Unitar Online Catalogue

WUF Academy: CIFAL Global Network for Advancing City Action Through Capacity Development

People

Deadline: 19 May 2026

Type:	Side Event
Location:	Baku, Azerbaijan
Date:	19 May 2026
Duration:	1 Days
Thematic Area:	Other
Website:	https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/wuf13/urban-capacity-lab-cifal-global-network-a...
Price:	$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	dize.dogan@unitar.org
Partnership:	CIFAL Global Network

BACKGROUND

The WUF13 theme "*Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities*" recognizes that achieving adequate housing for all requires more than physical infrastructure. It demands skilled local leadership, innovative governance frameworks, inclusive development approaches, and sustained capacity building

at all levels. As cities face mounting pressures from rapid urbanization, climate change, social inequality, and economic transformation, the need for trained municipal officials, empowered citizens, and resilient institutions has never been greater. This interactive session, organized by UNITAR's CIFAL Global Network, showcases proven approaches to building local capacity for sustainable urban development.

The CIFAL Global Network comprises 32 international training centres worldwide, created by UNITAR in partnership with host governments and institutions. CIFAL Global Network serves as bridge between global agendas and local action, delivering practical training to government officials, civil society leaders, and private sector actors on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through localized, context-specific programmes, CIFAL Global Network empowers cities to address diverse urban challenges including governance, disaster resilience, social inclusion, sustainability education, and civic innovation. This training at WUF Academy locates capacity development as an integral element of advancing city action and presents case studies from CIFAL centres working at the forefront of urban transformation.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

- Showcase proven capacity-building models from the CIFAL Global Network that directly support safe, resilient, and inclusive cities.
- Demonstrate how training local leaders and strengthening institutions accelerates progress toward adequate housing and sustainable urban development.
- Share concrete case studies from cities implementing innovative approaches to urban governance, climate adaptation, university–city partnerships, and sustainable economic development.
- Foster dialogue on scaling capacity-building solutions across diverse geographic, economic, and cultural contexts.
- Highlight multistakeholder participatory action partnerships between training institutions, municipalities, universities, and international networks to build local capacity for implementing the New Urban Agenda.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

09.30 –09.35 Opening Session

09.35 –09.45 Keynote Remarks

09.45–10.40 CIFAL Global Network CapaCity Action

A practitioner-led session drawing on frontline experience across the CIFAL Global Network. Cities explore how they are tackling governance, digital transformation, inclusive planning, and cross-sector collaboration — each contribution grounded in real interventions, transferable lessons, and the question of what it takes to move from capacity building to lasting city-level change.

- Common capacity gaps across cities
- What makes capacity development effective
- How to move from training to implementation

10.40-11.10 Urban Capacity Lab — Model CGN CapaCity Action

A facilitated small-group dialogue in which participants join a Speaker-Anchored Station aligned to their assigned colour. This interactive segment engages participants to identify real capacity gaps and explore CIFAL-inspired city-level solutions through structured conversation and collective reflection, feeding directly into a shared lessons-learned report.

- Shared understanding of priority capacity gaps
- Practical capacity development approaches
- Strengthened city-to-city and institutional linkages

11.10–11:25 Snapshots

Small-Group Key Challenge and Solutions Assessments

11.25-11.30 Closing & Certification

METHODOLOGY

Expert Panel and Participatory Workshop

TARGETED AUDIENCE

- National and local government officials responsible for housing, urban development, and capacity building.
- Municipal leaders, mayors, and city council members seeking proven capacity-building models.
- Urban planners and development practitioners.
- UN agencies, international organizations, and development partners working on urban development.
- Universities, academia, and research institutions engaged in sustainable cities research.
- Training and capacity-building institutions, including other CIFAL centres and education networks.
- Civil society organizations and community leaders driving local change.
- Private sector actors committed to sustainable urban development.