



Urban impact

ISSUE 22





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Editor's letter

Greetings, Urban Cityzens

Welcome back to another exciting edition of Urban Impact. As we venture into the dynamic world of urban development, we are thrilled to bring you a curated blend of insights and inspiration.

In this issue, we'll unveil the transformative outcomes of UN-Habitat's relentless efforts across the globe. From groundbreaking publications that shape urban agendas to compelling beneficiary stories, we're here to illuminate the positive change taking place in our urban landscapes. If you missed the previous edition, fear not! You can catch up on all the urban excitement by visiting our archives [Urban Impact Issue 21](#).

Stay curious, stay engaged, and let's keep making an "Urban Impact" together!

Third Session of the Executive Board 2023

The **third session of the Executive Board** of UN-Habitat convened from 28 to 30 November 2023, marking a significant return to fully in-person proceedings after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board approved **UN-Habitat's work programme 2024 and a four million USD non-earmarked budget** for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. This decision, accompanied by the endorsement of a fully costed scalable model, signifies a realistic yet ambitious

financial framework supporting UN-Habitat's mandates.

The Board has also endorsed the draft terms of reference of the **urban action funding window**, an innovative funding mechanism to utilise the unspent earmarked balance for implementing United Nations Habitat Assembly resolutions in a balanced manner. The Board encourages Member States to voluntarily contribute regularly to the Foundation.



The daily journals that capture some of the salient points presented or raised under each agenda item from the three-day session can be found below. * The Daily Journal is not intended to be a verbatim transcript or an official report of the session. The official procedural report of the 2023 third session of the Executive Board will be issued in the six official languages of the United Nations by UNON Division of Conference Services and will be shared with member states. It should therefore not be considered as an official document of the session.

[Daily Journal Day 1](#) | [Daily Journal Day 2](#) | [Daily Journal 3](#)



Urban October

Several weeks ago, the world bid farewell to another inspiring **Urban October** that saw 358 events organized in 176 cities in 60 countries, including 204 Urban Circuit events in Brazil. The month started with World Habitat Day on 2 October and ended on 31 October with World Cities Day.

The city of Baku, Azerbaijan hosted this year's Global Observance of **World Habitat Day** under the theme "Resilient urban economies. Cities as drivers of growth and recovery", which sought to deeply examine how cities can position their economies to benefit residents.

The Municipality of Üsküdar in Istanbul, Türkiye, hosted **World Cities Day 2023** under the theme "Financing sustainable urban future for all".

Leaders of sovereign wealth funds, development finance institutions, the private sector, and government representatives explored tools and mechanisms to bridge the urban investment gap and discussed the strategies that national and local governments can adopt to move towards a circular economy.



UN-Habitat calls for expressions of interest to host the Global Observances of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day 2025

Expressions of interest to host the Global Observances of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day 2025 are now open. Candidate cities will need to submit their interest by **15 February 2024**. Access the guidance on hosting the **Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2025** and **Global Observance of World Cities Day 2025**.

Scroll of Honour Award

At the Global Observance of World Habitat Day, UN-Habitat presented its prestigious **Scroll of Honour Award**, which recognizes initiatives and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to sustainable urbanization and improving the quality of urban life.

5 candidates selected from a pool of over 80 nominees received the award this year including Assembleia de Moradores, Econvironment, Fundación ProEmpleo, Fundo Imobiliário Comunitário para Aluguel and the Dubai Municipality.



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif handing over the 2023 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour awards in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat calls for nominations for the 2024 round of the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award

Nominations for the award should come from third parties only (**no self-nominations**) before the deadline of **17 May 2024**. For a full list of eligible nominees and application details including how to nominate, click [here](#), or register your nomination [here](#).

**SCROLL of
HONOUR
AWARD**

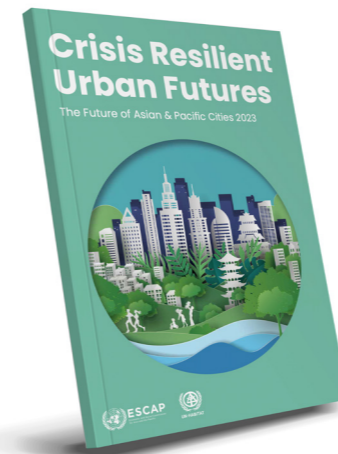


UN-Habitat and Shanghai co-organize third SDG Cities Global Conference

Shanghai, China, 30 October 2023 - Over 1,300 participants attended the third SDG Cities Global Conference on 28-30 October under the title “Accelerating SDG Implementation at Scale”, co-hosted by UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China, and Shanghai Municipal People’s Government China, with support from Tongji University. Highlighting the UN Secretary-General’s warning about SDGs veering off course as indicated in the advance unedited version of the **annual report on SDG progress** released by the United Nations in early 2023, the conference aimed to mobilize local, national, and international forces to discuss how the **SDG Cities Global Initiative** can contribute to accelerating actions through digital tools, regional and national technical support hubs, and finance instruments.

UN-Habitat’s Executive Director emphasized collaboration’s potency, while the SDG Cities Initiative Lead stressed the critical role of cities in sustainable development. The event emphasized a tailored approach for urban SDG implementation, showcasing success stories. It advocated for national-local collaborations to address diverse city needs and launched initiatives aligning with World Cities Day, aiming to establish a Local Finance Framework for sustainable urban growth.

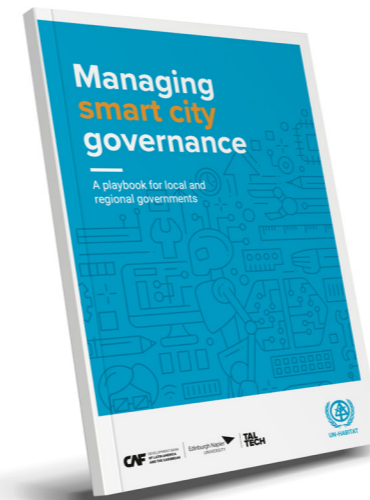
Spotlight on Publications



Crisis Resilient Urban Futures - The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities 2023

The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities Report 2023 entitled, Crisis Resilient Urban Futures, is a comprehensive analysis and assessment of sustainable urban development in the Asia and Pacific region at a time of great disruption and uncertainty resulting from multiple interlinked global crises in a post-pandemic era.

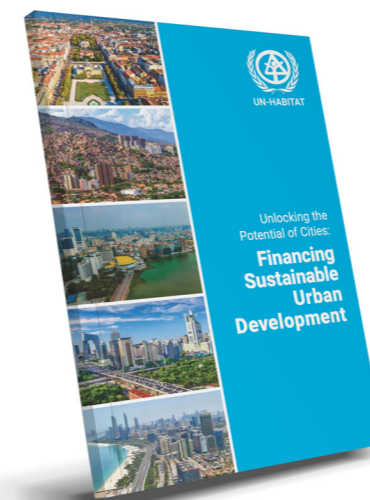
[Read report](#)



Managing smart city governance – A playbook for local and regional governments

This playbook and its recommendations are primarily aimed at municipal governments and their political leaders, local administrators, and public officials who are involved in smart city initiatives. The recommendations, which are delineated in the subsequent sections of this playbook, are intended to help develop more effective, inclusive, and sustainable governance practices for urban digital transformations.

[Learn more](#)



Unlocking the Potential of Cities: Financing Sustainable Urban Development

This position paper explores global trends and characteristics in urbanization, emphasizing the significance of investing in cities. It delves into challenges hindering sustainable urban development financing, including barriers in key areas like housing, infrastructure, water, and sanitation. The paper analyzes the impact of COVID-19 on city revenue and proposes strategies for diversifying funding sources and employing innovative instruments to bolster sustainable urban development.

[Learn more](#)

UN-Habitat around the globe

Regional Highlights



To live in one's own house in Yemen: How mediation resolved eight-year long illegal occupation

When Mohammad Tayeb purchased his home in Aden in 2015, he never thought the war would force him and his family out of the city – and equally force him to leave their house behind.

A few years later, upon returning to Aden's Khormaksar district, Mohammad found out that his house had been illegally occupied.

"I went to inspect my house and found parts of it renovated and prepared for habitation. I was shocked to see children playing in front of my house", Mohammad says.

Determined to reclaim his house, Mohammad decided to resort to tribal mediation, a process by which conflict between opposing parties or individuals is informally brought before tribal leaders, or anyone with a good reputation. His efforts failed, and the situation escalated between him and the occupying family.

As part of the "Support to Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights for Vulnerable Communities and Improve Land Tenure Security of Women in Yemen" project, a mediator was deployed on 4 August 2023 to attempt conciliation. The project, funded by UN-Habitat and implemented by the National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR), aims to **resolve housing, land, and property disputes through mediation**.



UN-Habitat and the European Union in Burkina Faso support to the IDPs

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Burkina Faso has over one Million internally displaced persons causing population increase in some cities as insecurity forced many to flee their homes. Despite the generosity of the host communities, there is a lack of adequate housing and other basic services and commodities, including water, sanitation and food.

UN-Habitat through the support of European Union provided **2,000 internally displaced families in Burkina Faso with new housing units** through the **project implemented using the integrated area-based approach**. This included the construction of health, education, and water infrastructure and facilities for energy supply. In addition, improved public spaces, sanitation (through enhanced waste management, among other aspects), and creation of livelihood opportunities for the vulnerable populations, both host and displaced, through the construction of houses and related infrastructure.



Urban October in Latin America and the Caribbean

As we bid farewell to another inspiring Urban October in Latin America and the Caribbean, we are excited to share with you the highlights from this year's celebration of urban sustainability in the region.

Brazil

- This year, UN-Habitat Brazil "**Urban Circuit**" hosted over 200 events with 700 panelists and more than 5,800 broadcast hours. The circuit is carried out since 2018.

Central America and Dominican Republic

- To accelerate the **implementation of the NUA**, we presented the **Report on the State of Cities in CA and the Dominican Republic**, the **Guide for Developing and Updating National Urban Policies**, and the first number of the **Habitat & Housing Magazine**.
- Honduras conducted its first National Urban Forum** with the support of UN-Habitat to disseminate and encourage the implementation of the country's National and Territorial Urban Policy, currently in development.

Cuba

- As a tradition each year, **Cuba** commemorates its National Urban Forum in sync with the World Cities Day. The culmination of its tenth Forum was marked with a remarkable 31-day journey of daily activities, starting with the World Habitat Day.

Mexico

- Mexico will host the **global observance ceremony** of the World Habitat Day 2024 in the city of Queretaro.
- UN-Habitat introduced the **HerCity Guide, in Spanish**, jointly **presented online** by UN-Habitat and its region partners to empowering communities.

African and Asian officials meet near Indonesia's new capital to discuss national spatial planning progress and challenges

On 6-8 November 2023, the **sixth edition of the Spatial Planning Platform (SPP) Conference** convened in Balikpapan City, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. The SPP partners met in February 2023 already in Kathmandu and reconvened now in Indonesia, with great delight.

SPP is an initiative of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan and is supported by UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Fukuoka.

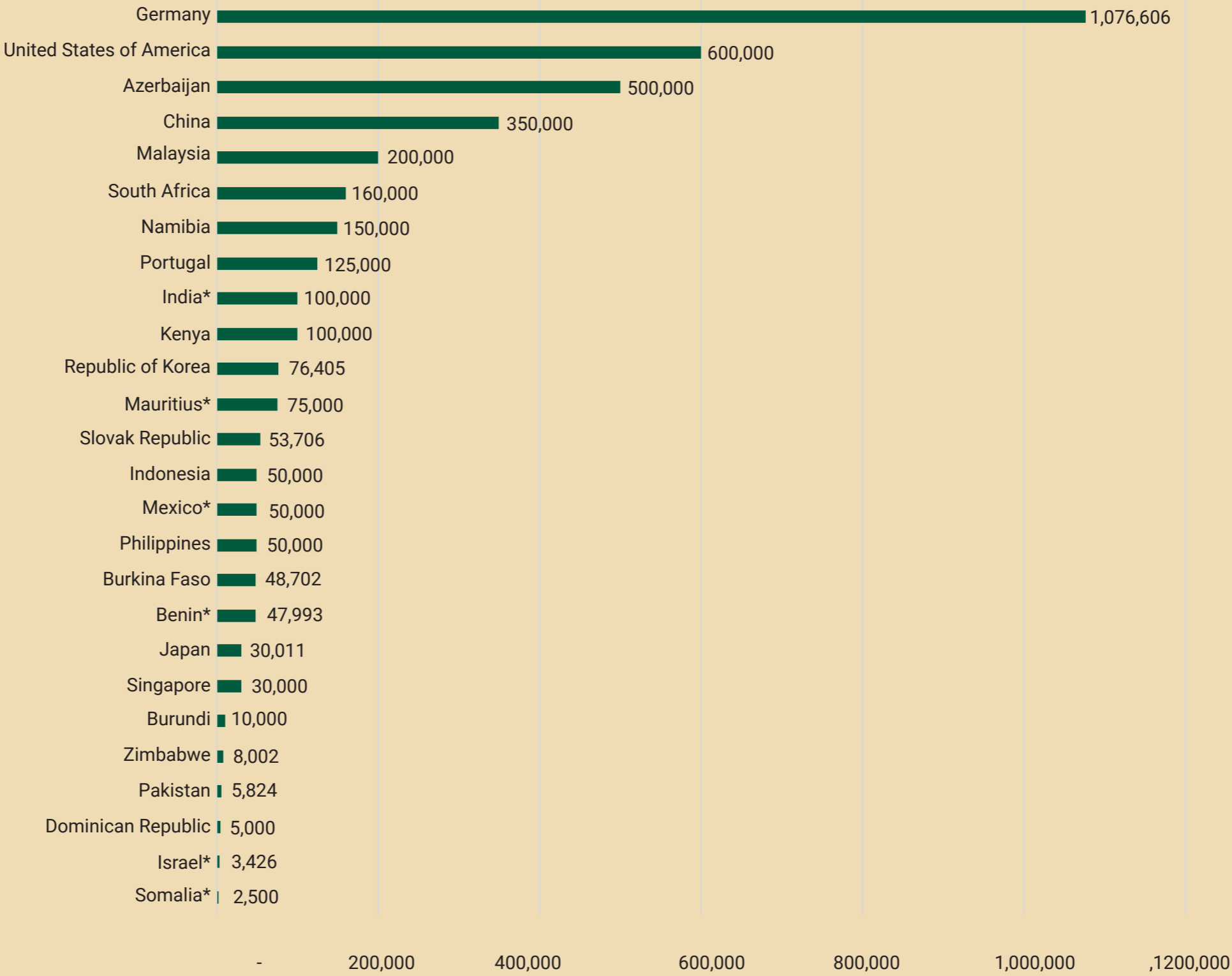
Senior officials from no less than 16 countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uganda came in-person to Indonesia for the event. Concurrent efforts to strengthen National Urban Policies were highlighted by OECD and UN-Habitat representatives.



Field trip to Nusantara © OIKN

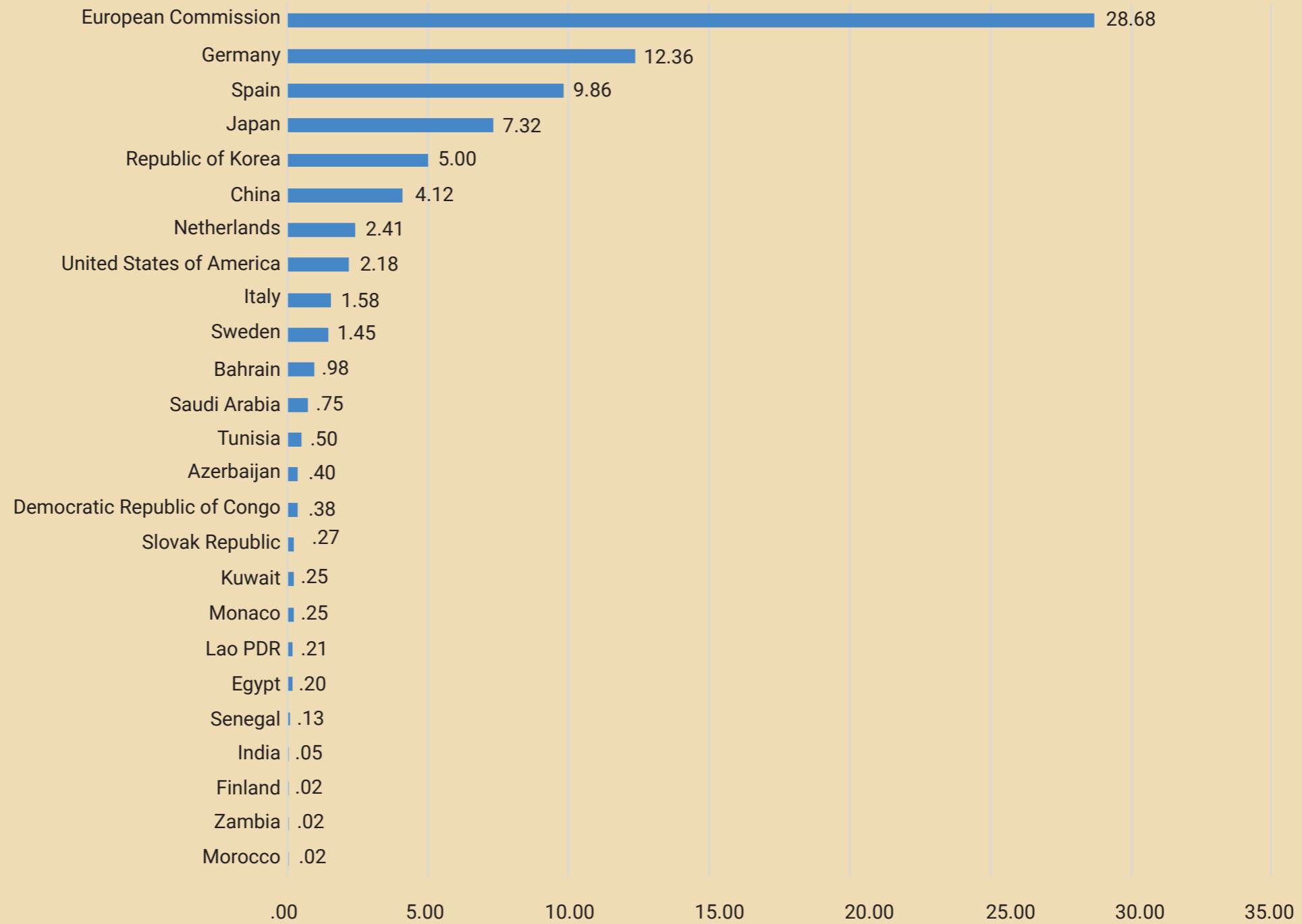
Financial Insights

Core contributors as of 30 November 2023



*includes arrears from previous years


Top earmarked donors and development partners as of 30 November 2023



JAN 2024
15-19

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

The 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum will primarily focus on exploring the opportunities enabled by the new technologies and their implications on decision-making and global partnership.

 DID
YOU
KNOW?!



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Mexico City is actually built on a lake called Texcoco which continuously makes the city sink. Sometimes, it can go down even by nine metres per year.



UN-HABITAT

