

IMPACT DIALOGUE | FROM COMMITMENT TO DELIVERY: HEALTHY, RESILIENT CITIES THROUGH CLIMATE-URBAN PARTNERSHIPS

CONCEPT NOTE

Thursday, 10 September 2026 | 11.30 – 13.00 | Room: A6

Host: UNFCCC secretariat and State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in partnership with COP 29 Presidency, UN-Habitat, Nizami Ganjavi International Centre, and Marrakech Partnership subnational stakeholders

Version: 9 September 2026

Background and Objective

As the global climate agenda enters a decisive implementation phase, attention is increasingly shifting from commitments and targets toward how climate action is delivered in practice and translated into tangible benefits for people and communities. At the same time, growing urbanization and increasing climate impacts are reinforcing the central role of cities in delivering solutions that advance both climate and sustainable development.

Healthy urban environments are increasingly recognized as a key outcome of effective climate action. Measures such as improving air quality, expanding green and blue infrastructure, promoting active mobility, strengthening resilient health systems and ensuring access to safe housing and basic services can simultaneously reduce emissions, increase resilience and improve public health. Integrating health considerations into urban climate policies therefore offers an opportunity to maximize social, environmental and economic co-benefits. Similarly, post-crisis reconstruction presents a unique opportunity to embed climate resilience into the recovery process by rebuilding cities and communities through integrated planning, resilient infrastructure, low-carbon construction, nature-based solutions and inclusive public services.

Achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals depends increasingly on placing cities at the centre of climate action and strengthening connections between climate and urban action.

Recent milestones, including COP 29, COP 30, UNFCCC Climate Week 3, and the Thirteenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13), have reinforced the importance of multilevel governance, local delivery and partnerships that enable successful solutions to move from individual projects to systemic implementation at scale. Looking ahead, the IPCC Special Report on Cities, expected in early 2027, represents a further important milestone for the global climate and urban agenda.

Recognizing the need to sustain this momentum beyond individual conferences and strengthen continuity between global climate and urban processes, Azerbaijan launched the Baku Continuity Coalition (BCC) for Urban Climate Action during COP29. Further advanced through COP30 and WUF13, the Coalition serves as a platform to address a key governance gap by maintaining alignment across successive COP and WUF processes, promoting policy coherence, facilitating knowledge exchange and strengthening partnerships among all stakeholders. By connecting global dialogue with implementation, it supports coordinated action across sectors and levels of governance, helping translate international commitments into tangible urban outcomes.

This comes at a time when the COP 31 Presidency has placed implementation at the centre of its Global Climate Action Agenda and identified resilient cities, health, food security, youth and education, and zero waste among its priority themes. Cities and regions sit at the convergence of these priorities. Many of the most urgent climate challenges, including extreme heat, flooding, public health risks, food insecurity, and increasing waste generation and growing infrastructure pressures, are experienced most acutely at the local level. As a result, some of the most effective climate interventions are those that deliver multiple benefits simultaneously: reducing emissions, strengthening resilience, improving public health, protecting vulnerable communities, and supporting sustainable urban development as recognized in the Belém Health Action Plan, the framework for climate and health adaptation launched at COP 30. These integrated approaches are equally relevant in post-crisis contexts, where rebuilding cities and communities offers an opportunity not only to recover from conflict or disasters but also to reduce future climate risks and build healthier, more resilient and inclusive urban environments.

Besides, climate implementation is also inherently spatial. National targets for adaptation, mitigation, resilience, health and resource efficiency are translated into results through decisions on land use, housing, buildings, transport, infrastructure, public space and basic services. Urban and territorial planning therefore provides an essential implementation framework for aligning sectoral climate measures, managing trade-offs, identifying vulnerable communities and directing public and private investment towards resilient and low-carbon development.

Realizing these opportunities requires not only political ambition but also stronger partnerships, greater policy coherence and sustained collaboration across stakeholders, as advocated for in the recent Baku Call to Action. In this regard, this Impact Dialogue at Baku Climate Week 4 will explore how stronger climate-urban partnerships can accelerate implementation by connecting global frameworks with practical action in cities and regions. The dialogue will examine both the partnerships needed to connect global commitments with local action and the practical solutions that can accelerate climate delivery ahead of COP 31.

Preliminary Agenda

Time	Segment
11:30-	1. Welcome and introduction
11:35	<i>Opening segment to welcome participants, introduce the discussion and frame the discussion around strengthening connections between climate and urban agendas to accelerate implementation and deliver tangible outcomes for cities and communities.</i> • Moderator: Ms. Dilek Tuna, Presenter and News Anchor, AnewZ
11:35-	2. Scene-setting remark
11:45	<i>High-level reflections on the role of cities in advancing climate action and sustainable urban development, and the importance of partnerships and implementation on the road to COP 31</i> • Mr. Anar Guliyev, Chairman of State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture, Azerbaijan • Mr. Daniele Violetti, Senior Director for Programmes Coordination, UNFCCC

11:45-12:20	3. Connecting Climate and Urban Agendas for Impact: From Dialogue to Action <i>Recent milestones including COP 29, WUF13 and the establishment of the Baku Continuity Coalition have reinforced the importance of strengthening cooperation across climate and urban processes. This discussion will explore how stronger partnerships and alignment across agendas can help translate global commitments into local action and support climate delivery in cities and regions.</i> <u>Guiding questions:</u> • Countries increasingly recognize the urban dimension of climate change. How can the implementation and financing systems required to deliver those commitments be strengthened? • How can stronger collaboration across climate and urban agendas, including through momentum generated by COP 29, WUF13 and the Baku Continuity Coalition, help accelerate implementation in cities and regions? • What types of partnerships among national governments, local authorities, international organizations, financial institutions, academia, civil society and other stakeholders are proving most effective in translating global commitments into action on the ground? <u>Speakers:</u> • Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions • Ms. Nigar Arpadarai, Member of Milli Majlis, COP 29 Climate High-Level Champion • Mr. Conor Barry, Senior Economist, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) • Mr. Elchin Allahverdiyev, Head of Climate Diplomacy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan • Ms. Sayyara Musayeva, Deputy Mayor of Sheki Municipality, Azerbaijan • Mr. Erfan Ali, Director, Regional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UN-Habitat (video message)
12:20-12:55	4. Integrated Urban Solutions for Climate Delivery: What Works in Practice? <i>Cities and communities are increasingly pursuing approaches that address multiple priorities simultaneously, from resilience and health to waste management, food systems and emissions reduction, green jobs and training youth and women as key enablers. Drawing on experiences from subnational governments, national governments, international organizations and implementation partners, this segment will surface concrete examples where resilience, health, and methane/waste action are being delivered together and explore what lessons are emerging from these implementation efforts.</i> <u>Guiding questions:</u> • Which policies, programmes or projects are demonstrating the strongest combined benefits across climate resilience, affordable housing, public health, methane reduction and protection against climate-related displacement? What lessons from post-crisis reconstruction and resilient recovery can be applied more broadly?

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- How are these experiences shaping national climate planning and implementation? What institutional, financial and planning changes are needed to move successful solutions from individual examples to widespread, investment-ready delivery?
 - How can spatial planning, service provision and investment translate national climate ambitions into funded urban programmes, reduced waste and methane emissions, and accountable local delivery?

Speakers:

- Ms. Massiel Cairo, Climate Adaptation Analyst and National ACE Focal Point, Dominican Republic
- Mr. Severino Lima Junior, President, International Alliance of Waste Pickers
- Ms. Sarah Duff, Principal, Climate Strategy and Delivery, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Mr. Ramil Jahangirov, Head of Department of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Mr. Ali Huseynov, Technical Director of Holcim Azerbaijan, Member of Holcim Group
- Mr. Mahir Aliyev, Regional Coordinator for Europe, UN Environment Programme
- Dr. Agnes Soares da Silva, Director of the Department of Environmental Health Surveillance and Workers' Health of the Ministry of Health of Brazil (video message)

12:55- **5. Closing Reflections**

13:00 *Segment sharing key recommendations or priority actions that could help strengthen urban climate action and accelerate integrated subnational climate implementation ahead of COP 31.*
