



# UN-Habitat names 2023 Scroll of Honour Award winners

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif and 2022 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour winner Stanley Anigbogu © UN-Habitat

**Nairobi, 15 August 2023**—The 2023 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award winners have been announced.

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award is one of the most prestigious awards that recognises initiatives or individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field sustainable urbanization, and for improving the quality of urban life.

This year, UN-Habitat received more than 80 nominations including individuals, organisations and projects originating from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

All the winning candidates were examples of best practice initiatives and achievements that contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The award will be presented during World Habitat Day (WHD), which is dedicated to reflect on the state of cities and human settlements. The day is celebrated on the first Monday of October, every year.

“We have five impressive winners this year. I want to congratulate them and thank them for their contribution to address stubborn urban challenges,” said UN-Habitat’s Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif. “So long as we keep our feet rooted to the ground, invest in innovative solutions that are cost-effective and scale them up, our urban future will be sustainable.”

Pen portraits of the 2023 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor Award winners:

- **Fundación Pro Empleo Productivo, A.C., from Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico:** *for developing training programmes that promote job creation and improve economic productivity in cities. This model supported 17,000 microenterprises and 100,000 jobs in Mexico that have impacted the lives of more than 110,000 people since its inception.*

Fundación ProEmpleo was born as a response to the unemployment and instability kicked off by the economic crisis 1994 in Mexico. Through training and consulting programs, they promote economic activities like job creation, entrepreneurship, formalization, and the growth of microenterprises. ProEmpleo is, in Mexico, a reference in promoting the culture of entrepreneurship as a dignified and desirable way of life that allows people to recognize and exercise their human rights to create better environments. ProEmpleo empowers people through knowledge to obtain a broader vision in the search for their inclusion in the productive world and motivates them to be community leaders and future entrepreneurs.

- **Dubai Municipality, United Arab Emirates:** *for establishing and implementing the Fat, Oil and Grease Waste Recycling Programme (FOG) to deal with waste material from the hospitality industry. The programme transforms waste into valuable resources, promoting circular economy and environmental sustainability in a water scarce context.*

Thousands (i.e over 8000) of restaurants/ hotels process food in large quantities and an equal amount of Fat, oil and grease ( FOG)

waste is dumped down the drains. FOG cause major problems to drains and sewers when disposed of down the kitchen sinks or drains cause blockages and when they enter rainwater pipes or gullies, they cause pollution in streams and rivers.

In order to overcome this issue, Dubai Municipality (DM), and M/s Al Serkal group established a FOG waste recycling facility in year 2008/2009 on Boot basis for 25 years which recycles Fog waste from hotels, restaurants and food processing industries. In fact, this project has achieved environmental sustainability and promoted circular economy and has created awareness in the region as well employed more professionals within department to manage proper collection /disposal of FOG waste at facility. Some 50 professionals are directly employed by M/s Al Serkal envirol facility to manage operation of plant and is being expanded and extended to other emirates which will create more job opportunities.

· **FICA (Fundo Imobiliário Comunitário para Aluguel), from São Paulo, Brazil:** *for its action devoted to fighting housing speculation and gentrification in central areas of three major cities in Brazil. This nonprofit organization has helped low-income families fight segregation and supported cities in achieving housing for all.*

FICA is a nonprofit founded in 2015 in São Paulo, Brazil. FICA crowdfunds and buys properties in downtown São Paulo and rents these at non-speculative prices. Its mission is unique in the Brazilian context and in acting as a social landlord, it offers a new role devoted to fighting speculation and gentrification. FICA is a legally established association, run by a board of directors, with 150 sponsors, 23 investors and 4 institutional funders. FICA also counts on an extensive network of partners: volunteers, social movements, other non-profit organizations, public policy makers, universities and private sector partners.

· **Assembleia de Moradores from Braga, Portugal:** *for creating city-wide social, economic, and environmental development solutions for all residents through facilitating relations between the City of Braga, the municipal housing company, and the social housing beneficiaries in the City of Braga.*

The “Assembleia de Moradores” was established in December 2021 and besides all empowerment actions taken during 2022, the best outcome is the codesign of the municipal programme of the City of Braga, “Viva o Bairro”. The one-year program is a model of participatory government that consists of the development of actions implemented by the civil society itself in Braga Social Neighborhood’s, with the financial and technical support of Braga City Council.

Through “Viva o Bairro”, the City Council is trying to reinforce the socio-territorial cohesion of the municipality of Braga, by mobilizing citizen energy in the search for solutions that can become sustainable into the future. The interventions can be related to the improvement of the appearance of the neighbourhood, the creation of services and activities for the community and visitors, the restoration, re-zoning and occupancy of public space, the promotion of the citizenry or the prevention of risk-related behaviour.

· **Ecovinroment from Bumeh Slum, Sierra Leone:** *for tackling the critical issue of plastic pollution and its detrimental impact on the urban environment. Their innovative chemical-free plastic extrusion technology also offers job opportunities for the most marginalized groups in the least developed country that is recovering from disasters while remaining prone to climate change.*

By recycling plastic waste for slums and communities, Ecovinroment contributes to reducing plastic pollution, with a target of recycling one million tons of plastic waste and creating 2,000 green jobs for underprivileged youth and women, effectively addressing the issue of youth unemployment, and promoting social inclusion by 2030. The initiative’s efforts have also resulted in a 25% reduction in the cost of acquiring construction bricks, making sustainable alternatives more accessible and affordable for the community. Sustainability, Transferability, and Scalability: Ecovinroment’s approach to sustainability and creating resilient urban economies extends beyond environmental concerns. By integrating a business-wide approach to environmental sustainability, Ecovinroment ensures the project’s long-term viability.



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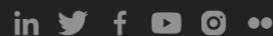
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