

MAYORS' FORUM
(20–22 AUGUST 2026)

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

20 August 2026 (Thursday)	
09:00 - 15:00	Arrival of Delegates
15:00 - 17:00	REGISTRATION <i>Registration of delegates will take place at designated hotels.</i>
17:00 - 18:00	Delegates depart from hotels to the venue of the Welcome Reception.
18:00 -20:00	WELCOME RECEPTION <i>Venue: Shangri-la hotel</i>
20:30 - 22:00	Return to Hotels
21 August 2026 (Friday)	
08:30 - 09:30	Registration of Delegates
09:30 - 18:00	MAYORS' FORUM
09:30 - 10:00	OPENING REMARKS Moderator: • Opening remarks by H.E. Byaruuzanyn Pürevdagva, Governor of Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar • Welcome remarks by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) • Welcome remarks by Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) • Welcome remarks by Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
10:00 - 11:00	KEYNOTE SPEECHES Moderator: • Regenerating Urban Ecosystems: Combating Land Degradation, Dust, and Sandstorms • Securing Every Drop: Cities Confronting Water Scarcity, Drought, and Groundwater Stress • Shaping Livable Cities: Guiding Urban Growth, Migration, and Land Use with Dignity • From Pledges to Partnerships: Green Finance, Investment, and Regional Cooperation for Resilient Growth
11:10 - 11:15	Group Photo Session

11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30- 13:00	● Parallel Session 1: Regenerating Urban Ecosystems: Combating Land Degradation, Dust, and Sandstorms This session will explore how land degradation, soil erosion, declining vegetation cover, urban heat islands, dust pollution, and sand and dust storms are increasingly affecting the livability, public health, infrastructure, and economic resilience of cities. Discussions will focus on ecosystem restoration, green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, urban forestry, green belts, windbreak systems, soil protection, and ecological urban planning approaches that can help cities become more resilient and environmentally sustainable. Moderator: Mr. Shu Zhu, Regional Director, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat ● Parallel Session 2: Securing Every Drop: Cities Confronting Water Scarcity, Drought, and Groundwater Stress: This session will examine how drought, water scarcity, groundwater depletion, and growing urban water demand are shaping the future resilience and security of cities. Participants will discuss integrated urban water management, water reuse and recycling systems, water-efficient technologies, watershed governance, drought preparedness, and climate adaptation strategies that can strengthen long-term urban water security. Moderator: Mr. Anton Earle, Global Coordinator, Water Systems, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	● Parallel Session 3: Shaping Livable Cities: Guiding Urban Growth, Migration, and Land Use with Dignity This session will address the impacts of rapid urban expansion, migration, informal settlements, and land-use pressure on infrastructure, social services, environmental sustainability, and urban inequality. Discussions will focus on territorial planning, sustainable land use, urban-rural linkages, human-centered urban development, and policy approaches for managing climate-induced migration and building resilient communities. Moderator: Roi Chiti, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

	Parallel Session 4: From Pledges to Partnerships: Green Finance, Investment, and Regional Cooperation for Resilient Growth This session will focus on the financing and partnership mechanisms needed to implement resilient urban solutions addressing land degradation, water scarcity, and climate risks. Discussions will cover green finance, climate investment, public-private partnerships, multilateral development cooperation, city networks, innovation platforms, and regional collaboration frameworks that can support long-term sustainable urban development and accelerate implementation. Moderator: Mr. Jaap van Hierden, UN Resident Coordinator for Mongolia
15:30 - 16:30	PLENARY SESSION: Local Solutions for Resilient Urban Futures - Presentation of conclusions from the /thematic sessions’ outcomes - Announcement of the “Ulaanbaatar Initiative.” - Presentation and announcement of the UNCCD COP17 “Ulaanbaatar Declaration” - Launch of City-to-City partnerships - Introduction of possible “Permanent Mayors Coalition on DLDD” CLOSING SESSION - Closing remarks by H.E. Byaruuzanyin Pürevdagva, Governor of Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar
16:30 - 17:45	GREEN ZONE Exhibition on sustainable urban development projects and programmes
19:00 - 21:00	CEREMONIAL RECEPTION <i>Venue: Ayan Zalaat</i>
22 August 2026 (Saturday)	
09:30 - 10:30	Participation in the “Nomadic” Cultural Event
12:00 - 16:00	Traditional Mongolian “Mini Naadam Festival” Hosted by the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar