



**State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture
of The Republic of Azerbaijan
CHAIRMAN**

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Mr. Aleksandr Markushin,
Mayor of Irpin city,
Ukraine

Dear Mr. Markushin,

We have the honour and privilege to invite you to the upcoming 2nd Azerbaijan National Urban Forum and The Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2023 in Azerbaijan.

Urban planning and city development play a vital role in driving progress towards achieving sustainable development. Given the ongoing global urbanization trends, the weight and value of these development agenda items are further reinforced by multiple country-specific challenges and opportunities.

The Republic of Azerbaijan represents one of such countries. While proactively supporting and promoting the localisation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 has been considered a vital building block for the country's overall post-conflict socio-economic reintegration priorities. This, in turn, underpins the intrinsic value of the New Urban Agenda offering an action-oriented universal framework for sustainable housing. Sharing experience and learning from each other is one of the preconditions for the overall success in both national and sub-regional sustainable development endeavors.

In light of the above-mentioned development efforts, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan jointly with the UN-Habitat will organize the 2023 Urban Week, a chain of events to mark the importance of sustainable urbanization processes. The Urban Week will commence with the 2nd Azerbaijan National Urban Forum (NUFA2) on 29 September 2023. Over the course of three days, NUFA2 will be the second non-legislative event convened by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture and bring together a wide range of key urban

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stakeholders and participants, both from Azerbaijan and also internationally. NUFA2 will be held in the cities of Zangilan and Baku.

While NUFA2 aims to discuss emerging key urban challenges, ongoing projects and the vision for the urban future in the Republic of Azerbaijan, it will also show-case international experiences in the related field to stimulate local action. Given the global importance of post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation, NUFA2 will be focusing on the role of urban productivity and economic growth, hereby fully deploying the potential of the SDGs and the NUA for economic resilience and transition to a circular economy.

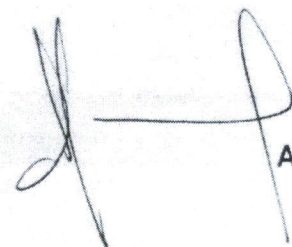
The Urban Week will be concluded by the celebration of the Global Observance of the World Habitat Day (WHD) on 2 October 2023 in the city of Baku; themed "Resilient Urban Economies - Cities as Drivers of Growth and Recovery", WHD will celebrate the role of urban economies to benefit residents, increase productivity and contribute to national development (Please find the draft agenda attached).

We believe that these events will enable us to celebrate achievements while also facing both current as well as emerging challenges in urban planning and city development. It will further strengthen existing and enable new partnerships and networking towards more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urbanization at local, national and global levels.

Additional information on the above-mentioned events, including the agenda, timetables for speaking slots, concept and logistics notes as well as registration for participants will be available on the official website of the event at <https://nufa.az> from 25 July 2023. We count on your valuable contribution to the upcoming events and would be grateful for confirming your attendance and expression of interest, in case of your desire to contribute with a presentation and/or speech as well on the relevant topics until 5th of September, 2023. Please, note that flight costs, accommodation and in-country travel expenses will be covered by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Should you require any further information, please contact us by e-mail at info@nufa.az, mobile phone number: +994 51 484 49 47 (WhatsApp enabled) or request information through the <https://nufa.az> website.

We look forward to welcoming you in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Sincerely,



Anar Guliyev