

# AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL URBAN FORUM III

## ***Towards Climate-Resilient and Healthy Cities: Harnessing Regional Partnerships and Innovative Solutions***

*Paving the Way to the World Urban Forum 13, Baku 2026*

**Khankendi – Baku, Azerbaijan**

**15 – 17 October 2025**

*Organized by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of  
Azerbaijan (SCUPA) in partnership with UN-Habitat*

## PROGRAMME



**DAY 00** Tuesday, October 14, 2025

***Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard***

**14:00 – 21:00** Pre-registration of Forum participants

**DAY 01** Wednesday, October 15, 2025

***Khankendi Congress Center, Conference Hall***

**04:30 – 10:20** Departure from the Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard to Heydar Aliyev International Airport

Flight to Fuzuli International Airport

Arrival to the Khankendi Congress Center

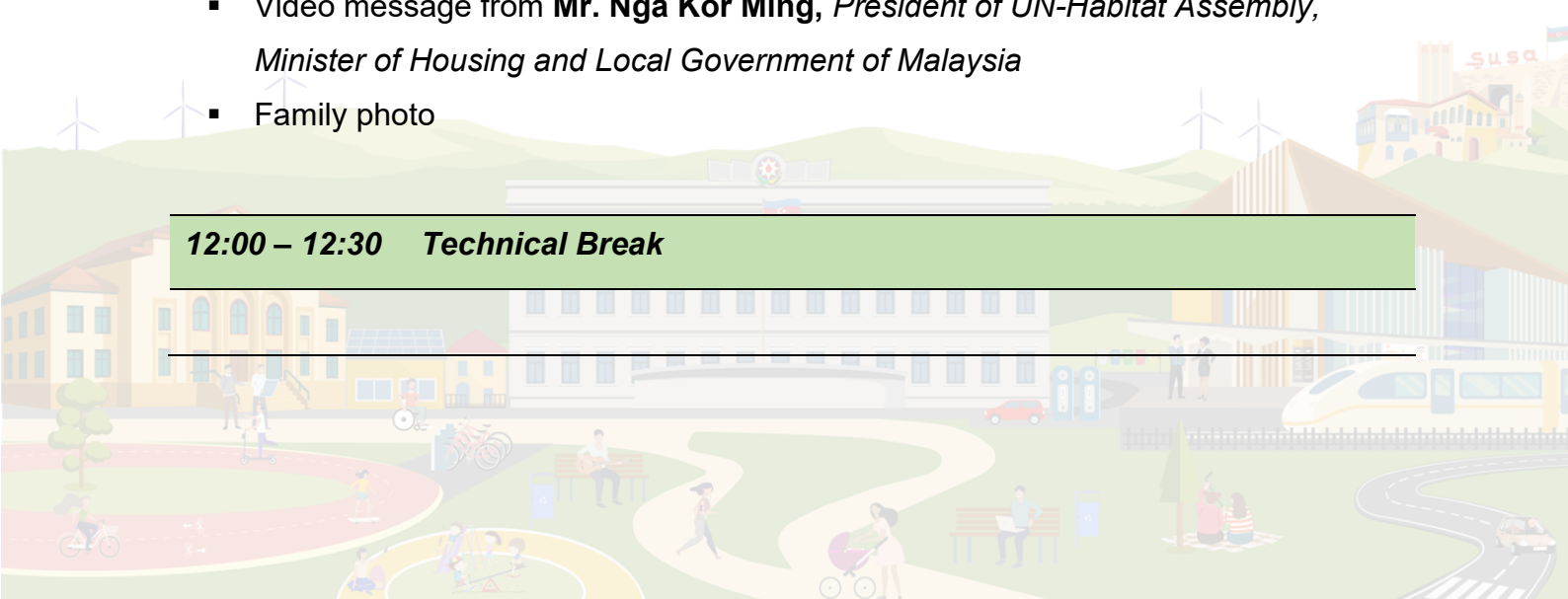
**09:00 – 10:45** Registration of Participants & Welcome Coffee

**11:00 - 12:00** **Opening Ceremony**

Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Guy Shone**, *Editor-in Chief, AnewZ*

- Welcome remarks by **High Level Representative** of the Government of Azerbaijan
- Opening remarks by **Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach**, *Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) and UN Under-Secretary-General*
- Opening remarks by **Mr. Anar Guliyev**, *Chairman, State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, WUF13 National Coordinator*
- Video message from **Mr. Nga Kor Ming**, *President of UN-Habitat Assembly, Minister of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia*
- Family photo

**12:00 – 12:30** **Technical Break**



**12:30 – 13:30 PANEL SESSION 1. Fostering an Inclusive, Green and Sustainable Future for Karabakh**

Moderated by **Mr. Sultan Hajiye**v, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Congo, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme*

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Elchin Yusubov**, *Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the city of Khankendi, Aghdara and Khojaly districts*

- Culture, social cohesion and livelihoods: Rethinking local development in Karabakh as a foundation for social and economic renewal

**Mr. Aydin Kerimov**, *Special representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Shusha district*

- Shusha as example of post-conflict urban reconstruction and sustainable living in the cultural heritage city

**Ms. Marcelina Zielinska**, *UK Board Director at Chapman Taylor, United Kingdom*

- Heritage-sensitive master planning vision for the recovery of cities: reconstruction challenges and innovative design approaches

**Mr. Orkhan Mammadov**, *Chairman of Management Board, KOBIA*

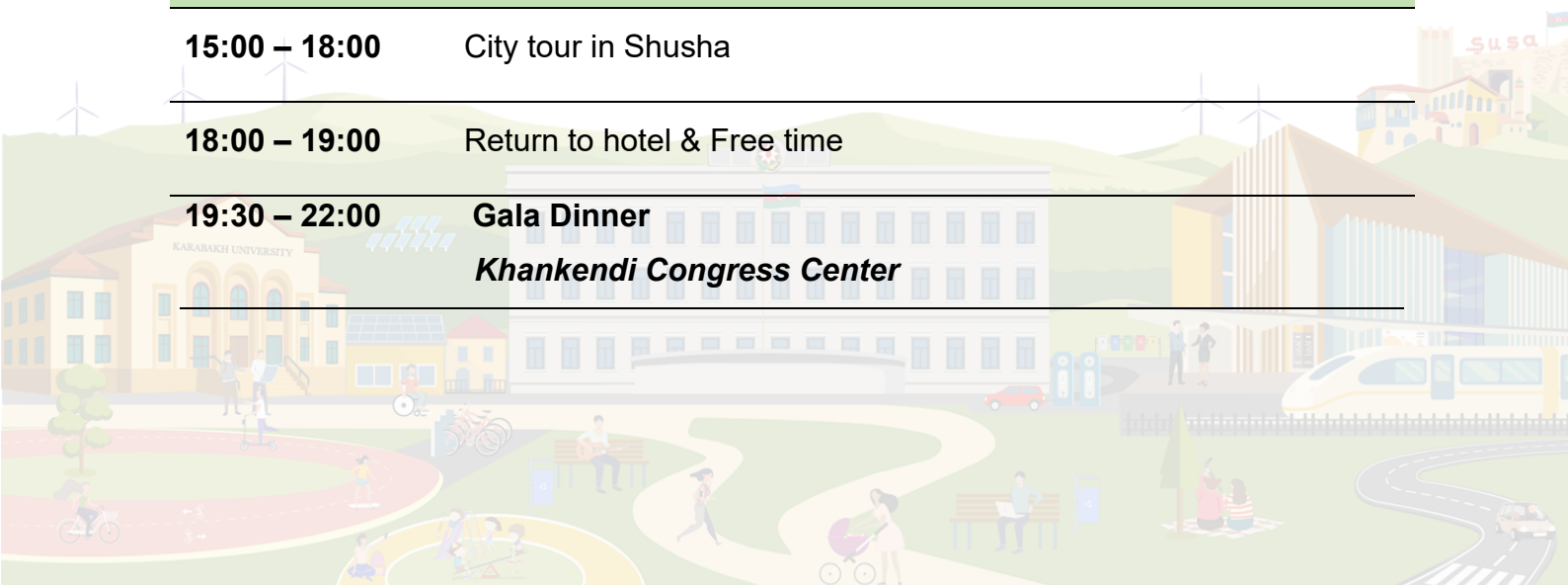
- SMEs as Drivers of Economic Growth and Social Welfare in Karabakh: The Strategic Role of State Policy

**13:30 – 15:00 Lunch in Shusha**

**15:00 – 18:00** City tour in Shusha

**18:00 – 19:00** Return to hotel & Free time

**19:30 – 22:00 Gala Dinner  
Khankendi Congress Center**



**DAY 02** Thursday, October 16, 2025

***Khankendi Congress Center, Conference Hall***

**08:00 – 09:30 Future of the Cities: Green, Resilient and Sustainable**

*Cities networking breakfast, organised by SCUPA, ADB, UN-Habitat,  
UNESCAP Venue: Khankendi Congress Centre*

*(Majors and city leaders **only**)*

**09:00 – 09:30** Registration

**09:30 – 10:30 PANEL SESSION 2. Urban-Rural Linkages for Socio-Economic Growth, Territorial Equity and Environmental Sustainability**

Moderated by **Ms. Nigar Arpadarai**, *Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan, COP29 High-Level Champion*

**Speakers:**

**Ms. Katja Schaefer**, *Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat*

- From growth to balance: the role of National Urban Policies in shaping equitable territories

**Mr. Shikhnazar Atadjanov**, *Director of Centre of Urbanization, Ministry of Housing and Communal Services, Uzbekistan*

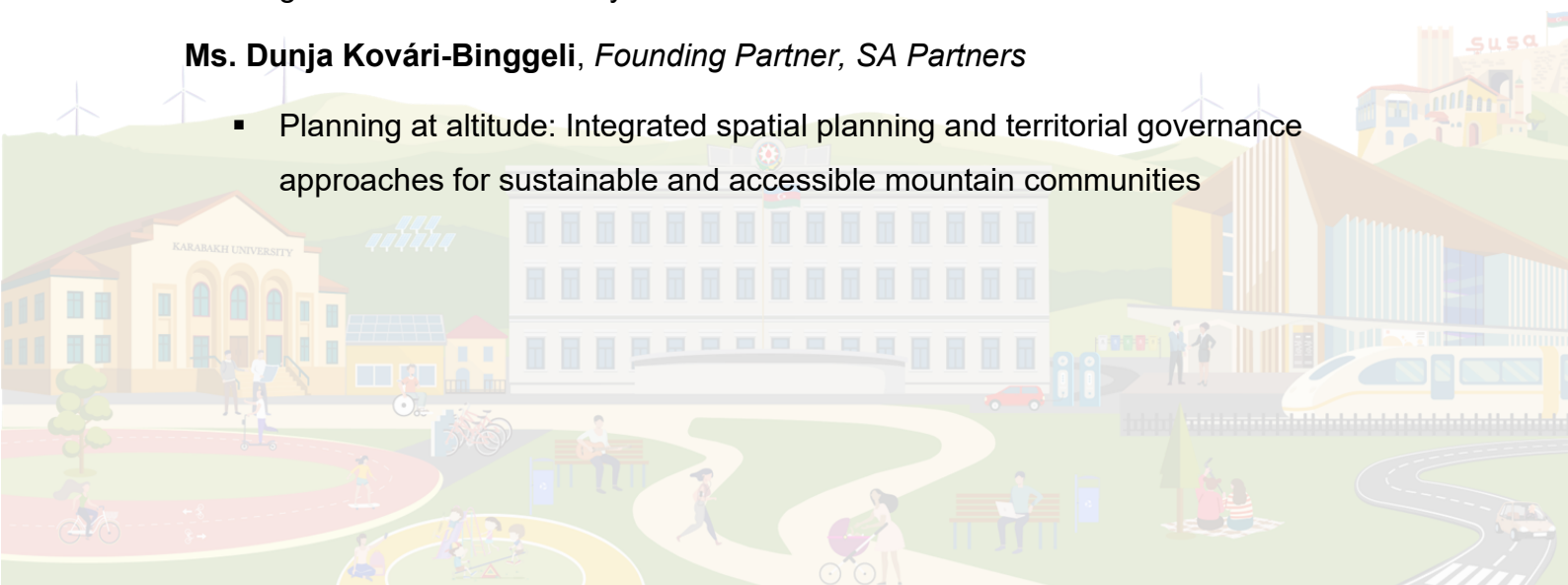
- Unlocking the Potential of Secondary: The case of Uzbekistan

**Mr. Emin Huseynov**, *Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Ağdam, Füzuli and Khojavand*

- Aligning policy with local actions: Evidence-based approaches for inclusive growth and sustainability

**Ms. Dunja Kovári-Binggeli**, *Founding Partner, SA Partners*

- Planning at altitude: Integrated spatial planning and territorial governance approaches for sustainable and accessible mountain communities



**10:30 – 11:45 PANEL SESSION 3. Housing Affordability at the Center of an Equitable Urban Future**

Moderated by **Ms. Ombretta Temptra**, Chief of the Land, Housing and Shelter Section, UN-Habitat

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Omer Bulut**, *Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye*

- Innovative housing finance and public-private partnerships for the delivery of affordable housing on scale

**Mr. Farman Gurbanli**, *Chief of Staff, State Housing Development Agency, Azerbaijan*

- Enhancing Quality of Life and Fostering Sustainable Economic Development through housing provision

**Mr. Babar Mumtaz**, *Housing & Urban Development Consultant, University College London*

- Effective land and housing policies to reduce spatial inequalities: Good practices and challenges

**Ms. Jennifer Duyne Barenstein**, *Executive Director, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology*

- Exploring approaches to tackle the global housing affordability crisis: the potential role of cooperative housing

**Mr. Cao Jinbiao**, *Chief Economist, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China*

- China's Achievements, Experience and Practices in the Development of Affordable Housing

**11:45 – 12:15 Coffee Break / Networking**



**12:15 – 13:15 PANEL SESSION 4. The Interplay Between Mobility, Data and Spatial Planning: Innovative Urban Solutions**

Moderated by **Mr. Kakim Danabayev**, *World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WEGO)*

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Vahid Hajiyev**, *Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the districts of Gubadli, Jabrayil, and Zangilan*

- Aligning sustainable mobility and urban planning at a national scale: transit-oriented and climate-responsive development

**Mr. Fuad Jafarli**, *Head of Department of Transport Planning, Azerbaijan Land Transport Agency (AYNA)*

- Shaping the future of urban mobility: inter-operable platforms and data governance frameworks for sustainable, transparent and efficient systems

**Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar**, *Chief of Sciences and Technologies Sector, ICESCO*

- ICESCO Strategy for Resilient, Sustainable and Smart Cities in its Member States

**Ms. Tiffanie Yamashita**, *Director, Systematica s.p.a., Mobility Planning, Partner*

- Planning by Data: How novel data sources can revolutionize the way we plan cities

**13:15 – 14:45 Lunch Break**



## 14:45 – 15:45 PANEL SESSION 5. Healthier Cities by Design: Reclaiming Urban Spaces for People's Well-Being

Moderated by **Mr. Samir Babayev**, *Director of Karabakh University Clinic / Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Karabakh University*

### Speakers:

**Mr. Shahin Bayramov**, Rector, Karabakh University

- The potential role of universities in regional ecosystem development

**Mr. Samir Poladov**, Deputy Chairman, Azerbaijan Mine Action Agency (ANAMA)

- Urban Safety as a Prerequisite for Well-being

**Mr. Alexandre Hedjazi**, Academic Deputy International Affairs, University of Geneva

- From AI to Urban design: Tackling urban health and promoting wellbeing in our cities

**Ms. Takhmina Turdialieva**, Architect, Founder of Tatalab, Uzbekistan

- New Traditional Architecture and Urban Design: Technology, Materials, and Healthy Cities

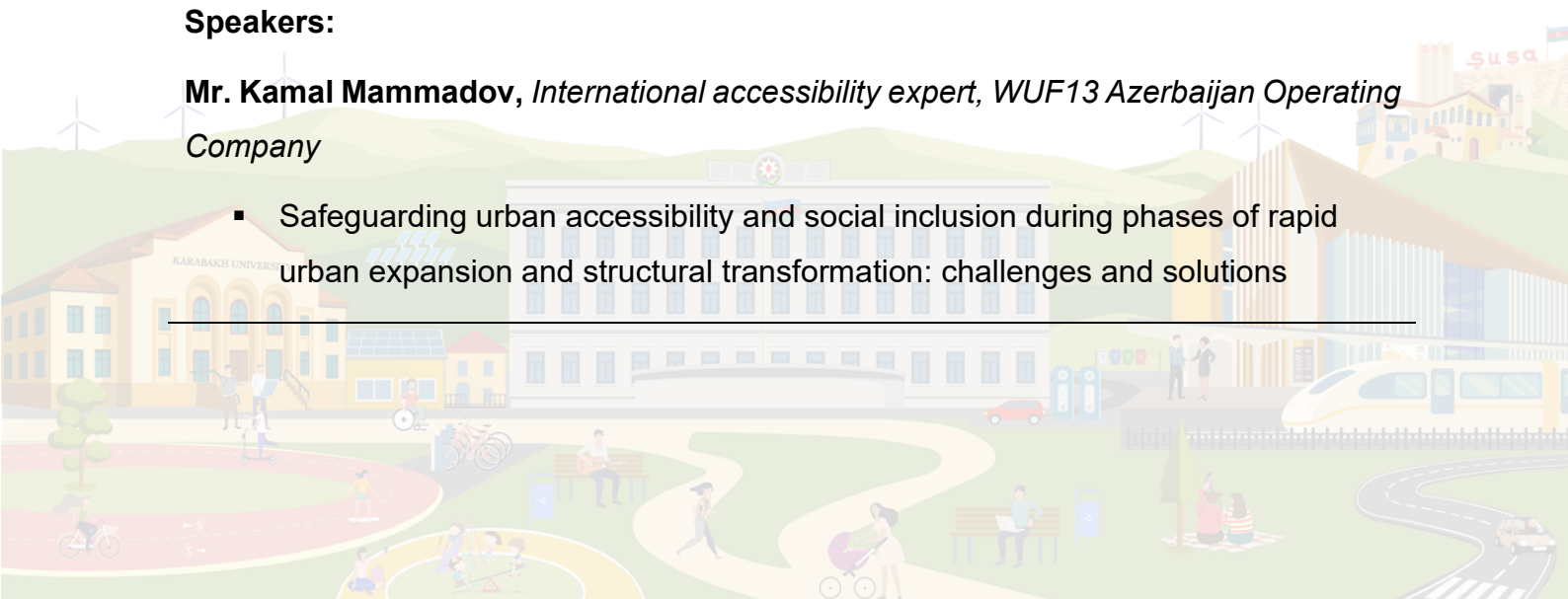
## 15:45 – 16:45 PANEL SESSION 6. Ensuring Urban Accessibility and Inclusivity for all

Moderated by **Mr. Ramil Jahangirov**, *State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

### Speakers:

**Mr. Kamal Mammadov**, *International accessibility expert, WUF13 Azerbaijan Operating Company*

- Safeguarding urban accessibility and social inclusion during phases of rapid urban expansion and structural transformation: challenges and solutions



**Ms. Le Nguyen Thien Nga**, *Director of the Institute of Policy Administration and Development Strategy (IPADS), Vietnam*

- Integrated Urban Planning and Community Inclusion with Emphasis on Heritage Restoration, Lessons from Vietnam

**Ms. Irina Vaganova**, *Architect and Business Development Manager for Asia, Orange Architects*

- Design for Vibrant Inclusive Resilient Cities | Insights from Dutch sustainable practice

**Mr. Alan Raposo**, *Lead Project Coordinator, International Federation of Pedestrians*

Addressing the needs of women, youth, and children in cities: inclusive and health-centered urban policy measures

**16:45 – 20:50** *Transfer to Fuzuli Airport & Flight to Baku*



**DAY 03** Friday, October 17, 2025

***Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard***

**09:00 – 09:30** Registration and Networking

**09:30 – 09:35** Video message from **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, *Mayor of Kuala Lumpur*

**09:35 – 10:30** **PANEL SESSION 7. Climate resilient and healthy cities**

Moderated by **Ms. Katja Schaefer**, *Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat*

**Speakers:**

**Ms. Umayra Tagiyeva**, *Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and of Natural Resources, Azerbaijan*

- Adapting cities and urban infrastructure to climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through Early Warning Systems

**Dr. Abdulla Muththalib**, *Minister of Construction & Infrastructure, Republic of Maldives*

- From Scattered Islands to Resilient Cities: Financing Adaptation through Planned Urban Consolidation in the Maldives

**Mr. Curt Garrigan**, *Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, UNESCAP*

- Climate change and urban resilience: strategic and evidence-based policy, financing strategies and cross-sector actions

**Mr. Amos Brandeis**, *Urban & Regional Planning Ltd., Israel*

- Cross-border Collaboration for sustainable Urban Flood Management and River Restoration



**10:30 – 11:30 PANEL SESSION 8. Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Future of the Cities**

Moderated by **Mr. Tural Aliyev**, *Swiss Federal Institute - Eawag / University of Geneva*

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Gholam Reza Kazemian**, *Deputy Minister of Urban Development & Architecture, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, The Islamic Republic of Iran*

- Data-driven governance to improve quality of life in cities

**Mr. Deen Sharp**, *Visiting Fellow in Human Geography and Environment at London School of Economics and Political Science*

- Technology and Innovation After the Digitalization of Everything

**Ms. Yevgeniya Pozigun**, *Senior Associate, Zaha Hadid Architects*

- Shaping Tomorrow's Cities with AI: Zaha Hadid Architects' Creative Approach

**Mr. Neils Balgalis**, *Managing Director, Grupa93, Latvia*

- Urban Laboratory for Innovation and Dialogue

**11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break**

**12:00 – 13:00 PANEL SESSION 9. Transformative Potential of Finance for Climate Action in Cities**

Moderated by **Dr. Anar Valiyev**, *Associate Professor, Advisor to the Rector, ADA University*

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Norio Saito**, *Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Asian Development Bank*

- Financing sustainable urban infrastructure: getting the private sector on board

**Ms. Turkan Vusat**, *Head of PPP Unit, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan*

- Revitalizing cities: Public-Private Partnerships for a green urban future



**Ms. Tea Melikadze**, *Associate Director, Senior Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*

- Working with EBRD – Financing Urban Climate Action

**Ms. Cristina García Fontán**, *Associate Professor, University of A Coruña*

- Enhancing Urban Resilience: Collaboration Across the Value Chain

**13:00 – 14:00 PANEL SESSION 10. Fostering Inter-Sectoral Partnerships for an Equitable and Green Urban Future**

Moderated by **Ms. Romola Sanyal**, *Associate Professor of Urban Geography, The London School of Economics and Political Science*

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Silapberdi Nurbediyev**, *Deputy Secretary General, Economic Cooperation Organization*

- Bridging continents, connecting strategic and multi-modal transportation and logistics hubs that drive regional socio-economic growth: unlocking the Middle Corridor's promise

**Mr. Mahir Aliyev**, *Regional Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme*

- Role of regional collaboration and inter-sectoral partnerships

**Ms. Heidi Shalaby**, *National Organization of Urban Harmony (NOUH), Ministry of Culture, Egypt*

- Culture, Collaboration, and Climate: Building Harmony in Cities

**Mr. Leonardo Cavalli**, *Co-founder and Managing Partner of One Works*

- Rebuilding the Soul of a City: Designing Urban Spaces with Cultural Significance

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**14:00 – 14:15 Closing Remarks**

**Mr. Anar Guliyev**, *Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

**14:15 – 15:00 Closing Luncheon**

**Thank you for your participation!**

Together, we are shaping a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban future for the world.

**We'll be happy to see you at the World Urban Forum 13 (WUF13) in Baku,  
May 17–22, 2026!**

