



Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS)

A World Platform for Dialogue on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

GFHS

Committed to Promote Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All





Landmark Speech on the “State of the Planet” by António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (excerpts)

Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. It must be the top, top priority for everyone, everywhere.

It is time to flick the “green switch”. We have a chance to not simply reset the world economy but to transform it. Every country, city, financial institution and company should adopt plans for transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050. Every individual must also do their part—as consumers, as producers, as investors. Technology is on our side. Sound economic analysis is our ally.



Message from Ban Ki-moon, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations (excerpts)

Berlin High-level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Transport & Global Forum on Human Settlements 2013

Better land use and more efficient transport systems help protect the environment, and they also enhance urban-rural connection and productivity of rural areas by improving access to jobs, markets, goods and services. Sustainable city and transport is central to empowering people and protecting the planet.



GFHS PROFILE

Our world is experiencing an era of unprecedented, rapid and irreversible urbanization. Since 2008, more than half of humanity is living in cities where the built area accounts for only 2% of the total land area of the earth. The report released by the United Nations indicates that globally urbanization levels will rise dramatically in the next decades to reach 70 percent by 2050 when the world population is expected to hit 9 billion. Urban growth is most rapid in the developing world, where cities gain an average of 5 million residents every month. The world is facing the increasingly severe challenges of urbanization.



▲ Mr. Lyu Haifeng, Secretary General of GFHS was warmly received by Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) at the UN Headquarters

Cities are not only the source of resource consumption, pollution, emission and ecological degradation, but also the main battle field of addressing the above-mentioned challenges, sustaining economic growth and achieving sustainable development.

It is in this context that the Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS) was set up and formally registered in New York State, USA in March 2008, with the objective of “Promoting Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All”, thereby establishing the platform for dialogue on sustainable cities and human settlements and addressing the ever-increasing challenges facing cities across the world. As a non-profit international organization, GFHS has obtained Section 501(C)(3) status as a tax exempt entity in the United States, and has been granted Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC. GFHS has successively joined the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), United Nations Environment Programme—



Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Chairman of GFHS, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations

Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, and the World Urban Campaign of UN-Habitat, among others. Over the years, GFHS has accomplished a number of cooperation projects with various UN agencies (such as UN DESA, UNEP, UN-Habitat, WMO, ITU) and concerned international organizations. At the same time, GFHS has established sustainability partnership with governments at national, regional and local levels, businesses, research institutes and civil society organizations.

GFHS is headquartered in New York, USA, with representative offices and points of contact in other regions. Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations (2002-2007) for the most vulnerable countries of the world serves as Chairman of GFHS and its Board. Mr. Lyu Haifeng serves as the Secretary General of GFHS.

The main work of GFHS includes: convening the annual session of global forum on human settlements and relevant capacity-building events; promoting the implementation of the “United Nations Habitat Agenda”, “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, “Paris Climate Agreement” and “New Urban Agenda”; facilitating exchanges and cooperation between regions, governments, businesses and civil society in the area of sustainable cities and human settlements; researching and developing “International Green Model City (IGMC)” Initiative and Standards; providing consultancy on sustainable urban development; issuing the Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards (SCAHSAs); and producing sustainability publications, notably the *World Best Practices Magazine (WBPM)* and *The Collection of Global Forum on Human Settlements*.



▲ Meeting of some GFHS Board Directors at the headquarters in New York

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The Roadmap of Annual Sessions of Global Forum on Human Settlements (2005-2024)

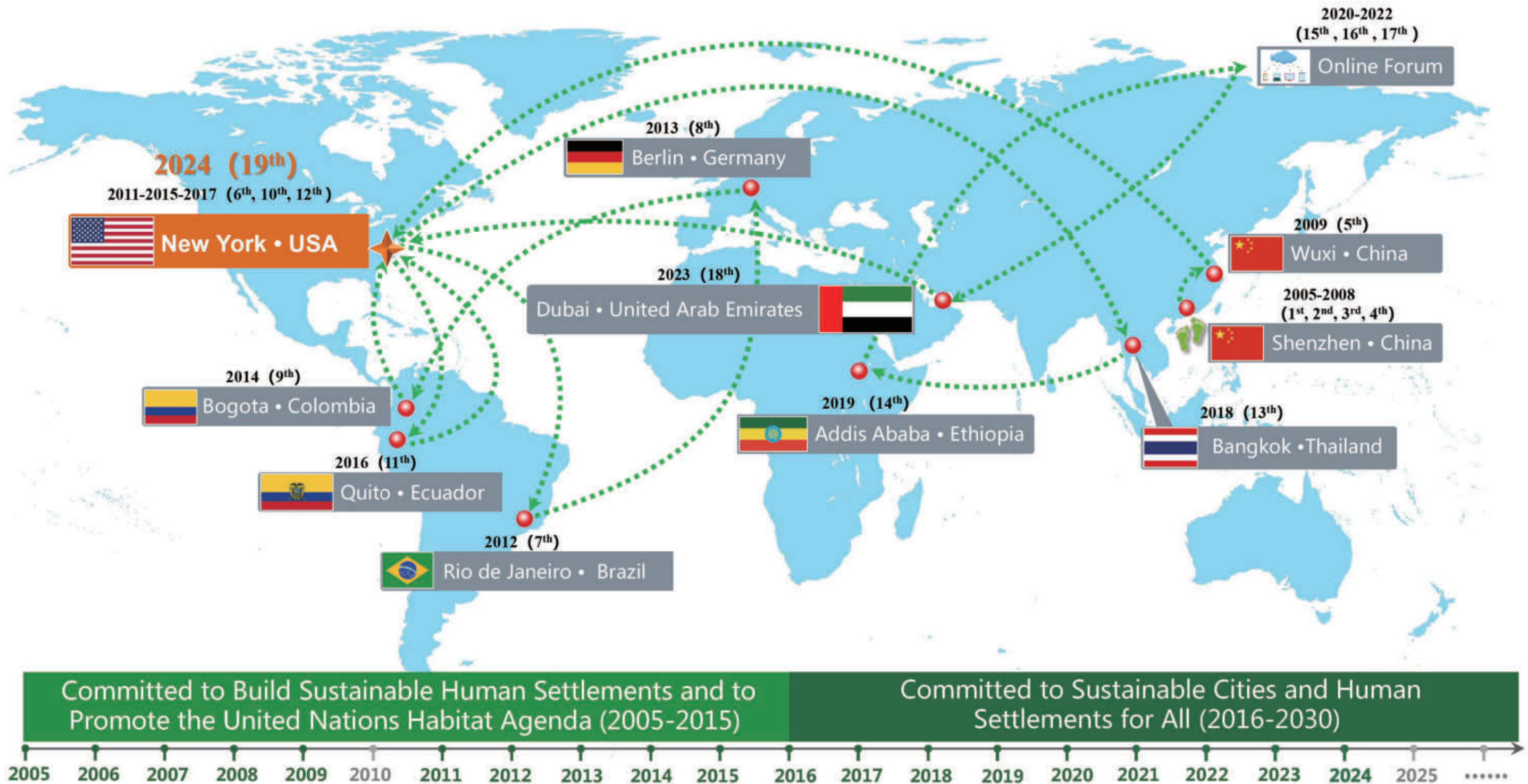
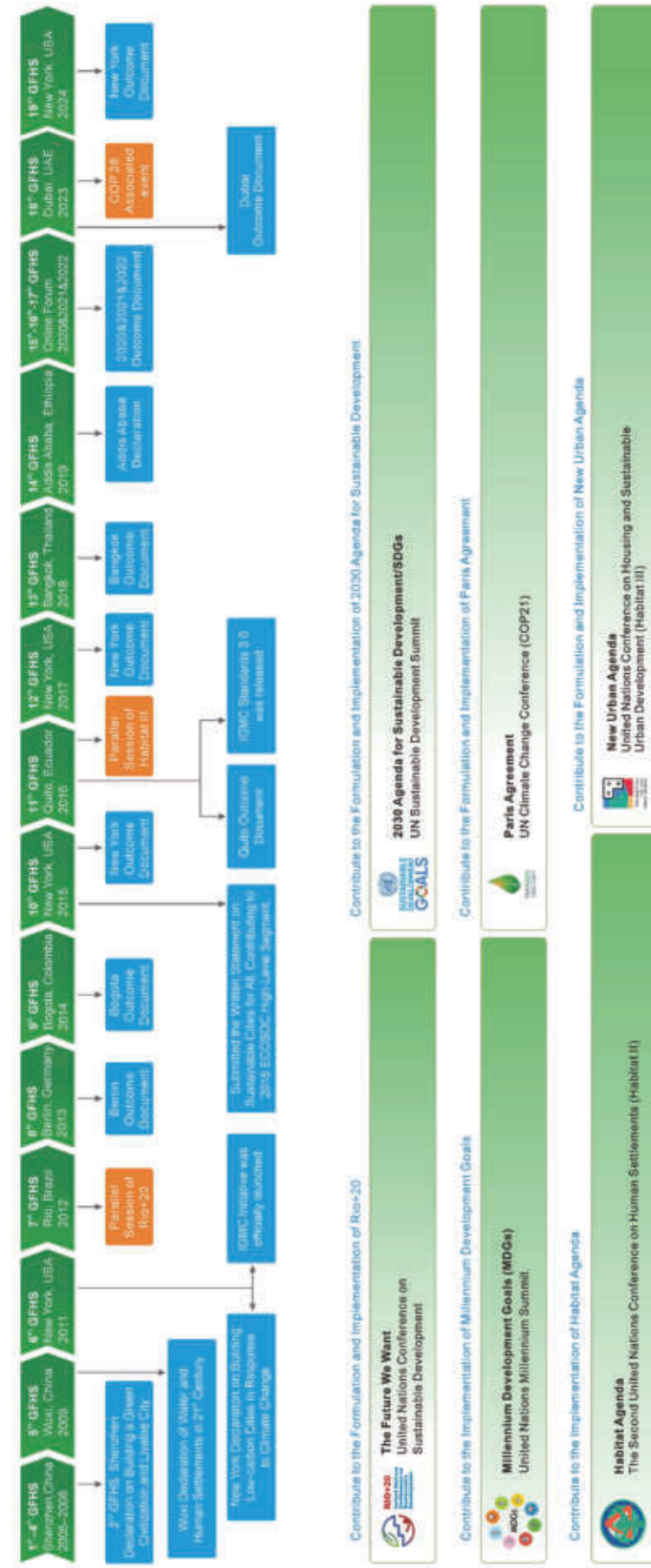




Diagram of Outcomes & Contributions of the Annual Sessions of Global Forum on Human Settlements (2005-2024)



▲ The 14th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements, UN Conference Center, Addis Ababa, 2019

GFHS Annual Sessions

As of 2024, GFHS has been convening its annual forums at the United Nations headquarters and on five continents for 19 consecutive years, and more than 323,400 representatives from all sectors of society took part in the forums. Some sessions were held as parallel or associated events of 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Summit), 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), and the United Nations Summit of the Future 2024. Some sessions also served as an observance of the World Cities Day.

Some of the dignitaries who have attended the annual sessions (the following are the positions held at the time) include: Maurice Strong, Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; Amb. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Rio+20 Summit; Gyan Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN; Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Gu Xiulian, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress; Li Jinhua, Vice Chairman of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Former President of Ecuador; Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of Kenya, High Representative for Infrastructure Development at the African Union Commission; Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General of World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD); Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Dr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President for Knowledge Management & Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank (ADB); ZHANG Xinsheng, President, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as well as ministerial-level officials from various countries, numerous diplomatic envoys, city mayors, renowned experts, and entrepreneurs.

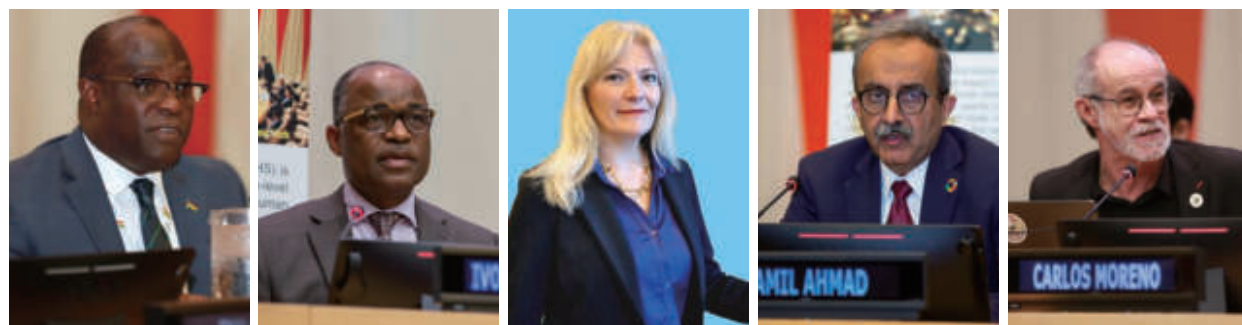
The annual forums have successively produced an array of outcome documents including Shenzhen Declaration on Creating a Green Civilization and Building a Livable City; Wuxi Declaration on Water and Human Settlements in the 21st Century; New York Declaration on Building a Low-Carbon City and Addressing Climate Change; and Addis Ababa Declaration on Harnessing the Power of Digital Revolution for Urban Sustainability and Prosperity for All. In addition, the forum has rolled out a series of publications, such as "Water and Human Settlements in the 21st Century", and 30+ issues of the *World Best Practices Magazine* (a Chinese-English bilingual global sustainability periodical). In December 2021, the large-scale academic literature – *THE COLLECTION OF GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS* (Volume I & II, bilingual in Chinese and English) was published.

GFHS 2024

Follow-up discussion of United Nations Summit of the Future— The 19th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Invigorate Innovation and Local Leadership for a Sustainable Urban Future

October 24, 2024 United Nations Headquarters, New York City



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Ambassador Harold Adlai Agyeman, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, Vice Chairman of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Ivor Richard Fung, Chief of Staff, Office of the President of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly
- Ms. Paola Albrito, Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director, New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme
- Prof. Carlos Moreno, Scientist and Professor at IAE - Paris1 Sorbonne University



▲ All delegates celebrate World Cities Day 2024



▲ Distinguished speakers at the opening session



▲ Distinguished keynote speakers



▲ Distinguished speakers at the high-level dialogue



▲ Distinguished speakers at the thematic session: directing and redirecting public and private funds for sustainable cities



▲ Distinguished speakers at the thematic session: nature-based solutions for urban resilience and sustainability



▲ Distinguished speakers at the thematic session: accelerate the circular economy towards zero-waste and zero-carbon cities



▲ Distinguished speakers at the thematic session: foster innovation and integration in urban planning and design



▲ Distinguished speakers at the thematic session: human settlements and modern health technology

GFHS 2023

Associated Event of COP29—

The 18th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Green, Fair and Smart Urban Transformation: Synergistically Accelerating 1.5°C Goal and SDGs

December 2-3, 2023 Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Mr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Governor of Central Macedonia in Greece, Vice President, European Committee of the Regions (CoR), European Union
- Ms. Gauri Singh, Deputy Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency
- Ms. Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
- Mr. Adalberto Felicio Maluf Filho, National Secretary for Urban Environment and Environmental Quality, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil
- Mr. James Leather, Director of Transport, Asian Development Bank



▲ Distinguished speakers at the opening session



▲ Distinguished keynote speakers



▲ Distinguished speakers at the high-level dialogue



▲ Speakers at the thematic session on “green, fair and smart urban transformation: policies, technologies and practices”



▲ Speakers at the thematic session on “early warnings for all to build urban resilience”



▲ Thematic session on “nature-based solutions for urban resilience and sustainability”



▲ Distinguished speakers and students



▲ Global Youth Green Ambassadors



▲ Delegates and students attend COP28



▲ Study Tour to Masdar City and Zayed University

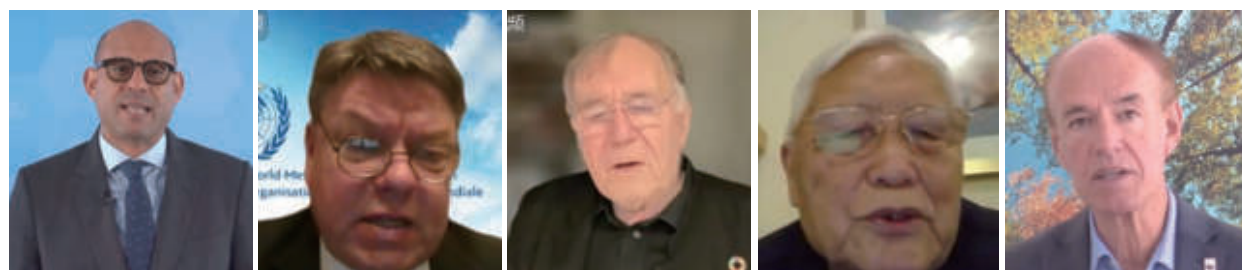


GFHS 2022

The 17th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

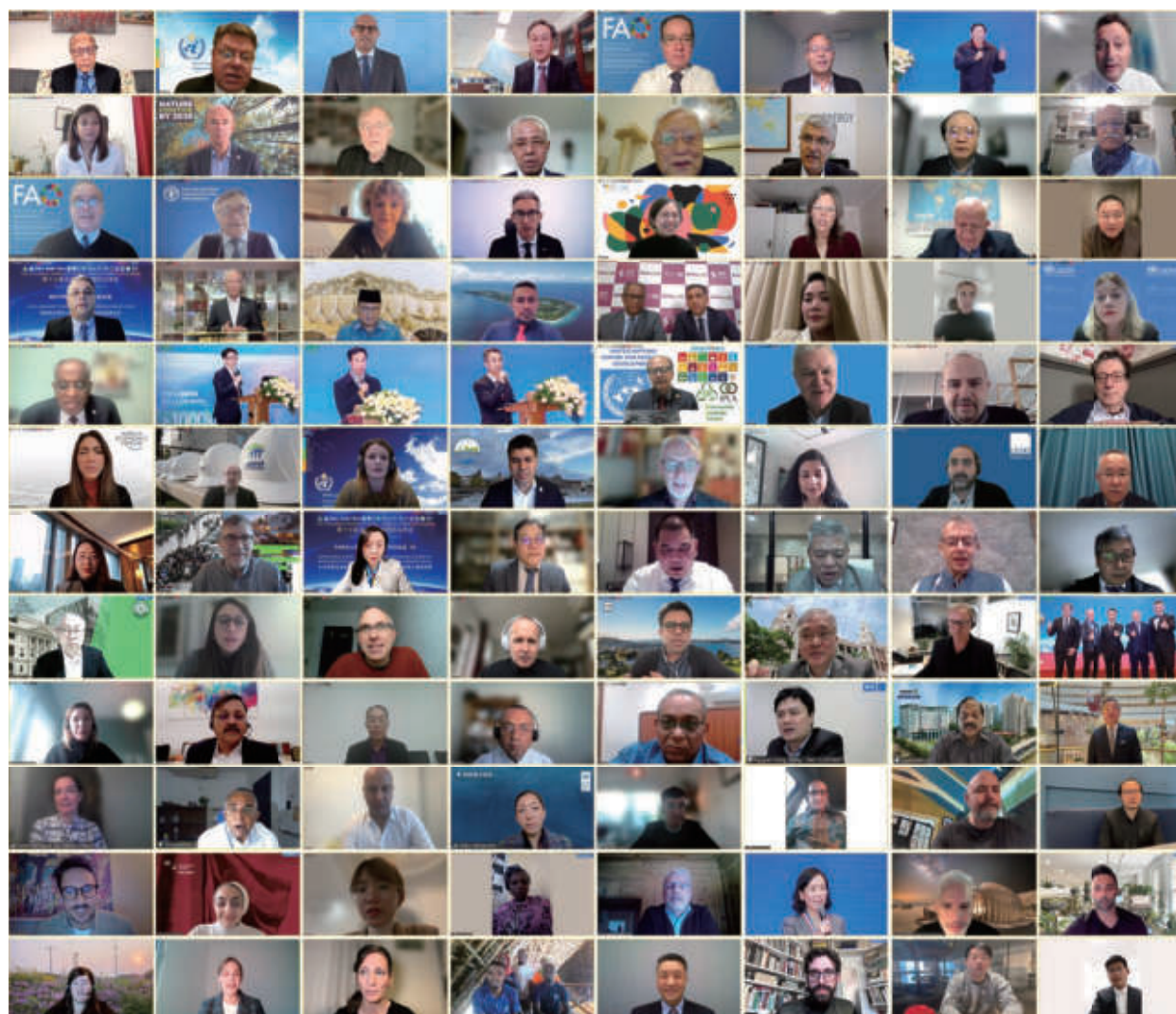
Theme: Together for a shared safer and greener urban future: resilient, carbon-neutral and nature-positive cities

December 15-16, 2022 Online Forum+ Live Streaming



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization
- Prof. Jan Gehl, renowned architect, urban planner and designer, founder and senior advisor of Gehl Architects
- Prof. Zhou Xiaoxin, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Honorary President of China Electric Power Research Institute
- Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International



GFHS 2021

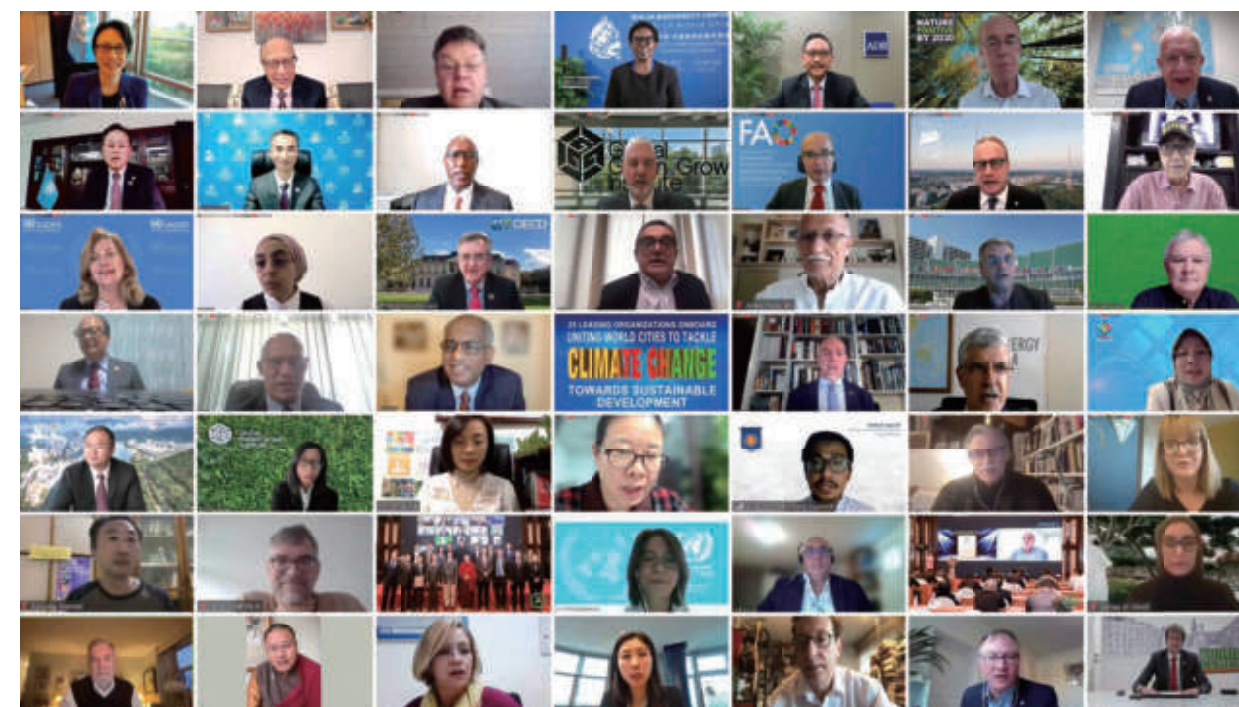
The 16th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Accelerate Green Transformation and Innovation towards Healthy, Resilient and Carbon-neutral Cities

October 27-29, 2021 Online Forum+ Live Streaming



▲ Distinguished speakers at the opening session

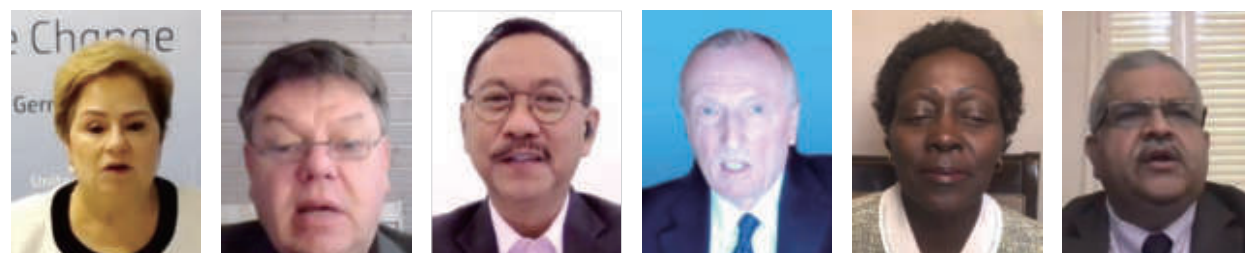


GFHS 2020

The 15th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Post-Pandemic Recovery and Transformation: Resilient Cities, Healthy Planet

Date: October 15-16, 2020 Virtual Forum + Webcast



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

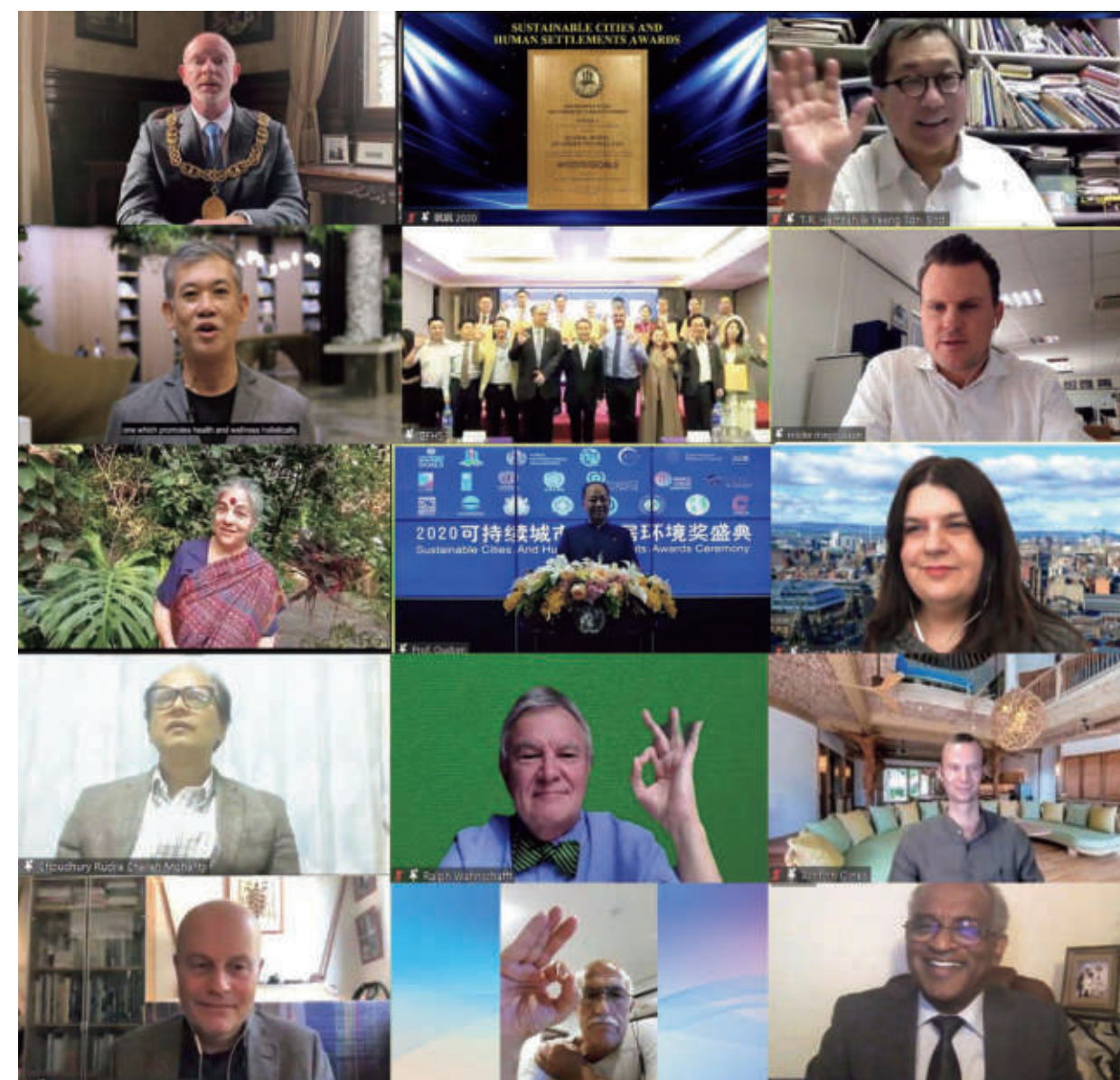
- Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization
- Dr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President, Asian Development Bank
- Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union
- Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Mr. Satya Tripathi, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office, UNEP



▲ Keynote Session Speakers: Patricia Espinosa, Prof. Dr. Josef Settele, ZHANG Xinsheng, Marco Lambertini, Prof. Oudom Wang, Prof. Chen Jiakuan, Arab Hoballah



▲ Opening Session: Dr. Elena Manaenkova, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Prof. Petteri Taalas, Malcolm Johnson, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Dr. Bambang Susantono



▲ Awarders and awardees at Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2020

GFHS 2019

The 14th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Sustainable Development of Cities and Human Settlements in the Digital Era

September 5-6, 2019 UN Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy of Ethiopia
- Hon. Mr. Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of Kenya, High Representative for Infrastructure Development at the African Union Commission
- Mr. Oliver Chinganya, Director, African Center for Statistics and Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Mr. Lyu Haifeng, Secretary General, Global Forum on Human Settlements
- Mr. Andrew Rugege, Regional Director for Africa, ITU presents the "Addis Ababa Declaration" at the closing session



▲ Group shot of participants at the opening session



▲ Opening Session



▲ Plenary Session on Digital Revolution Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements



▲ Plenary Session on Safe, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable City – Policies, Technologies and Practices



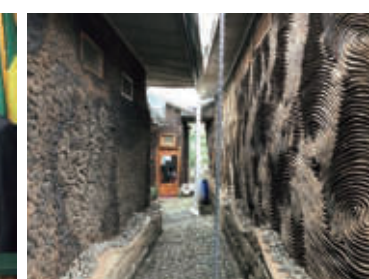
▲ Parallel Session on Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities



▲ GFHS and UNECA co-organize the closed-door meeting to promote in-depth cooperation between public and private sector



▲ The State Minister meets GFHS delegation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia



▲ Visiting Zoma Museum, a sustainable tourism project with good combination of arts and sustainability



▲ Group photo at Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2019

GFHS 2018

The 13th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Advance Urban Innovations towards Achieving SDG 11 and New Urban Agenda

October 30-31, 2018 United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Mr. Hongjoo Hahm, Officer-in-Charge of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Chairman of GFHS, Former UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
- Hon. Mr. Ralph Regenvanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade of Vanuatu
- Prof. Oudom Wang, Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to UNESCAP, Chairman of Global One Belt One Road Association (GOBA)



▲ Group photo of participants at the opening session



▲ Group photo at Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2018



▲ Visioning Session: Enhancing Progress in Achieving SDG 11 and New Urban Agenda



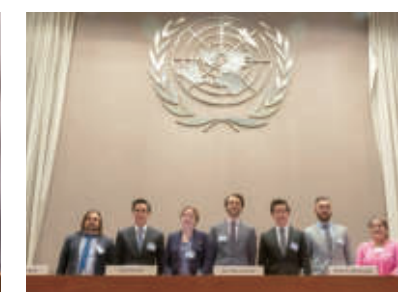
▲ Mayors' Panel: Safe, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable City-Policies, Actions and Practices



▲ Session on Resilient and Circular Economy



▲ Session on Building International Green Model City: Urban Innovation and Green Growth



▲ Session on Financing for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure



▲ Session on Facilitating Localization of SDG 11: Innovation on Sustainable Urban Planning, Development and Governance



▲ Session on Blockchain Technology and Smart Cities



▲ Session on Urban Water Cycle Management and SDGs



▲ Premiere Show for IGMCA Animation Film

GFHS 2017

The 12th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Effective Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development to Implement
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda
October 30-31, 2017 New York City, United States



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Chairman of GFHS, Former UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
- Ms. Martina Otto, Head of Cities Unit, Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme
- Dr. Ir. Tri Rismaharini, Mayor of Surabaya City, Indonesia
- Mr. Michael Grötsch, Deputy Mayor of Mannheim City, Germany



▲ Keynote Session: Implementation of SDG 11 and New Urban Agenda at Local Level



▲ Session on International Green Model City Initiative



▲ Session on Innovative and Effective Planning and Design and Managing Urban Spatial Development



▲ Session on Enhancing Sustainable Built Environment and Urban Renewal



▲ Observance Ceremony for World Cities Day 2017



▲ Closed consultation to promote deeper cooperation between participating cities and private sector



▲ Participants visiting the UN Headquarters, New York City

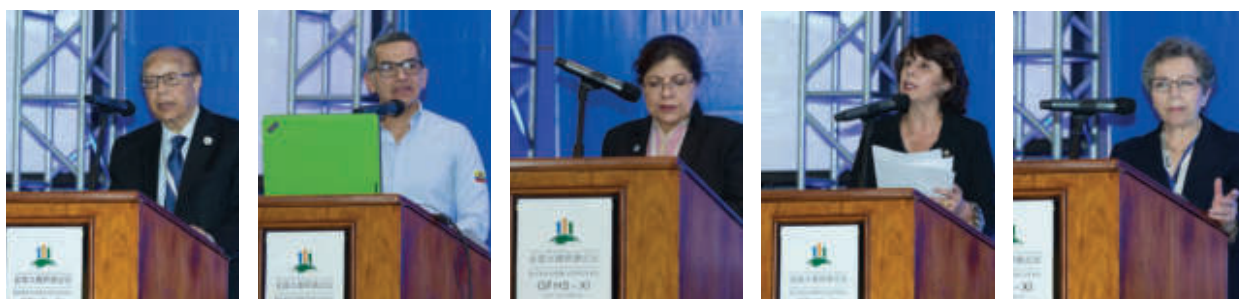


▲ Group photo at Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2017

GFHS 2016

Parallel Event of Habitat III— The 11th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Compact Sustainable City Offers A Better Life
October 17-18, 2016 Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Chairman of GFHS, Former UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
- Hon. Mr. Fernando Alvarado, Minister of Tourism, Ecuador
- Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP
- H.E. Ms. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Former President of Ecuador
- Ms. Yamina Djacta, Head, New York Office, UN-HABITAT



▲ GFHS delegation at Habitat III



▲ Session on Compact, Integrated, Connected and Sustainable City



▲ Session on Cultural Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Tourism



▲ Session on Low-Carbon City and New Energy Development



▲ The World Urban Campaign Towards Urban Innovation



▲ Session on Women and Children in the Rapidly Urbanizing World



▲ The Release of IGMCS Standards 3.0



▲ Group photo at Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2016

GFHS 2015

The 10th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: From Sustainable Development Goals to New Urban Agenda—Usher in a New Era for Sustainable City and Sustainable Urbanization

October 29-30, 2015 UN Headquarters, New York City



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Chairman of GFHS, Former UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony
- GFHS Secretary General Mr. Lyu Haifeng speaks at the 10th Anniversary of GFHS
- Dr. Taj Hamad, Vice Chairman of GFHS, Secretary General of Universal Peace Federation International moderating the opening

Opening Ceremony: My City, My Dream

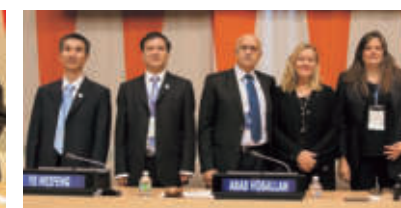


Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- H.E. Mr. Tete Antonio, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the Africa Union to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Mamadou Tangara, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Desra Percaya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Diego Morejon Pazmino, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations
- Ms. Yamina Djacta, Head, New York Office, UN-HABITAT
- Mr. Arab Hoballah, Chief of Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, UNEP



▲ The keynote session



▲ Session on Interconnected Greener City



▲ Session on Scientific Planning and Design and Sustainable Human Settlements



▲ Session on Sustainable Tourism and Urban Renewal



▲ Session on Women and Children in the Rapidly Urbanizing World



▲ Closed-door meeting



▲ Delegates Celebrating World Cities Day 2015

Study Visit to Kentlands, USA, the Global Human Settlements Model of Residential Area



GFHS 2014

Post Rio+20 Event—

High-level Dialogue on Sustainable Cities, Transport and Tourism & The 9th Annual Session of Global Forum of Human Settlements

Theme: Implementing Rio+20 Decisions and Promoting Sustainable Cities, Transport and Tourism

August 10-12, 2014 Bogotá, Colombia



Distinguished Speakers (from left to right):

- Mrs. Luz Helena Sarmiento Villamizar, Minister of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development of Colombia
- Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Colombia
- Mr. Gustavo Petro, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia
- Mr. Elkin Velázquez, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat



▲ Opening Session, Bogotá City Hall



1. High Level Dialogue 1: Policies, actions and practices for resource efficiency for sustainable cities
2. High Level Dialogue 2: Policies, actions and practices for sustainable cities, transport and mobility
3. High Level Dialogue 3: Policies, actions and practices for local development and sustainable tourism



A variety of on-site experiences and exhibitions



▲ Sponsors' project exhibition

▲ Study visit to Las Delicias steam recovery project

GFHS 2013

Post Rio+20 Event—

Berlin High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Cities and Urban Transport & The 8th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Implement Rio+20 Decisions, Achieve the Future We Want

Jun 19-21, 2013 EUREF Campus, Berlin, Germany



▲ Ambassador Gyan Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations



▲ Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Chairman of GFHS and Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN



▲ Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, President of German Federal Environment Agency (UBA)



▲ Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA



▲ The 8th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements, EUREF Campus



▲ High-level dialogue and parallel meetings

A variety of on-site experiences and exhibitions



▲ Li Xiaolin, President of China Power New Energy Development Company Limited shared the "Project of Green and Healthy City"



▲ EV ready to be charged



▲ Participants test driving the EV



▲ Participants' networking



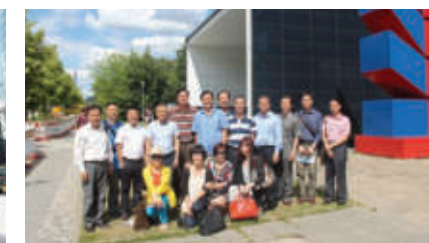
▲ Exhibited eBike from Bosch



▲ Schneider Electric demonstrating its smart city and smart grid projects



▲ Participants experiencing green mobility



▲ Study visit to Energy-Efficiency-House-Plus in Berlin



▲ GFHS green city delegation visiting Unilever headquarters in Hamburg, Germany

GFHS 2012

Associated Event of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) — The 7th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Green Mobility and Sustainable Human Settlements June 18, 2012 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



▲ Rio+20 summit



▲ Ambassador Sha Zukang delivering a keynote speech to call for strengthening global efforts to build sustainable human settlements



▲ Ambassador Sha Zukang and Mr. Flavio Decat, President, Eletrobras Furnas, Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Liu Jianmin, Secretary of CPC, Guizhou Duyun Municipal Committee, and Liu Defu, Deputy Mayor of Sichuan Suining Municipal Government



▲ Mr. Lyu Haifeng, Secretary General of GFHS presenting the UN Electric Service Car Certificate to Mr. Murilo Moreno, Marketing Director, Renault-Nissan Alliance (Brazil)



▲ Left to right: Mr. Toshiyuki Otani, Mr. Tete Antonio, Mr. Taj Hamad, Mr. Lyu Haifeng, Ms. Masako Fujita at GFHS Exhibition Hall, HSBC Arena



▲ Dr. Awni Behnam, Assistant Secretary General of the UN and Commissioner General, 2010 Shanghai Expo experiencing Twizy produced by Renault-Nissan Alliance

GFHS 2011

The 6th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Build Low-carbon City in Response to Climate Change April 7-8, 2011 UN Headquarters, New York City



▲ Conference Venue



▲ International Green Model City Initiative (IGMC) was officially launched



▲ Fang Han, a Global Little Green Ambassador from China giving a speech in English



▲ Canadian Art Troupe MY Emmy Performing at the Award Ceremony



▲ MY Emmy presenting souvenir to GFHS on behalf of the mayor of Brampton, Canada



▲ GFHS delegation visiting green buildings and the headquarters of USGBC

GFHS 2009

The 5th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Water and Human Settlements in 21st Century November 7-9, 2009 Wuxi, Jiangsu, China



▲ Group photo of the distinguished guests, Wuxi, China



▲ Gu Xiulian, Vice Chairwoman of 10th Standing Committee of NPC addressed the opening ceremony



▲ Guests at the water exhibition



▲ The "Ecological Forest" planting event during Global Forum on Human Settlements 2009

GFHS 2005

The 1st Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements

Theme: Sustainable Human Settlements Sept 25-26, 2005 Shenzhen, China



▲ Conference Venue



▲ Maurice Strong, UN Former Under Secretary General and first Executive Director of the UNEP delivering keynote speech



▲ Guests visiting Taoyuanju Community, the biggest residential area in Shenzhen



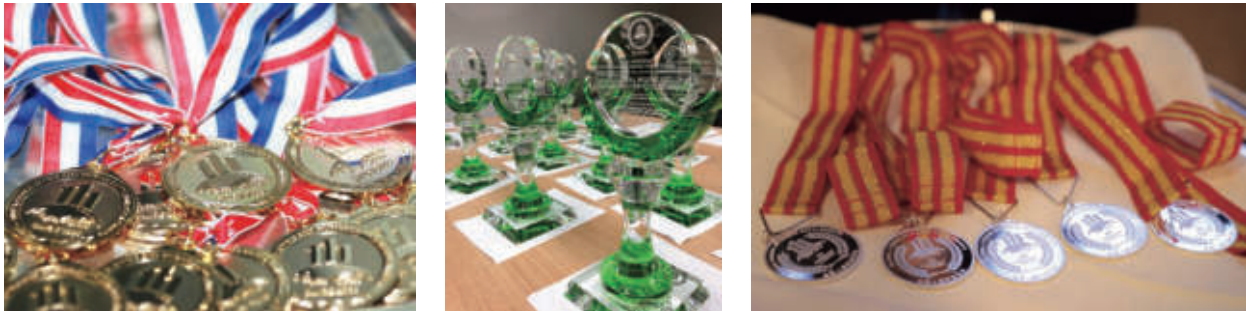
▲ Guests visiting Xiangmihu No.1 Community



▲ A keynote speech delivered by Yang Shen, Former vice-minister, Ministry of Construction, China and president of China Real Estate Association



NEW SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AWARDS



The Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards (SCAHSAs) (originally “Global Human Settlements Award”) is an annual worldwide prize initiated in 2005 by Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS) and supported by UNEP and other UN agencies. The awards program aims to accelerate the delivery of UN Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 11, recognize and celebrate winners’ remarkable progress and valuable experience in making cities and human settlements safer, greener, more resilient, inclusive and sustainable, and drive more to follow suit and take decisive actions on the ground.

Backed by the Global Human Settlements Foundation (GHSF), the SCAHSA in 2024 has been fully upgraded to the “New Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards” (abbreviated as the “New SCAHSA”), aiming to become a **global top prize for a sustainable urban future**. Winners will not only be honored with a green crystal trophy but also receive cash incentives. The authority and influence of the awards have reached new heights.

The “New SCAHSA” has ten major categories, including cities (districts), tourist attractions, buildings and communities, planning and design, infrastructure, urban renewal, villages, environmental initiatives, innovative technologies and projects, as well as organizations, individuals, and even youth. GFHS Secretariat accepts award applications all year round.

AWARDS CATEGORIES	
City	Global Smart Green City
Planning & Design	Global Human Settlements Award on Planning and Design
Building & Community	Global Model of Smart Green Building/Community
Urban Infrastructure	Global Model of Sustainable Infrastructure
Urban Renewal	Global Model of Sustainable Urban Renewal
Tourism	Global Model of Sustainable Tourism
Village/Town	Global Human Settlements Model of Village/ Town
Environment	Global Model of Ecological Restoration and Protection
Innovation	Global Innovation Award for Sustainable Development
Leadership	Global Leadership Award for Sustainable Development
In addition, Global Special Award for Sustainable Development is created to recognize those who have made outstanding achievements on and significant contribution to sustainable development.	



▲ 2024 Global Leadership Award for Sustainable Development: Carlos Moreno, Scientist and Professor at IAE - Paris1 Sorbonne University The National Initiative for Smart Green Projects by the Government of Egypt

▲ 2024 Global Model of Sustainable Tourism: Bison Land, Neamt County, Romania Weizhou Island Volcano National Geopark of Beihai City, Guangxi Province



▲ 2024 Global Model of Environmental Protection and Restoration: Dongguan Downtown Environmental Protection Power Plant

▲ 2024 Global Model of Smart Green Building: China Overseas Building

▲ 2024 Global Human Settlements Award on Planning and Design: The Source, HENN Architecture, Germany Reserva Rio Tenorio, Costa Rica



▲ 2024 Global Innovation Award for Sustainable Development: Gravitational Vortex Water Turbine by Turbulent, Belgium; Technology for the Production of Polylactic Acid (PLA) and Coproduction of Fulvic Acid from Cellulosic Saccharide, China

▲ 2024 Global Sustainable Development Outstanding Achievement Award: Youyu: Successful practice of desertification control, afforestation and ecological restoration for 70+ years



▲ Group Photo at New Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2024



▲ 2023 Global Green City: City of Dublin, Ireland; City of Braga, Portugal



▲ 2023 Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award: Prof. Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil (National Secretary Edel Moraes receives the award on behalf of Prof. Marina Silva)



▲ 2023 Global Model of Green Technology: Aggregated Rain Grid Outcome Networks, Canada



▲ 2023 Global Green Model Building: Bamboo Sports Hall at Panyaden International School, Chiangmai, Thailand



▲ 2023 Global Low-Carbon Ecological Scenic Spot: Kunlun Mountain Grand Canyon Scenic Area, Xinjiang, China; Six Senses Ninh Van Bay, Vietnam
2023 Global Human Settlements Model of Village: Laysu Village, Yuquan Town, Kunyu City, Xinjiang



▲ Group Photo at the Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2023



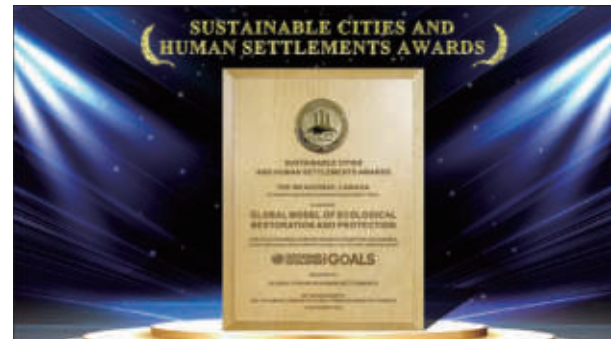
▲ 2022 Global Model of Smart City: City of San Jose, California



▲ 2022 Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award: Prof. Jan Gehl



▲ 2022 Global Low-Carbon Ecological Scenic Spot: Swiss National Park



▲ 2022 Global Model of Ecological Restoration and Protection: The Meadoway, Canada



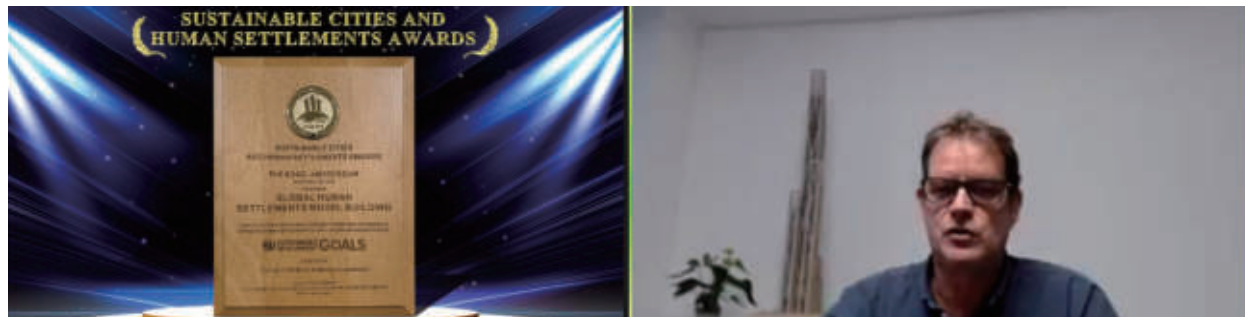
▲ Group Photo at the Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2022



▲ 2021 Global Green City: Area Metropolitana De Barcelona, Spain



▲ 2021 Global Human Settlements Award on Planning and Design: Chulalongkorn University Centenary Park, Thailand



▲ 2021 Global Model of Smart Green Building: The Edge, Amsterdam, NL



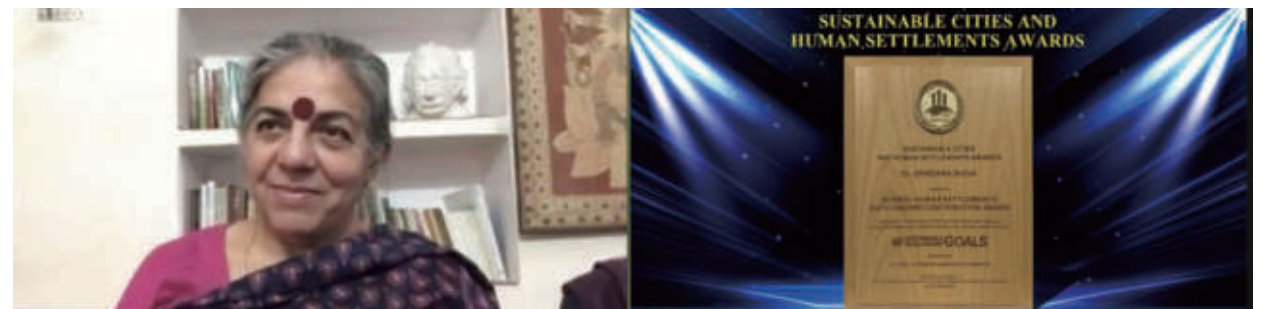
▲ Photo at the Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2021



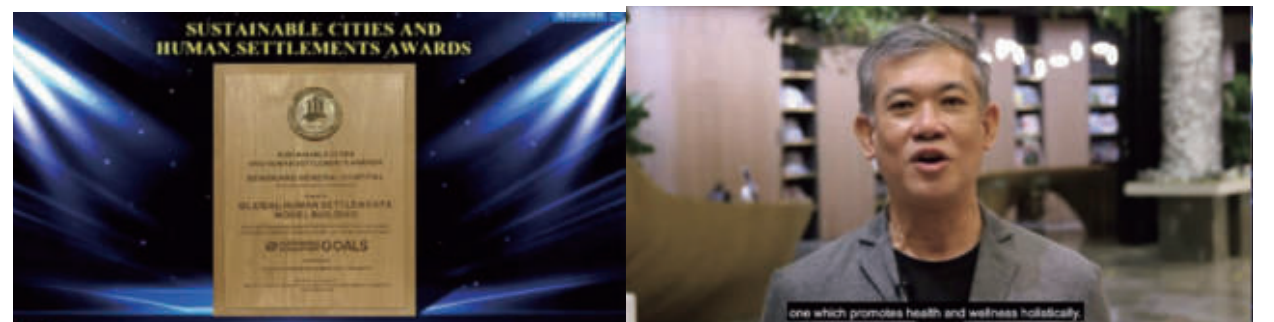
▲ Global Green City was awarded to City of Glasgow, United Kingdom, 2020



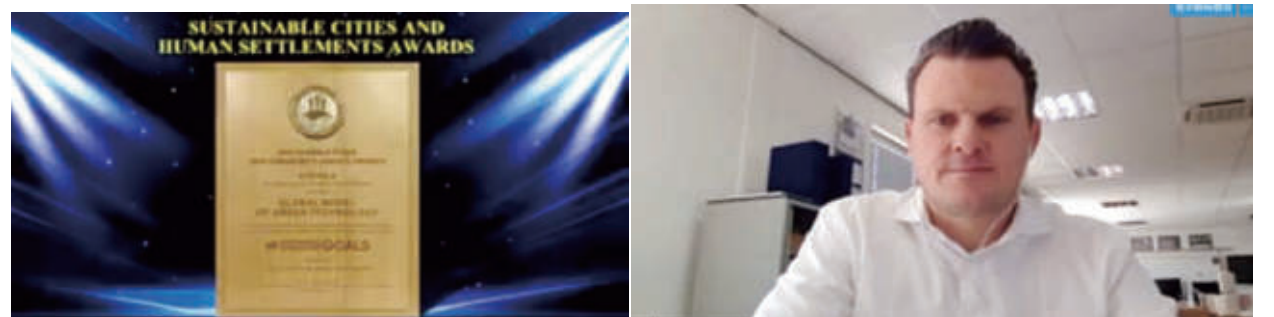
▲ Dr. Ken Yeang was honored with Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award, 2020



▲ Dr. Vandana Shiva was honored with Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award, 2020



▲ Global Human Settlements Model Building: Sengkang General Hospital, by DP Architects, Singapore, 2020



▲ Global Model of Green Technology: DyeOx.4 by DyeCoo Textile Systems, the Netherlands, 2020



▲ 2019 Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award was presented to Mick Pearce, a well-known architect and expert on biomimicry



▲ 2019 Global Human Settlements Award on Planning and Design was presented to Masdar City, United Arab Emirates



▲ 2019 Global Green City was awarded to City of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain



▲ City of Vancouver, Canada was laurelled as the Global Green City, presented by Mr. Arab Hoballah, Chief, Sustainable Consumption and Production, UNEP, 2014



▲ Dr. Ralph Wahnschafft from UNDESA presenting Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award to Mr. Richard Register, President of EcoCity Builders, USA, Ms. Pam O'Connor, Mayor of Santa Monica City, USA, and Eletrobras Furnas, Rio de Janeiro, 2012



▲ Global Green Park was awarded to Kalundborg Symbiosis, Denmark, 2018



▲ Global Human Settlements Model of Building: Net Zero Energy Building, SDE, National University of Singapore, 2018



▲ Global Green City was awarded to City of Surabaya, Indonesia, 2017



▲ Awardees and Awarders, Global Human Settlements Awards Ceremony 2013, Berlin, Germany



▲ Dato' Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor, Seberang Perai, Malaysia was honored with Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award, 2016



▲ Awardees of 2016 Global Green City (Town): City of Vienna, Austria, City of Cuenca, Ecuador, City of Oakland, U.S.A, County of Chun'an, Zhejiang, China, Town of Qingxi, Guangdong, China



▲ Mr. Arab Hoballah, Chief of Sustainable Consumption and Production UNEP/DTIE presenting the award of Global Green City to Nantes, France, Los Angeles County, USA, Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, City of Curitiba, Brazil, Duyun and Suining, China, 2012



▲ Dr. Awni Behnam, Assistant Secretary General of the UN presenting the award of Global Green City to Greensburg, America, West Vancouver, Canada, Yuyao, China and Rockdale, Australia, 2011



▲ Global Low-Carbon Ecological Scenic Spot was awarded to Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, 2016



▲ City of Heidelberg, Germany and City of Jiangshan, China were laurelled as the Global Green City, presented by Ms. Yamina Djacta, Head, New York Office, UN-HABITAT, 2015



▲ City of Wuxi, China receives Global Green City Award from Mr. Li Jinhua, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC and Mr. Noel Brown, Vice Chairman of GFHS, 2009



▲ Global Green City was awarded to City of Lijiang and Yichun, China by Mr. Maurice Strong, Former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, famous environmental scholar, 2005



THE COLLECTION OF GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

VOLUME I: VIEWPOINTS
VOLUME II: MODELS



WORLD BEST PRACTICES MAGAZINE



Publication

As an international knowledge hub and technology promotion center, Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS) has been consistently committed to advancing sustainable development knowledge production, integration, and dissemination. By systematically consolidating cutting-edge research and best practices on global urban and human settlements, GFHS transforms fragmented knowledge resources into actionable policy recommendations and technical solutions, thereby accelerating effective actions.

Large-scale academic literature compiling global research achievements on sustainable cities and human settlements - The Global Forum on Human Settlements Collection (a two-volume bilingual edition in Chinese and English, totaling 3.3 million words) was published by China Environment Publishing Group in 2021. The Collection has been acquired by over 30 renowned university libraries worldwide, including the National Library of China, the Central Party School Library, the Ministry of Natural Resources Library, as well as

libraries at Tsinghua University, Peking University, Renmin University, Tianjin University, Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Zhejiang University, Lanzhou University, Sichuan University, the University of Hong Kong, Harvard University, the University of Oxford, and the University of Malta. This wide dissemination has made significant contributions to promoting global knowledge sharing and green innovation.

As another key publication of the Forum, 30+ editions of *World Best Practices Magazine* (bilingual, quarterly) has been successfully released, systematically documenting innovative cases and best practices on sustainable urban development worldwide. The magazine serves as an international platform for knowledge sharing and brand promotion, effectively facilitating the global dissemination and practical implementation of sustainable development concepts. It demonstrates the Forum's leading role in knowledge processing and dissemination.



▲ The Collection has been archived in the National Library of China and the libraries of over 30 prestigious universities worldwide



INTERNATIONAL GREEN MODEL CITY INITIATIVE

Promoting the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement at Local Level

SAFETY • SUSTAINABILITY • EQUITY • IDENTITY • PROSPERITY • HAPPINESS



▲ IGMC initiative was officially launched by GFHS at the UN headquarters, 8 April 2011



▲ Releasing ceremony of IGMC Standards 3.0 during Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, October 2016, attended by UN senior officials, mayors and well-known experts. Second from the right is Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Seberang Perai City, Malaysia, and serves as United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat (2018-2024).

To provide a timely response to the enormous challenges arising from rapid urbanization, Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS) launched the "International Green Model City (IGMC)" Initiative at UN Headquarters in April 2011, in close collaboration with various international organizations including the United Nations Environment Programme and governments at national and local levels.

As a partnership initiative of Sustainable Development Goal 11, IGMC Initiative is an innovative global action plan for building greener cities characterized by zero waste and zero emission. The Initiative is dedicated to promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement. As of 2021, more than 40 cities and businesses in the world have joined the Initiative, forming a network for exchanges, sharing, interaction and cooperation.

Aims

IGMC Initiative aims to use IGMC Standards 3.0 as a set of advanced planning tool for assessing and guiding sustainable urban development and implementing pilots through providing innovative concepts, integrated strategies and methodologies, benchmarks and monitoring framework as well as demand-oriented solutions. Combining with other approaches, IGMC

facilitates sustainable cities and human settlements for all, while creating a shared platform for its global partners and main stakeholders to build long-lasting collaborative partnership for sustainability.

IGMC Standards 3.0

The vision of "IGMC Standards 3.0" is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. IGMC Standards 3.0 is a set of advanced tool for assessing and guiding sustainable urban development.



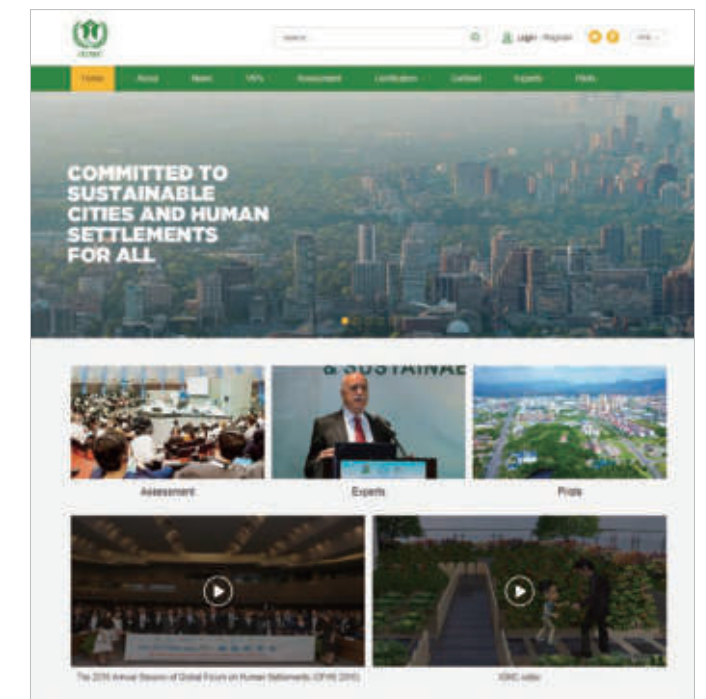
The Structure of IGMC Standards 3.0



▲ Sustainable City and International Green Model City Workshop Held in Qingdao in November 2019



▲ Supported by MOHURD, the IGMC Forum of the 14th International Conference on Green & Energy-Efficient Building was successfully held in Zhuhai, China in April 2018



▲ IGMC online rating system



▲ Commitment Letters from IGMC Initiative Partners: city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Johannesburg, South Africa, Accra, Ghana, Cuenca, Ecuador, and Katmandu, Nepal



▲ IGMC Partner Award Ceremony was held at UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, September, 2019



▲ IGMC Initiative Founding Partner Award Ceremony on "World Cities Day", New York, 2017

The main role of IGMC Standards 3.0 is as following:

1. To assess efficiency, inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience of existing built-up cities and urban areas, identifying opportunities for improvement and transformation.
2. To support governments in formulating policies and action plans with measurable goals, for the purpose of enhancing city's competitiveness and supporting the local implementation of the SDGs.
3. To guide sustainable urban development projects with innovative concepts, integrated strategies, approaches, technology, indicators and monitoring framework, thus improving overall performance and effective investment.

4. To assess projects at planning and design phase, identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement and risk mitigation.
5. To strengthen the knowledge, capacity and capability of city managers, developers, planners, architects, engineers and citizens.

IGMC Initiative Partners

A group of well-known cities and companies have joined the IGMC Initiative, including Vancouver, Canada, Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa, Accra, Ghana, Mannheim,



▲ GFHS Secretary General Lyu Haifeng presenting a plaque to Optiva Darna Group, the developer of IGMC pilot French Dream Town in Hangzhou, 29 October 2021

Germany, Kuala Lumpur and Seberang Perai, Malaysia, Quezon and Davao, the Philippines, Yangon, Myanmar, Katmandu, Nepal, Cuenca, Ecuador, Guiyang, Taizhou and Dezhou, China, Liuyang National Economic and Technical Development Zone, Jiande City and Wuyi County of Zhejiang Province, Qingdao West Coast New Area, China Railway Real Estate Group, Vanke, Country Garden, Mission Hills, Optiva Darna Group, among others. Some have been included as IGMC pilots.

Benefits of joining the IGMC Initiative

1. Accessing the full set of IGMC Standards 3.0 which provides guidance of creating context-specific action plans and policy options with measurable goals.
2. Using the IGMC Standards to evaluate the sustainability of existing urban areas.

3. Using the IGMC Standards to assess urban projects at the planning or designing stage, which helps identify challenges and opportunities, mitigate risks and increase investment returns.

4. Accessing IGMC online rating system to do self evaluation and compare with peer cities.

5. Strengthening knowledge and capabilities through participating in relevant capacity-building events.

6. Implementing IGMC pilot as appropriate, setting examples of green transformation.

7. Building networks and partnerships for sustainability.

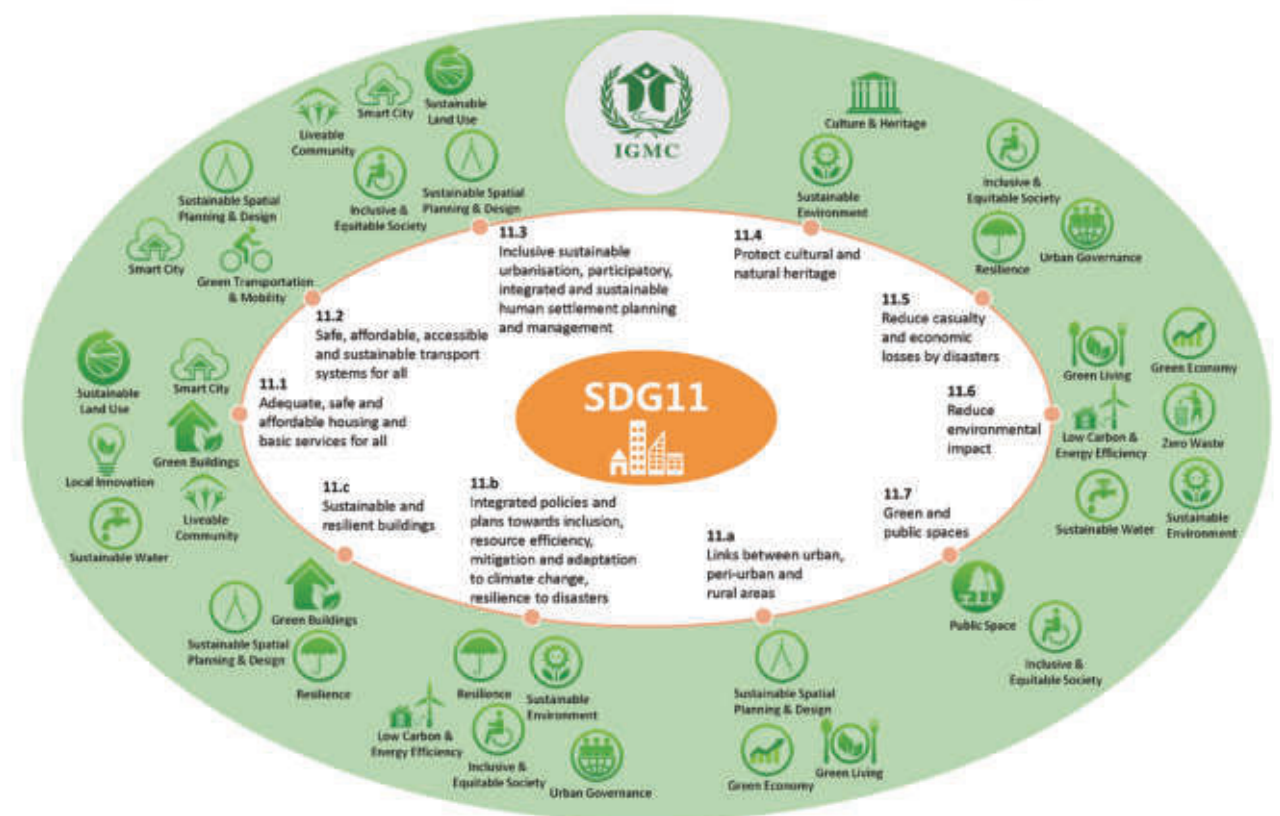
8. Enhancing brand value and maximizing business opportunities.

More information can be found in "International Green Model City Initiative Registration Guide" and "Cooperation Framework on International Green Model City Pilot" ([https:// www.igmc.com](https://www.igmc.com)).



▲ Signing Ceremony for Implementing IGMC Pilot in Liuyang Economic and Technological Development Zone, August, 2017

Relevance between IGMC and SDG11





Media Reports on GFHS 2024



▲ United Nations website news coverage



▲ Report by China Environment News



▲ UN Web TV Live Report



▲ News report on IUCN website

Media Reports on GFHS 2023



▲ Phoenix News website report



▲ The Guardian Chinese website report

Media Reports on GFHS 2022



▲ WMO official homepage report



▲ Phoenix News website report

Media Reports on GFHS 2021



▲ WMO official homepage report



▲ Yahoo Finance website report



▲ Report by China Environment News



▲ Report by Phoenix News

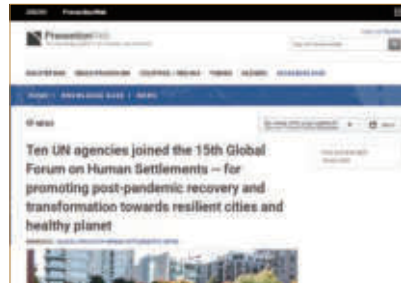
Media Reports on GFHS 2020



▲ News on the WMO website



▲ Report by City2City Platform managed by UNDP



▲ Report by PreventionWeb managed by UNDRR



▲ Report by China Radio International Online



▲ Report by China Daily



▲ Report by PhoenixNet

Media Reports on GFHS 2019



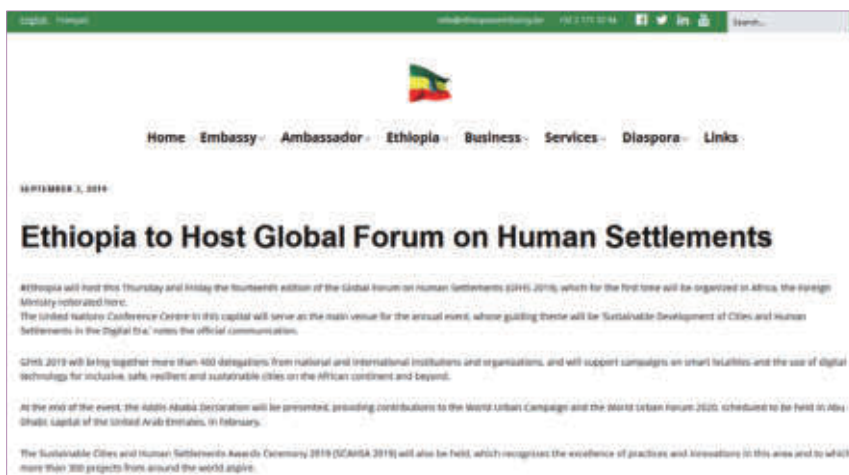
▲ UNECA website report



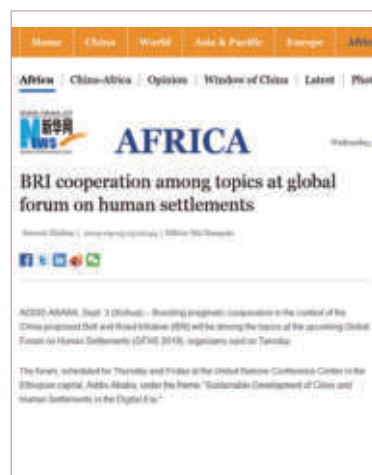
▲ ITU website report



▲ United Nations News report



▲ Website coverage by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia



▲ Report by Xinhua Net



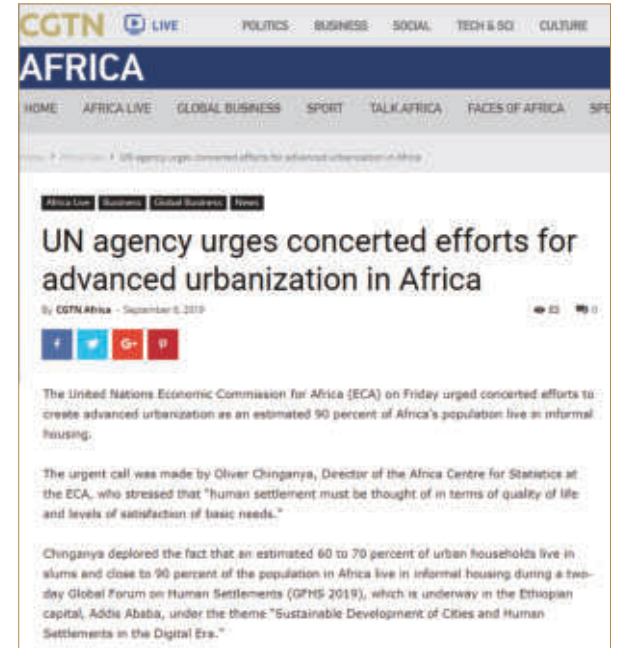
▲ Report by People's Daily



▲ Report by Global Times



▲ Media report in Kenya



▲ Report by China Global Television Network

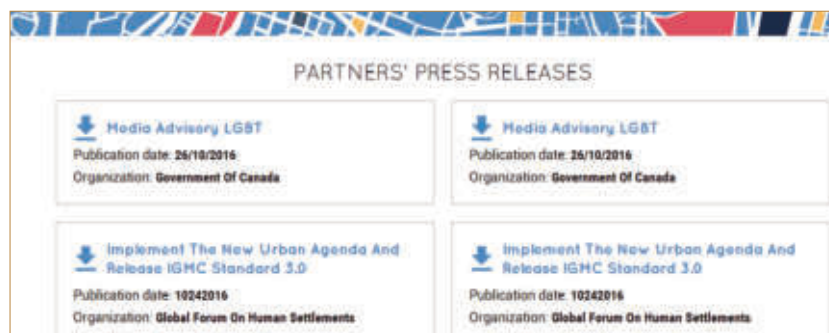
Media Reports on GFHS 2018 and GFHS 2016



▲ UNESCO website report



▲ Report by SDG Knowledge Hub, IISD



▲ Habitat III website report



▲ Report by People's Daily



▲ Report by World Urban Campaign



▲ Report by PhoenixNet



▲ Report by China Central Television

Media Reports on GFHS 2015

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30 Oct 2015 - A World Platform for Dialogue on Sustainable Urbanization.
Theme: "From SDGs to New Urban Agenda - Usher in a New Era for Sustainable City and Sustainable Urbanization". [Read More](#)

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Medaillen für zehn Persönlichkeiten weltweit, die sich entschlossen für Nachhaltigkeit einsetzen

Prizes and Awards Received by the City of Heidelberg

Year	Name/Title of award	Reason awarded	Awarded
2015	Global Green Building Award	Heidelberg was awarded in the category "Sustainable Communities" for its "Heidelberg 100% Climate Protection" strategy.	Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector, Bonn
2015	Global Green City Award	The "Global Green City Award" is an annual worldwide prize. It is awarded to the city that has made the most significant contribution to sustainable development, climate protection and the environment.	The United Nations Environment Programme

Mainstream Chinese Media Reports

贯彻2015后可持续发展目标、迎接世界城市日

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Live Reports on GFHS 2014, Bogota



Mainstream Spanish Media Reports on GFHS 2014



Media Reports on GFHS 2013 and GFHS 2012



China's Mainstream Media Reports on GFHS Events Before 2013



▲ Town of Shuimo honored as Global Best Practice of Post-disaster Reconstruction, 27 July 2010, CCTV

▲ Li Hongyan from China receiving the award of Global Little Green Ambassador; 8 April 2011, CCTV

▲ The 6th Global Forum on Human Settlements kicking off at UN headquarters, 8 April 2011, CCTV

▲ City of Changsha and Town of Zhouzhuang from China receiving the Global Human Settlements Awards, 21 June 2013, Beijing TV

Mainstream Chinese Media Reports





Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS)
A World Platform for Dialogue on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

GFHS

Committed to Promote Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All

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