

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

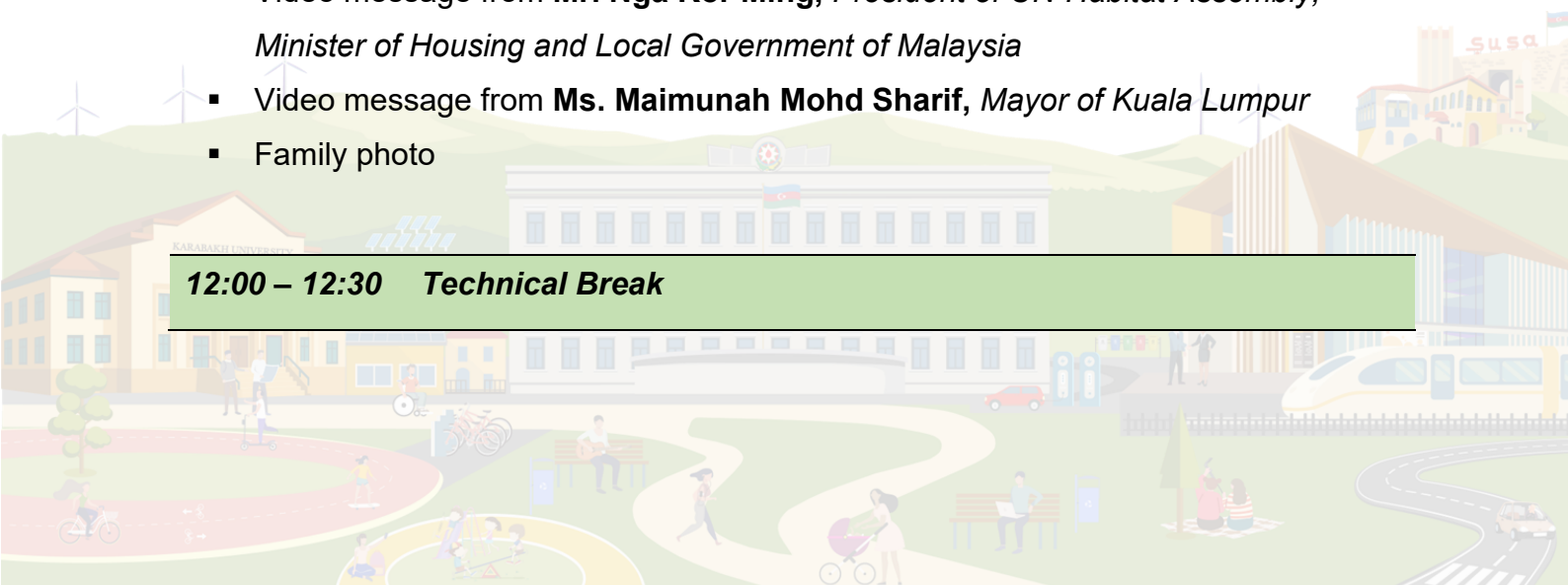
09:00 – 10:45 Registration of Participants & Welcome Coffee

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*
- Video message from **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, *Mayor of Kuala Lumpur*
- 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 Hajiyeu**, *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*

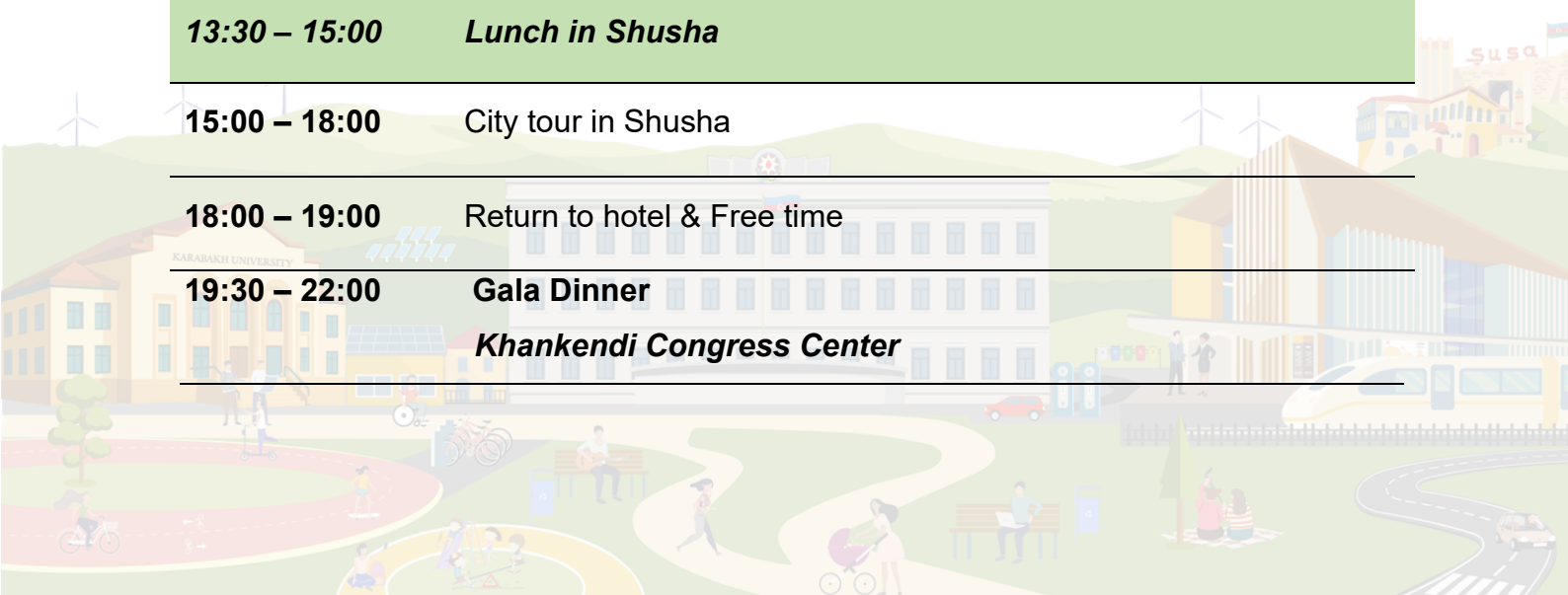
- SMEs as Drivers of Economic Growth and Social Welfare in Karabakh: The Strategic Role of State Policy

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*

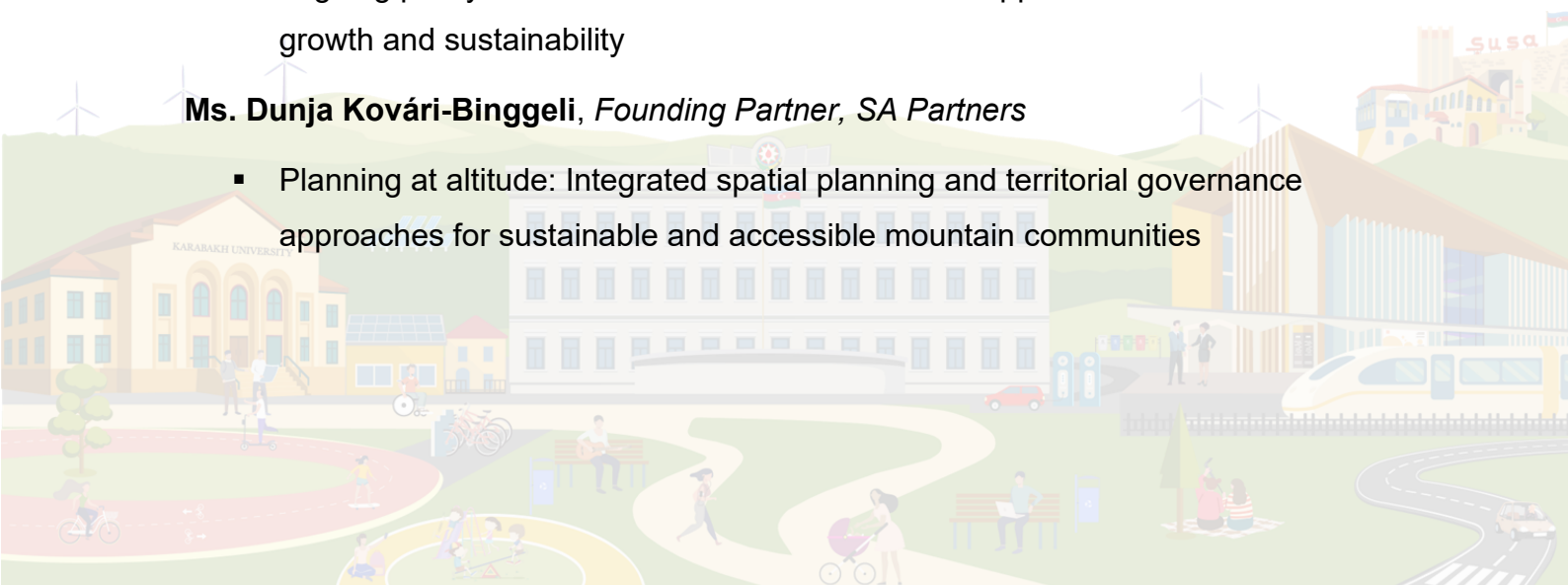
- Unlocking the Potential of Secondary: The case of Uzbekistan

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

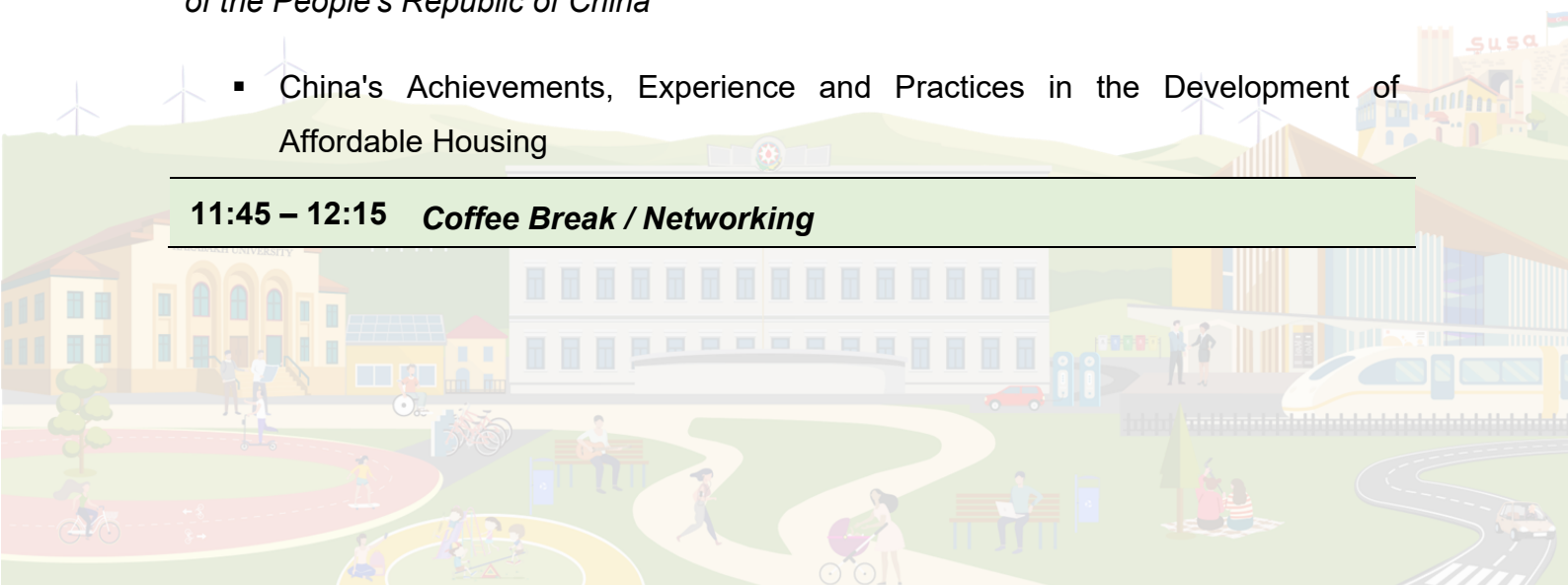
Ms. Jennifer Duyne Barenstein, *Executive Director, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology*

- 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 **Ms. Hande Harmanci**, *Head of Country Office, WHO Azerbaijan*

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 – 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*

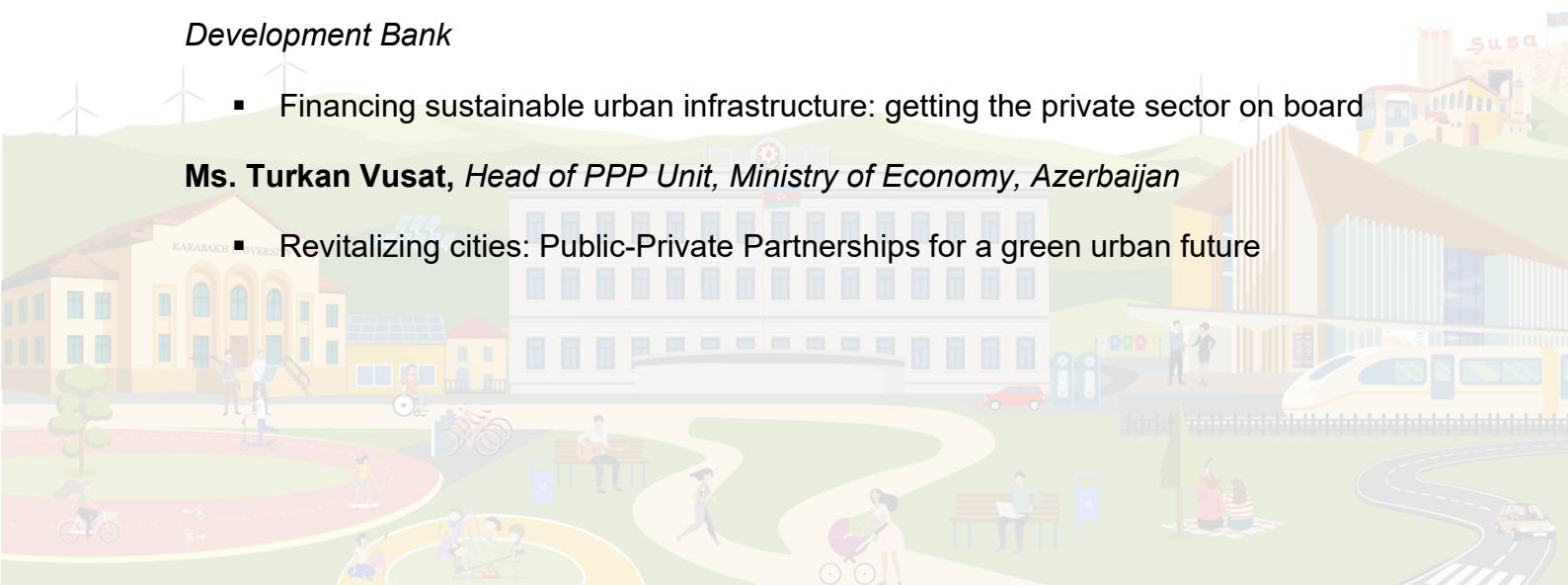
Speakers:

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

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!**

