



**HOUSING FORUM**  
EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



## **HOUSING FORUM EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA 2013**

Promoting sustainable housing futures for all

**April 22-24, 2013**  
Palais de Nations, Geneva, Switzerland



## Overview

The second Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia (ECA) is an important international platform for the exchange of information, exploration of challenges, and seeking solutions to sub-standard housing in the Europe and Central Asia region among key governmental, non-governmental, private and civil society sector leaders.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UN-HABITAT are organizing partners of the event. We recognize that no organization or intergovernmental agency can solve the sub-standard housing problem of 1.6 billion people worldwide alone. It is essential that key leaders in the sector join together to ensure that we scale up the work and impact. The Housing Forum is one way of doing just that.

By providing an opportunity for people and organizations to interface in a meaningful way, the success and impact of the whole sector is increased. In addition to interactive sessions with our featured speakers, our program element, the “HUB” offers at least 24 (4 x 6 parallel) working sessions delivered by experts with practical, academic, financial and political experience in housing and related fields. The working sessions are organized into four tracks:

- Track A: Regulatory Frameworks and Housing
- Track B: Housing Solutions
- Track C: Housing Vulnerabilities
- Track D: Housing and Human Development

Sessions will cover energy efficiency, microfinance, housing for vulnerable people, planning for post-disaster housing, social rental agencies, case studies and best practices in Central European, Balkan and Central Asian countries, advocacy, gender issues and housing, unveiling new housing research, legal issues – and more. This focus on interaction and networking is what sets the Housing Forum ECA apart from other conferences.

On last day of the Housing Forum, the report team will present, verbally and visually, the themes that emerged during the event. They will lead delegates through a guided reflection which will manifest the insights, questions and actions needed that emerged during the Housing Forum into a vision creating a

**“Sustainable Housing Futures for All.”**



*If we are to impact the housing deficit throughout the world, we need to partner with groups and organizations committed to this same vision. The Housing Forum is the ideal way to bring like-minded people and groups together, to share, to dream, and to create ways to address the housing issues facing not only this region, but throughout the world.*

- Greg Foster, Area Vice President, Habitat for Humanity International

*Sustainable housing is a requirement, not an aspiration, if we are to ensure a future for all.*

- Graham Saunders, Head, Shelter & Settlements, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



## Program

### Monday, April 22

- 08:00 Security and registration  
Please arrive as early as possible. Security lines can be long.
- 10:30 Opening and welcome
- Welcome from Virginia Cram-Martos, Director, Division of Trade and Sustainable Land Management, UNECE.
  - Opening remarks by Housing Forum master of ceremonies, David Sanderson, Director, Centre for Development and Emergency Practice, Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment, Oxford Brookes University, and the organizing partners: HFHI, IFRC, UNECE, UNDP and UN-HABITAT
  - Overview and sign-up for the “HUB”, the Housing Forum’s key program element of at least 24 interactive sessions.
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Framing “Sustainable Housing Futures for All”  
A conversation and interactive discussion between a panel of distinguished guests active in the housing and related sectors, including Sven Bergenstrahle, President, International Union of Tenants; Robert Archer, Energy Team Leader for the Europe and Eurasia Bureau, USAID; Kurt Eliasson, President CECODHAS Housing Europe; Claudio Acioly, Head Capacity Development Unit, Housing & Urban Management Expert, UN-HABITAT, and additional leaders of major international housing organizations soon to be announced. Moderated by David Sanderson.
- 18:00 Networking reception at the Vieux Bois restaurant

### Tuesday, April 23

- 09:30 HUB kick-off
- 10:00 HUB sessions 1 and 2
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:45 HUB sessions 3 and 4
- 18:00 HUB Round-up

### Wednesday, April 24

- 09:30 General report  
Verbal and visual animation summarizing and discussing the main issues, ideas, problems and challenges raised during the Forum
- 10:30 Visioning the future  
Making concrete the insights, questions and actions needed which emerged during the Forum by all delegates.
- 11:30 Closing session  
Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary of UNECE  
Organizing partners: HFHI, IFRC, UNECE, UNDP and UN-HABITAT

## Event details

### Dates:

Monday April 22, 2013  
08:00 – 21:00

Tuesday April 23, 2013  
09:30 – 19:00

Wednesday, April 24, 2013  
09:30 – 12:30

### Venue:

Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland



## Venue and accommodation

As one of our organizing partners, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will host the Housing Forum ECA at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Hotels are available in Geneva and the nearby Ferney-Voltaire, France. Some suggestions can be found on our web [www.ecahousingforum.eu](http://www.ecahousingforum.eu).

## Who should attend

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International NGO's  
Governmental agencies for international development  
Housing advocacy networks and organizations  
Research institutes  
Social inclusion advocacy networks and organizations  
Financial institutions  
Utility service providers  
Construction businesses  
UN agencies  
EU agencies related to housing and social inclusion  
Global development agencies  
Microfinance institutions  
Architects  
PhD candidates  
Representative from national and local governments  
Foundations and other donor institutions  
Social innovation centers



## Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

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We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organization to raise its profile and publicly support the work of Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia.

For further information please contact:

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## Organizing partners



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## Sponsoring partner



EUROPEAN FUND FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE

## Supporting partners

