



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



UNCCD
COP17
ULAANBAATAR 2026



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF THE CAPITAL CITY
ULAANBAATAR

MAYORS' FORUM

(20–22 AUGUST 2026)

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

20 August 2026 (Thursday)	
07:20–07:35	Arrival of Delegates <i>Location: Chinggis Khaan International Airport</i>
08:30	REGISTRATION <i>Registration of delegates will take place at designated hotels.</i>
09:00–10:00	Breakfast <i>Venue: Restaurant / Hotel</i>
10:00–13:00	“Ulaanbaatar City Tour Programme” <i>Venue: (Optional) Accompanied by a guide, transport, and protocol officer.</i>
13:00–14:00	Lunch <i>Venue: Restaurant / Hotel</i>
17:00–18:00	Delegates depart from hotels to the venue of the Ceremonial Reception.
18:00–20:00	CEREMONIAL RECEPTION <i>Venue: Shangri-La Hotel</i>
18:00–18:30	WELCOMING OF GUESTS - B.Purevdagva, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar - G.Anar, Director of the Foreign Relations Department, Office of the Governor of the Capital City <i>Guests will take a commemorative photo before entering the reception hall.</i>
18:30–18:35	CEREMONIAL DANCE <i>Dancers of the Ulaanbaatar Theatre</i>
18:35–18:38	OPENING REMARKS OF THE CEREMONIAL RECEPTION (3 mins) <i>Purevdagva.B, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar,</i>
18:38–18:42	<i>G.Verdi's aria “La Traviata” / National Anthem</i>
18:42–18:48	GREETINGS - Uchral.N, Prime Minister of Mongolia - Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
18:48–19:08	Distinguished guests invited to dinner

19:08–19:12	“Ulaanbaatar Evening” artistic performance
19:12–19:35	Free networking time for distinguished guests
19:35–19:55	Performance by the “Fat Cat” band
19:55–20:30	DJ music programme
20:30–20:45	The opening reception concludes.
21 August 2026 (Friday)	
08:30 - 09:30	Registration of Delegates
09:30 - 18:00	MAYORS’ FORUM The Forum will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation in English, Chinese, French, Russian and Mongolian.
09:30 - 10:00	OPENING SESSION Venue: MET21, Section D, UNCCD COP17 Blue Zone Moderator: MC B.Onon - Opening remarks by H.E. Purevdagva Byaruuzana, Governor of Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar - Welcome remarks by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (TBC) - 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) - Welcome remarks by Mr. Oumar Ba, Mayor of Ndiob Municipality, President of UCLG Africa - Welcome remarks by Dr. Ursula Sautter, Deputy Mayor, Bonn - Welcome remarks by Beate Trankman, Deputy Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
10:00 - 11:30	High-level Dialogue: Advancing local leadership for land resilience through multilevel governance and partnerships Venue: MET21, Section D, UNCCD COP17 Blue Zone Co-moderators: - Ms. Fiona McCluney, Senior Programme Management Officer, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat HQ - Mr. Shu Zhu, Regional Director, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat - Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG Asia Pacific This High-level dialogue brings together leaders of local and regional governments, and senior representatives of the Parties, financing institutions, the

	private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders to exchange perspectives on strengthening local leadership in advancing the implementation of the UNCCD through multilevel governance and partnerships. The dialogue aims to reinforce the critical role of local and regional governments as essential partners in implementing the related UNCCD agreements and decisions, promote stronger multilevel governance and cross-sectoral partnerships, and strengthen support needed for institutionalizing the engagement of local and regional governments within the UNCCD process. It will also set the scene for the thematic parallel sessions and contribute to the outcomes of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration. Format: Opening and setting the scene (5mins) - Moderator: Ms. Fiona McCluney, Senior Programme Management Officer, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat HQ The moderator will briefly introduce the objectives and format of the Dialogue and set the scene for the discussion. Round 1: Strengthening local leadership within the UNCCD Process (25 mins) - Moderator: Mr. Shu Zhu, Regional Director, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat Guiding question: How can the role of local and regional governments be further recognized and institutionalized within the UNCCD process to strengthen implementation through multilevel governance and partnerships? Each invited speaker will be invited to respond in up to 3-4 minutes. Invited speakers: - Mr. Purevdagva Byaruuzana, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar - Dr. Faisal Alosaimi, Assistant Deputy Mayor for Urban Development, Riyadh Municipality, Saudi Arabia (TBC) - Mr. André Viola, Councillor for Europe and International Affairs, Department of Aude, France - Ms. Bolormaa.N, Secretary General of the Mongolian Red Cross Society, former Chair of City Council of Capital City Round 2: Enabling local action and implementation (25 mins) - Moderator: Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG Asia Pacific Guiding question: What resources, support and mechanisms are needed to further strengthen the capacity of local and regional governments for effective action and implementation on the ground?
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	Each invited speaker will be invited to respond in up to 3-4 minutes. Invited speakers: - Ms. Gamze ASLAN, Head of Department, International Operations Department, İLBANK, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye - Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Director of External Affairs, Green Climate Fund - Mr. John Juhyun Jeong, Country Director, Mongolia Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank - Dr. Grethel Aguilar Rojas, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Open discussion: Voices from local and regional leaders (30 mins) - Moderator: Ms. Fiona McCluney, Senior Programme Management Officer, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat HQ The moderator will open the floor to other participating local and regional government leaders to share brief reflections and perspectives building on previous rounds of discussion, particularly on strengthening the role of local and regional governments within the UNCCD process and the support and mechanisms needed to enable effective local action and implementation. The open discussion will provide additional space for diverse local and regional government voices, while helping connect the Dialogue with the thematic parallel session.
11:30 - 11:45	Group Photo Session
11:45 - 12:00	Coffee Break

12:00- 13:00	Parallel Session 1: Regenerating Urban Ecosystems: Combating Land Degradation, Dust, and Sandstorms Venue: MET22, Section D, UNCCD COP17 Blue Zone 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 urban areas. It will highlight the role of local governments as frontiers and leaders in ecosystem restoration through integrated urban planning, green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, urban forestry, green belts, windbreak systems, soil protection, and metropolitan-scale landscape management, helping build more resilient, healthy and environmentally sustainable urban futures. Moderator: Mr. Shu Zhu, Regional Director, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat Keynote presentations (30 mins) - Mr. Ji Ri Mu Tu, Deputy Mayor, Ordos, China - Mr. Yam Narayan Sharma Pokhrel, Mayor, Gadhawa Municipality, Nepal - Dr. Emmanuel Serunjoji, Mayor of Kawempe Division of Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda - Dr. B. Buyantogtokh, National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring of Mongolia - Mr. Munkhchuluun Samdannyam, Mayor of Mandalgovi and Governor of Dundgovi Province, Mongolia - Mr. Tim Scott, Senior Policy Advisor on Nature Governance and Justice, Planet Hub, BPPS, UNDP HQ Interactive panel and Q&A (25 mins) An interactive dialogue among the keynote speakers and invited panelists, followed by questions and comments from participants. Panelist - Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) - Ms. Lihong Zhao, Deputy Director, General Environmental Management Division, Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau - Mr. Batbayasgalan.J, Senior Advisor to the Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar
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	Parallel Session 2: Securing Every Drop: Cities Confronting Water Scarcity, Drought, and Groundwater Stress Venue: MET24, Section D, UNCCD COP17 Blue Zone This session will examine how drought, water scarcity, groundwater depletion, and growing urban water demand are shaping the future resilience and security of cities. It will highlight the role of local governments in protecting the water cycle as a common good through integrated urban water management, water reuse and recycling systems, water-efficient technologies, watershed governance, drought preparedness, and climate adaptation strategies, helping strengthen long-term urban water security. Moderator: Mr. Anton Earle, Global Coordinator: Water Systems, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) Keynote presentations (30 mins) - Mr. Aikeremu Abula, Vice Mayor, Karamay, China - Mr. Ajay Thapa, Mayor, Shivaraj Municipality, Nepal - Mr. Ramazan Kabasakal, Head of International Relations Department Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Türkiye - Prof. Liangliang Wei, Vice Dean, School of Environment, Harbin Institute of Technology - Mr. Batbayar Z, Head of the Water Authority of Mongolia - Mr. Sainbayar Bayarmagnai, Mayor of Zamiin uud soum, Mongolia Interactive panel and Q&A (25 mins) An interactive dialogue among the keynote speakers and invited panelists, followed by questions and comments from participants. Panelist - Mr. Karl Frédérick Paul, UN Resident Coordinator for Gambia - Dr. Mark Svoboda, Director and Professor, National Drought Mitigation Center & University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Mr. Sinan Sineoğlu, Deputy General Manager of the Gaziantep Water and Sewerage Administration (GASKİ)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch

14:30 - 15:30	Parallel Session 3: Shaping Livable Cities: Guiding Urban Growth, Migration, and Land Use with Dignity Venue: MET22, Section D, UNCCD COP17 Blue Zone This session will address the impacts of rapid urban expansion, migration and displacement, informal settlements, and land-use pressure on infrastructure, social services, environmental sustainability, and urban inequality. It will highlight the role of local governments in advancing integrated territorial planning, sustainable land use, urban-rural linkages, human-centered urban development, and inclusive policy approaches to managing climate-induced migration, helping build more resilient, inclusive and livable cities. Moderator: Fiona McCluney, Senior Programme Management Officer, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat HQ Keynote presentations (25 mins) - Mr. Halil Uğur, Vice Mayor, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Türkiye - Mr. Rinsad Ahmed, Mayor of Puttalam, Sri Lanka - Mr. Maksim Sorokin, Mayor of Elista, Kalmykia, Russian Federation - Mr. Phyreack Hang, Deputy Director of Provincial Department of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction, Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia - Mr. Mendbayar Chimedochir, Head of Mayor's Office of the Capital City Ulaanbaatar Interactive panel and Q&A (30 mins) An interactive dialogue among the keynote speakers and invited panelists, followed by questions and comments from participants. Panelist - Mr. G. Luvsanjamts, Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia - Dr. Yoko Fujimura, Chief of Mission, IOM Mongolia Parallel Session 4: From Pledges to Partnerships: Green Finance, Investment, and Regional Cooperation for Resilient Growth Venue: MET24, Section D, UNCCD COP17 Blue Zone This session will focus on the financing and partnership mechanisms needed to implement resilient urban solutions addressing land degradation, water scarcity, and climate risks. It will highlight the role of local governments in mobilizing green finance, strengthening public-private partnerships, fostering innovation, and
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	advancing regional cooperation to accelerate implementation and deliver more resilient and sustainable urban futures. Moderator: Mr. Jaap van Hierden, UN Resident Coordinator for Mongolia Keynote presentations (25 mins) - Mr. B. Mungunkhishig, Advisor on Green Development and Investment to the Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar - Mr. Oumar Ba, Mayor of Ndiob & President of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), Senegal - Mr. Arosha Atapattu, Mayor of Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Sri Lanka - Ms. Ingrid Cavalcanti Feitosa, Secretary of State for the Environment, Sustainability, and Climate Action, Sergipe, Brazil - Mr. André Viola, Councillor for Europe and International Affairs, Department of Aude, France Interactive panel and Q&A (30 mins) An interactive dialogue among the keynote speakers and invited panelists, followed by questions and comments from participants. Panelist - Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Director of External Affairs, Green Climate Fund - Mr. Rodrigo Corradi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ICLEI South America
15:30 - 16:30	PLENARY SESSION: Local Solutions for Resilient Urban Futures Venue: MET21, Section D, UNCCD COP17 Blue Zone
15:30	MC: B.Onon Opening of the closing plenary
15:30 – 15:45	Key messages from the parallel sessions (15 mins) - Parallel Session 1 moderator - Parallel Session 2 moderator - Parallel Session 3 moderator - Parallel Session 4 moderator
15:45 – 16:00	ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE “ULAANBAATAR INITIATIVE” (15 MINS) - Purevdagva.B, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar

16:00 – 16:10	PRESENTATION OF THE “ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION” (10 MINS) Introduction of the Declaration (3 mins) Remarks from the co-organizers (5 mins) - Remarks by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary, UNCCD - Remarks by Fiona McCluney, Senior Programme Management Officer, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat HQ - Remarks by Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability - Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG Asia-Pacific Official announcement of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration by the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar (2 mins) - Mr. Purevdagva.B, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar
16:10 – 16:30	Official Adoption of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration
16:30 – 16:40	CLOSING SESSION - Closing remarks by Purevdagva.B, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar.
16:40 - 17:40	GREEN ZONE - Exhibition on sustainable urban development projects and programmes
18:00 – 19:00	Dinner - Ulaanbaatar city leadership, guests, and delegates
22 August 2026 (Saturday)	
08:00-09:00	Breakfast <i>Venue: At the hotel</i>
09:30-12:30	“Nomadic” Cultural Programme Ulaanbaatar City Tour Programme Visit to “Hue” Art Gallery
18:00-21:00	CLOSING CEREMONY <i>Venue: Office of the Governor of the Capital City, Ceremonial Hall</i>

18:00–18:30	WELCOMING OF GUESTS - B.Purevdagva, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar - G.Anar, Director of the Foreign Relations Department, Office of the Governor of the Capital City
18:30–18:40	CLOSING REMARKS OF THE CEREMONIAL RECEPTION (10 mins) - Purevdagva.B, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar, - Yasmine Fouad, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
18:40–19:00	Musical numbers
19:00–19:10	Distinguished guests invited to dinner
19:10–19:20	Mouth harp performer Shijirmaa
19:20–19:25	“Let Us Sing and Rejoice” dance
19:25–19:30	Free networking time for distinguished guests
19:30–19:50	“Swing round” band
19:50–20:00	“Khentiin Undur” “Chardash”
20:00–20:20	“My way” “Beyond the sea” “Come fly with me”
20:20–20:30	“Strength of the Soul” “What a wonderful world”
20:20–21:30	DJ
21:30–21:45	The reception concludes.

