SDGs
4. Provide **substantive and strategic inputs** from multilateral organisations, national and subnational governments and stakeholders into the **reporting** of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda



# ROADMAP TO WUF10

## Continuous advocacy campaign



**February**

**Over 20 National Urban Forums**

**74th UN General Assembly**  
 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES  
 New York, USA

**CLIMATE SUMMIT 2019**  
 A RACE WE CAN WIN

**ECOCITY WORLD SUMMIT 2019**  
 VANCOUVER • CANADA  
 OCTOBER 7 - 11

**SMARTCITY EXPO WORLD CONGRESS**

**UCLG CONGRESS**  
 WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS  
 Register now!  
 11-15 Nov  
 #UCLGcongress  
 Cities are Listening

**UCLG World Congress and World Council**

**ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK**  
 اسبوع أبوظبي للاستدامة

**MINURVI**  
 S. Jose, Costa Rica

**SMART CITY EXPO**  
 LATAM CONGRESS

**TICAD YOKOHAMA 2019**

**WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL CONGRESS**  
 24th  
 ABU DHABI | 9-12 SEPTEMBER | 2019  
 ENERGY FOR PROSPERITY

**CONNECTING CULTURES ENABLING ECONOMIES**  
 26th Abu Dhabi World Road Congress  
 المؤتمر الدولي للطرق  
 6th to 10th October 2019

**المنتدى الوزاري العربي الثالث للإسكان والتنمية الحضرية**  
 3rd ARAB MINISTERIAL FORUM ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**IREIS**  
 International Real Estate & Investment Show



# WHAT MADE WUF10 A SUCCESS

## ▪ Planning, Preparation & Governance

- Mapping & continuous response to the evaluation and audits' recommendations
- Alignment of the WUF theme with organization priorities (e.g. Strategic Plan; Flagship Programmes)

## ▪ Standard Operating Procedure and protocols:

- Invitation Letters
- Expenditure of WUF10 Budget (In-country spending)
- Travel Policy for UN-Habitat staff
- Speakers management
- Advisory Group (Terms of Reference and criteria)

## ▪ Inclusiveness and Consultation

- Establishment of Task Force to engage with staff as a learning opportunity
- Collaboration with Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE)

### WUF10 Facts & Figures – highest numbers among WUFs

- WUF convening power drew **7,726** international participants – the most of any WUF
- Delegates from **169** countries, including those from **43** of LDCs
- Achieved **gender parity** among speakers (**52%** for women)
- Well-balanced **regional** representation
- Increased presence of **local and regional governments, UN System & media**



## VOICES AT WUF10

“ I believe strong grassroots participation and participation by persons with disability will be of great value in future WUFs

“ WUF is mandated as a United Nations Conference. Participation of the UN agencies, the group whose cooperation and support is required most, was evident

“ Heritage forms an opportunity to integrate culture in sustainable development. Let us preserve, keeping what is of value in the past as we implement the New Urban Agenda

“ A great transition: During WUF1 grassroots were speaking to themselves but in WUF10 we are active participants and engaging all stakeholders and pushing governments to take actions

“ Contextually, balanced WUF programme design could aim to contribute to the decade of action...

“ WUF10 is excellent and very professionally managed

“ The exhibition was very good and I liked the launch of the Alumni journey of WUF1-WUF10



# WUF'S CONTRIBUTION TO ACTION AND IMPACT

- Successful kick-off of the **Decade of Action** for Agenda 2030 to bring up innovation, commitments and actions from a wide range of actors
- Reflected the unique role and relevance of WUF as an *inclusive platform* supporting the implementation of the **New Urban Agenda** and achievement of **SDGs**
- Raised awareness of five **Flagship Programmes** launched to catalyse transformative change in cities and human settlements so as to leave no one behind
- Provided technical and substantive inputs to the **Strategic Plan 2020-2023** as a continuous learning process across the biennial cycles



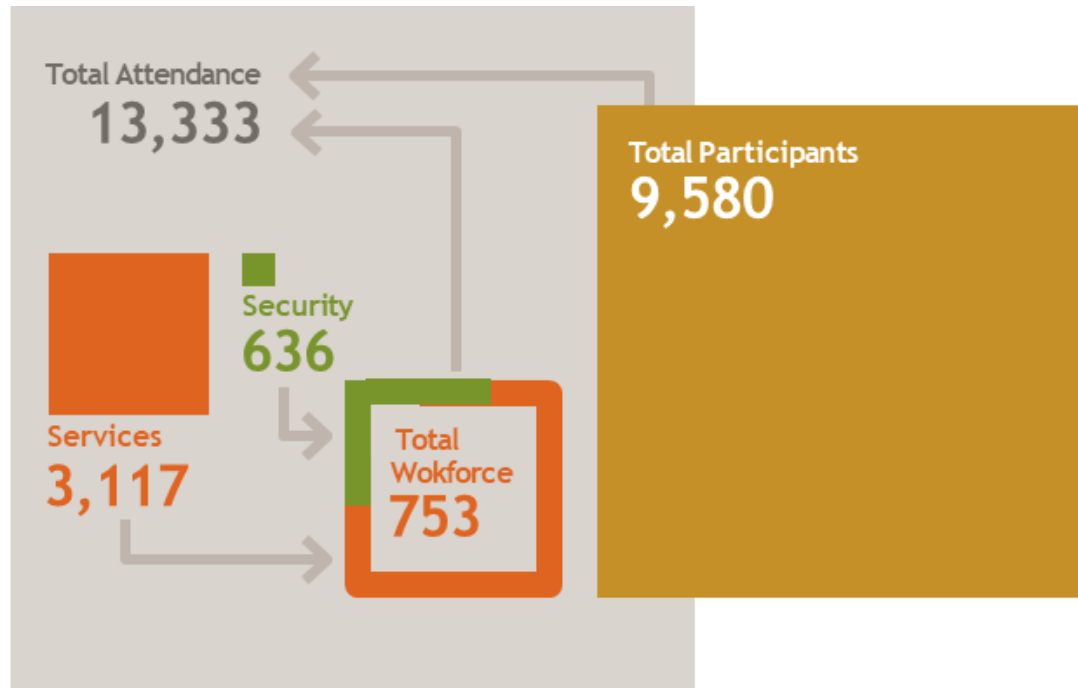
# SAFE AND SECURITY IN VIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Updated [health & safety advice](#) on WUF10 website on a regular basis in English and Arabic
- Cooperated with all relevant authorities to ensure visitors are safe and secure during WUF10
- Shared access to Medical Services (toll free number) while at ADNEC & outside of ADNEC (WUF10 venue)
- Provided access to Medical Room at ADNEC for medical care
- Prepared for hand-sanitizers & ambulance at ADNEC

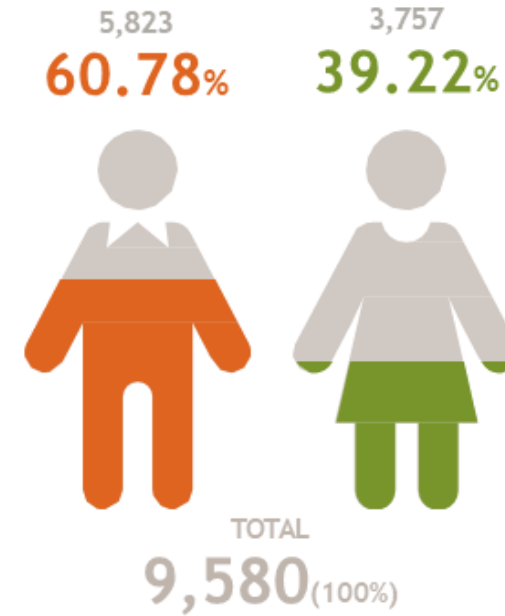


# WUF 10 AT A GLANCE

## Overall Attendance



## Participation by Gender

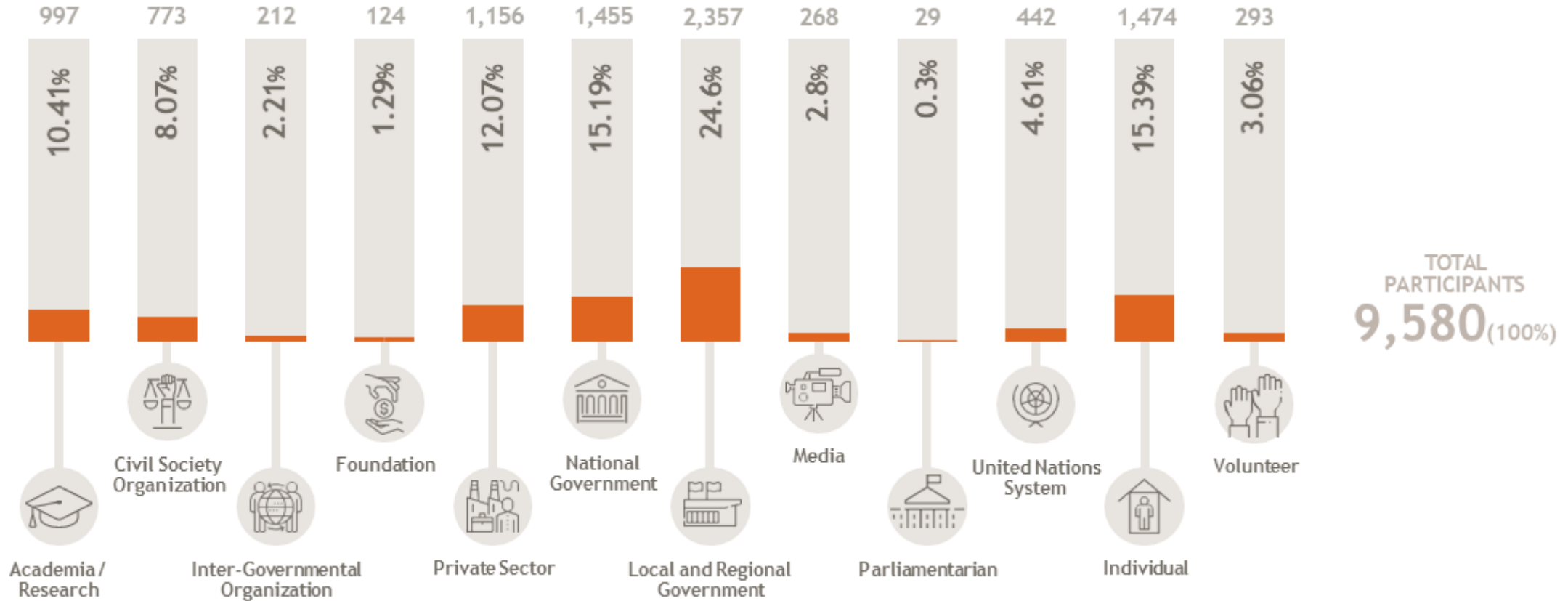


*7,726 (80%) were internationals coming from all regions of the world (169 countries)*

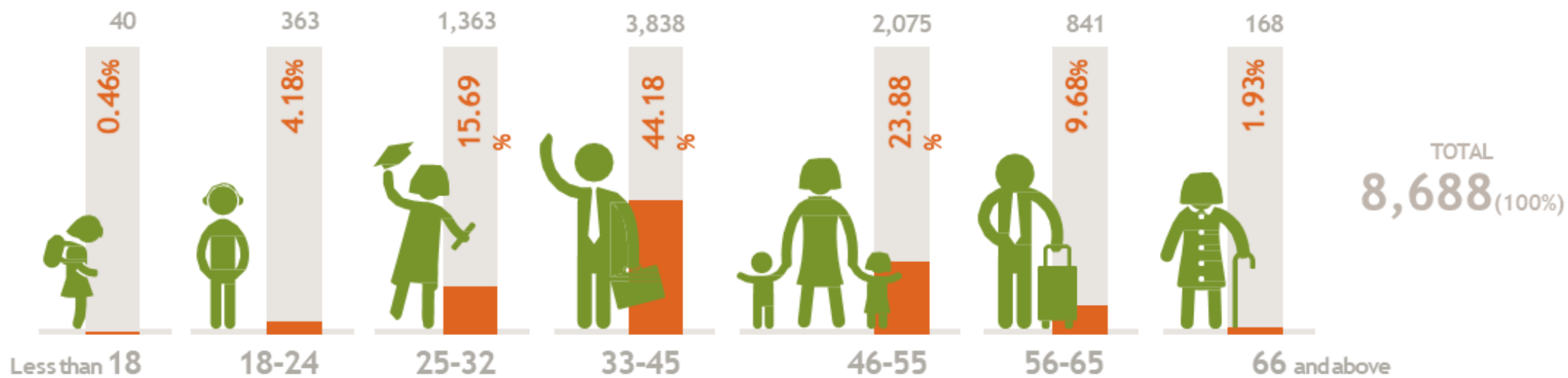




## Participation by Partner-type



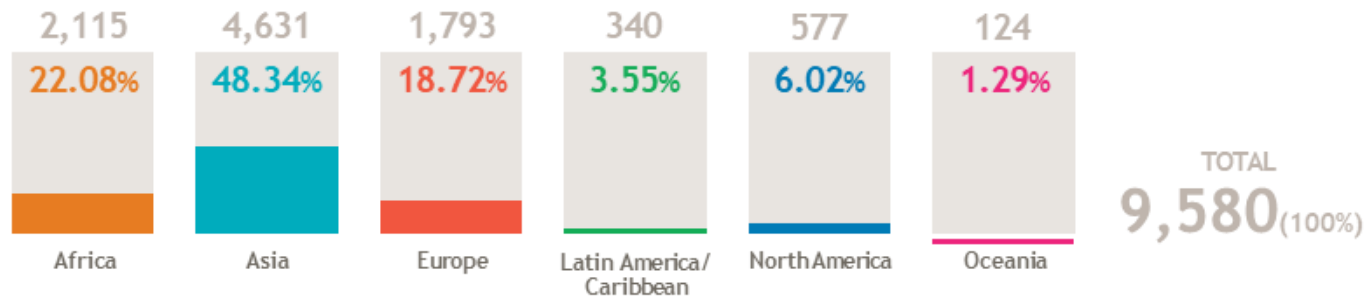
## Participation by Age



Note: Total participants who provided information on the date of birth when registering online



## Participation by Region



### Top 10 Countries

1. UAE
2. India
3. USA
4. Nigeria
5. UK
6. Egypt
7. Malaysia
8. Kenya
9. Russia Federation
10. France



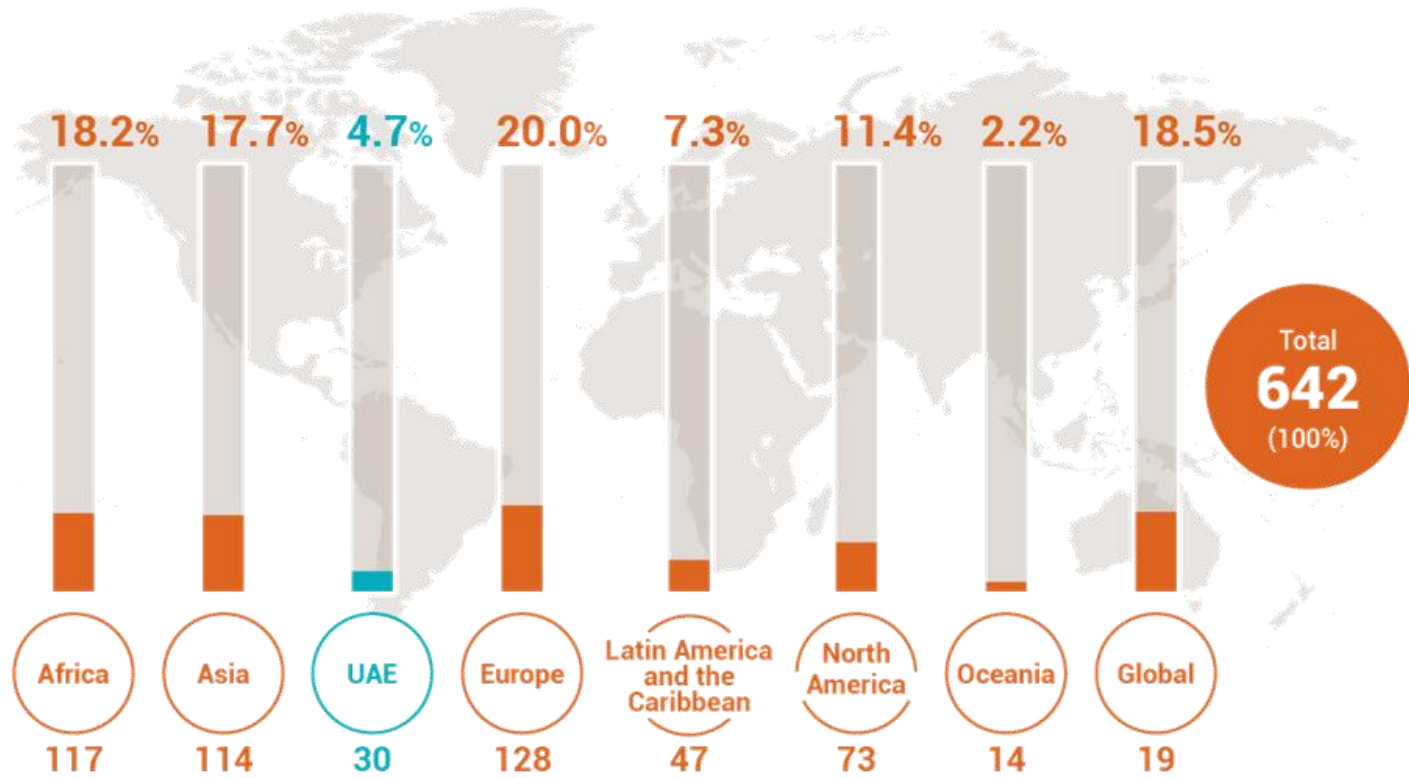
# HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION

- Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi** and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces
- High-level participation included two heads of state and government respectively from **Afghanistan** and **Fiji**;
- Over **110** Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- Nearly **100** Mayors and Governors

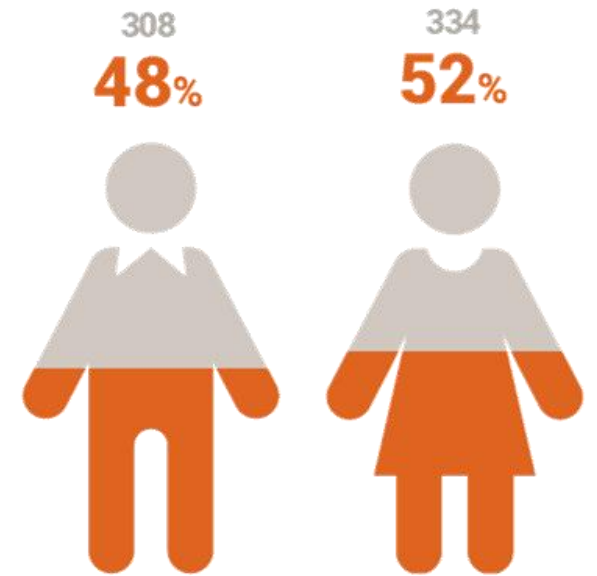


# SPEAKERS

**Regional Balance**

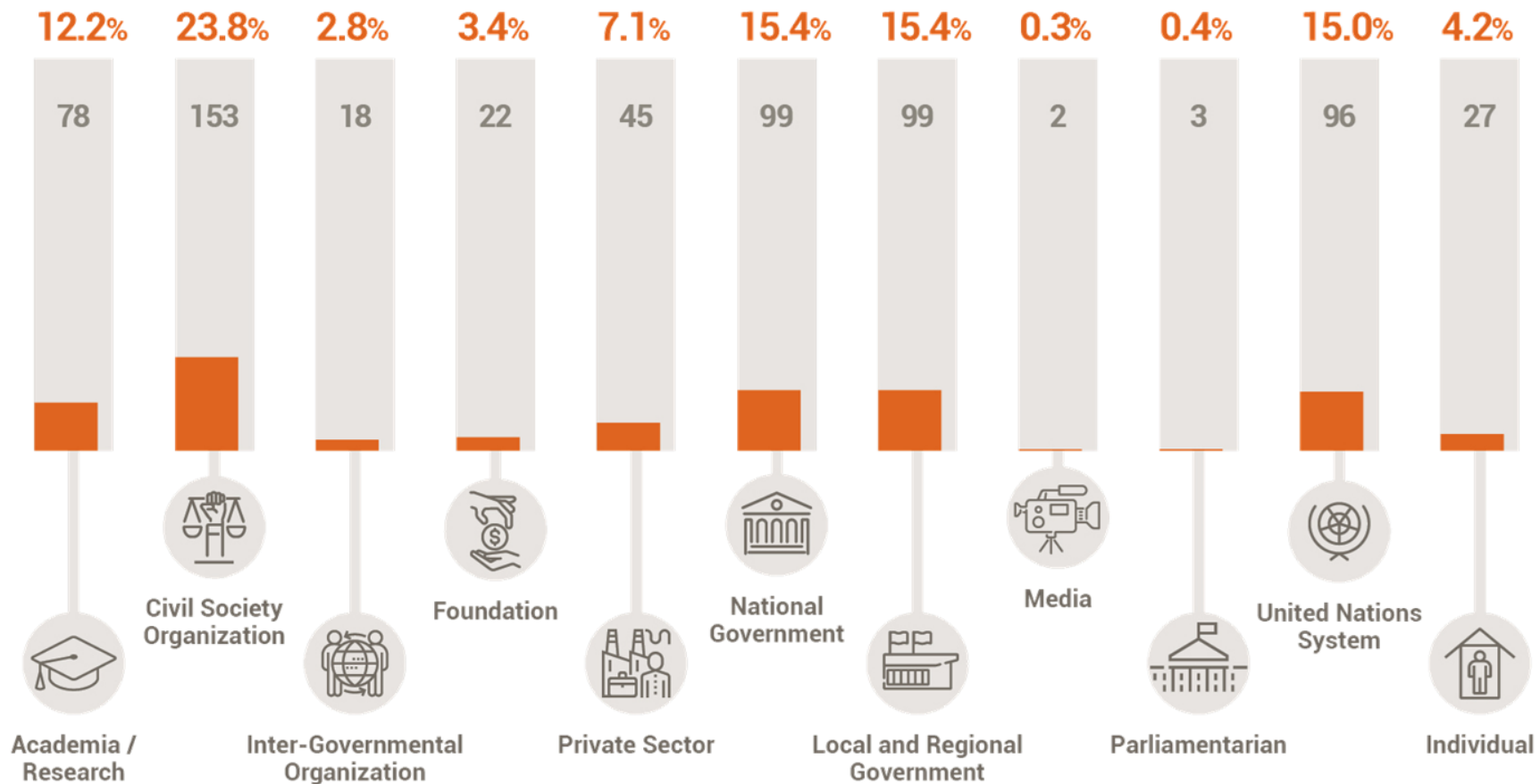


**Gender Balance**



# SPEAKERS

## Partner's Group Balance



# WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

- *WUF10 was the first World Urban Forum of its kind and magnitude to achieve parity amongst speakers 52%:48% represented by women's and men's speakers respectively*
- *WUF10 brought a wide range of diverse women's speakers*



# URBAN EXPO & URBAN VILLAGE

**130 exhibits** from **51 countries**, showcasing technology and best practices to tackle the most pressing urban challenges

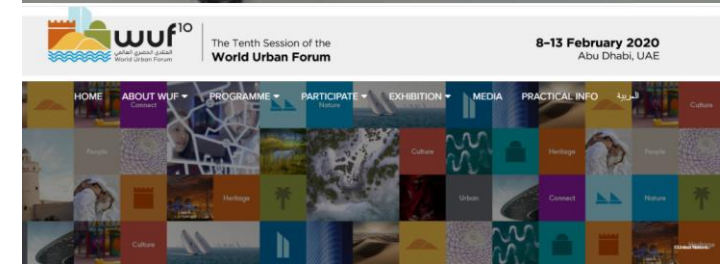
- A number of pavilions with networking spaces to share experiences and build partnerships (*Urban Library, Urban Cinema*)
- Promoted role of culture through the *Urban Village*, which featured art and cultural performances





# ABU DHABI DECLARED ACTIONS

- WUF10 began with a call to action and concluded the Abu Dhabi Declared Actions
- Abu Dhabi Declared Actions bring together voluntary actions and diverse commitments by different partners and stakeholder groups in support of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Voluntary declared actions can be registered at <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/page/wuf10-declared-actions-voluntary-contributions>



## WUF10 DECLARED ACTIONS: Voluntary contributions

Organized and convened by UN-Habitat, the World Urban Forum has become the foremost international gathering for exchanging views and experiences on sustainable urbanization in all its ramifications. The tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) was held in Abu Dhabi 08-13 February with the theme Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture And Innovation.

To kick off the Decade of Action, WUF10 has provided a launching ground for all parties to commit to specific actions to contribute to the SDGs and sustainable urban development. The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions includes commitments from international organizations, national, local and regional governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and others for the next two years and beyond to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by world leaders in 2015.

This space offers the opportunity for partners and participants alike to declare their actions and contribute to the common goal of accelerating the achievement of sustainable urban development for all.

Declared Actions are strategic level goals that will result from the implementation of new initiatives from a variety of institutions and actors. These strategic goals should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound.

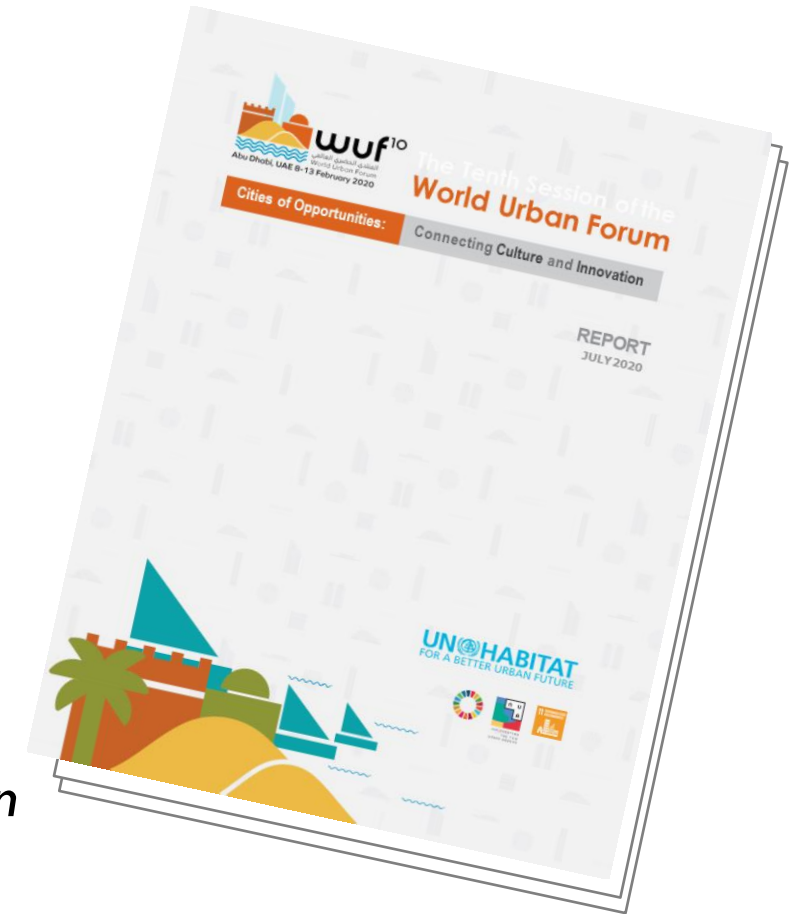
Register your voluntary declared actions



## WUF10 REPORT

The Report captures:

1. *Role of culture in sustainable urbanization*
2. *Decade of Action and role of cities*
3. *Highlights of discussions*
4. *Call for Declare of Action*
5. *Thematic debates - advancing together the global urban agenda through innovation, creativity and culture*
6. *Key statistics of participation*



# WUF10 LEGACY

Launch of the **WUF Alumni & its Exhibition**

**Cities Investment Platform**

**Public Art** for Abu Dhabi

**Living Legacy - Tree Planting**



# WUF10 LEGACY

## Local Voluntary Reviews



Given the Voluntary Local Review Declaration, in total **17 cities** committed and signed the Voluntary Local Reviews to be presented at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum

*Barcelona*

*Rostov-on-don*

*Betio Town*

*Kuala Lumpur*

*San Justo*

*Tandil*

*Buang*

*Sipalay City*

*Brussels Capital Region*

*Tawau*

*Esplugues de Liboregat*

*Turkestan City*

*Acapulco de Juarez*

*Dhankuta*

*Moscow*

*Seberang Perai*

*Asker Kommune*





Looking forward to seeing you at  
WUF11 in Katowice, Poland in 2024!

Thank you

