

Background Document for the Briefing on the COP27 Presidential Initiative: Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe)

**Hybrid format – Friday, 9 September 2022, 10:00am – 12:00noon
UN Gigiri Complex, Conference Room 4, Nairobi, Kenya**

1. Background

In the lead up to the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP27), to be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 6-17 November 2022, the Government of Egypt, as the incoming COP27 President, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and with the facilitation of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, developed the **Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe Initiative)**.¹ The SURGe Initiative is one of four UN led COP27 Presidential Initiatives that aim to accelerate the implementation of the international development agendas including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Accord.

Aligned with UN-Habitat’s mandate to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities and adequate shelter for all, the SURGe Initiative provides a holistic framework to promote sustainable and resilient urban systems by maximizing synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in cities. Under the umbrella of overarching principles to build sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban systems, the Initiative proposes five working groups: **Buildings and Housing, Urban Energy, Urban Waste/Consumption, Urban Mobility, and Urban Water.**

A hybrid stakeholder consultation workshop took place on 27 July 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo, Egypt, with more than 120 participants, including representatives from national governments such as Austria, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the UK. The consultation had representation from city and local governments including the Mayor of Utrecht, the Netherlands, and the Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco, as well as UN system Organizations, civil society, academia, private sectors, and NGOs. As a result of a robust and inclusive multi-stakeholder process, the zero draft of the SURGe Initiative concept note has been developed and circulated as part of the background document for the Briefing. The final SURGe Initiative will be disseminated as soon as possible after the Briefing.

In addition to the members of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat, high-level representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development of Egypt, the COP27 Presidency, and core partners of the SURGe Initiative including ICLEI, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, UNEP, and World Resources Institute will be in-person and virtually present at the Briefing.

¹ Please note that Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe Initiative) is the working title. The final name of the COP27 Presidential Initiative will be confirmed by the Initiative’s Secretariat.

2. Objective of the Briefing

The objective of the Briefing is to update the members of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat on the Organization's roadmap to COP27. This includes

- An update on the Housing and Urban Ministerial Meeting on Cities and Climate Change, led by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, to take place at COP27 Solutions Day on 17th November 2022,
- An introduction to the SURGe Initiative, and
- Discussions on the potential role of Member States with respect to the SURGe Initiative, as well as securing high-level commitment of Member States through the members of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat.

3. Provisional Agenda

The Briefing will take place from 10:00 – 12:00 at Conference Room 4 of the UN Gigiri Complex, Nairobi, Kenya. The proposed agenda is as follows:

Time (EAT)	Session
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome & Opening Remarks Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
10:10 – 10:20	Update on the first Housing and Urban Ministerial Meeting on Cities and Climate Change to be held on 17 November 2022, at the Solutions Day of COP27 Honourable Abdelkhalek Abdelrahman Awad Ibrahim, Assistant Minister for Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, Arab Republic of Egypt.
10:20 – 10:30	Q&A and Remarks
10:30 – 10:35	Introduction to the COP27 Presidential Initiative on Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
10:35 – 10:40	Remarks to the COP27 Presidential Initiative on Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Ambassador Ayman Tharwat Amin, Arab Republic of Egypt.
10:40 – 10:55	Presentation on the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Initiative Bernhard Barth, UN-Habitat's Subprogramme 3 Coordinator.

10:55 – 11:20	Q&A on the SURGe Initiative
11:20 – 11:30	Engagement of Local and Regional Governments and other Non-State Actors in the SURGe Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yunus Arikan, Director of Global Advocacy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, on behalf of the Local Government and Municipal Authority Constituency to UNFCCC. • Honourable Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco, Chair of ICLEI Africa Regional Executive Committee, and ICLEI COP27 Special Envoy for Africa.
11:30 – 11:50	Q&A on the SURGe (cont.)
11:50 – 11:52	AOB: Urban October 2022 Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
11:52 – 12:00	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat. • Honourable Abdelkhalek Abdelrahman Awad Ibrahim, Assistant Minister for Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, Arab Republic of Egypt.