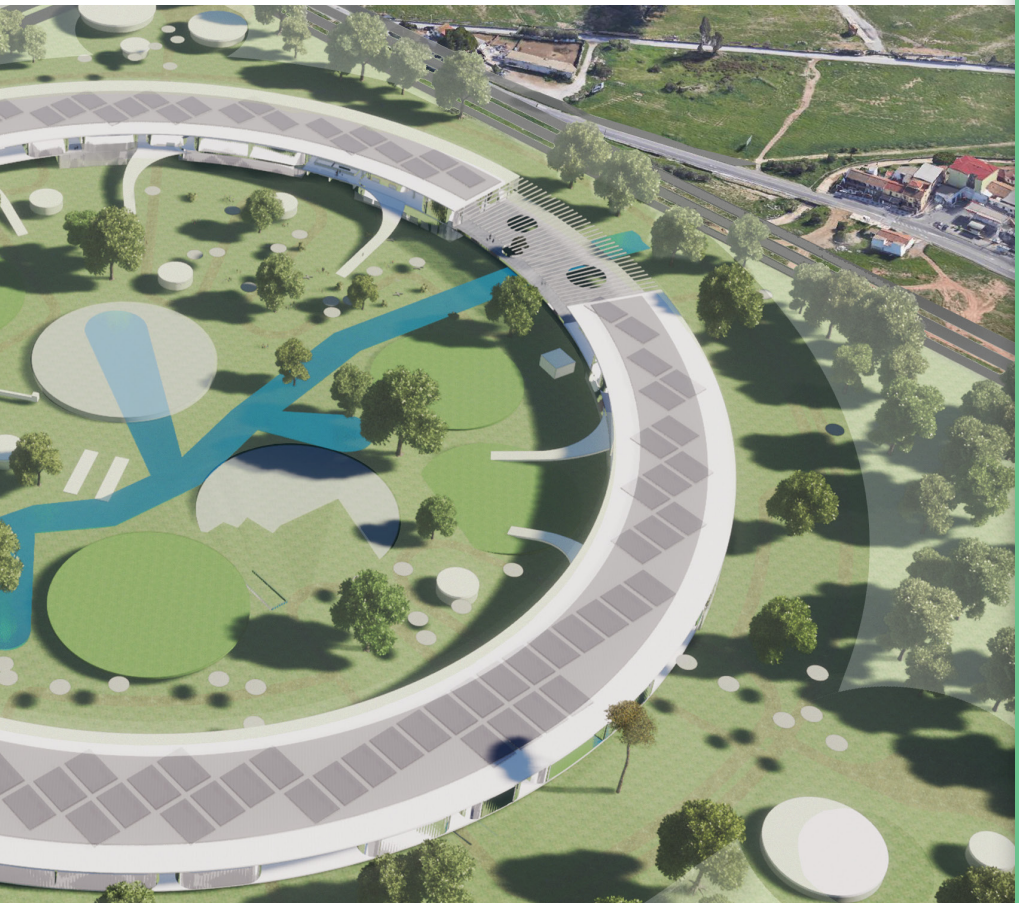


# EXPO 2027 MALAGA

## THE THEME AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

### WORK NOTEBOOK

THE URBAN ERA: TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE CITY  
CITIZENSHIP, INNOVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT





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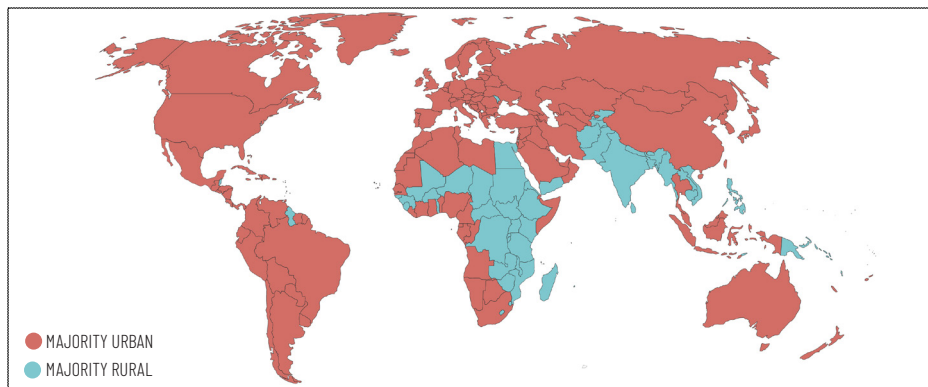
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# 1 - RELEVANCE OF THE THEME OF EXPO MALAGA

## 1.1. THE URBAN ERA

In 2027, the world will be only three years away from the review of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 10 years will have passed since Habitat III, so it will be a good time to propose accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, on the road to Habitat IV. And 17 years will have passed since the celebration of Expo 2010 in Shanghai. With the slogan, **Better City, Better Life**, the event coincided with the moment when the urban population surpassed the rural population on a planetary scale; Expo 2010 provided an important global reflection on the urban phenomenon from a historical and contemporary perspective and presented future trends.



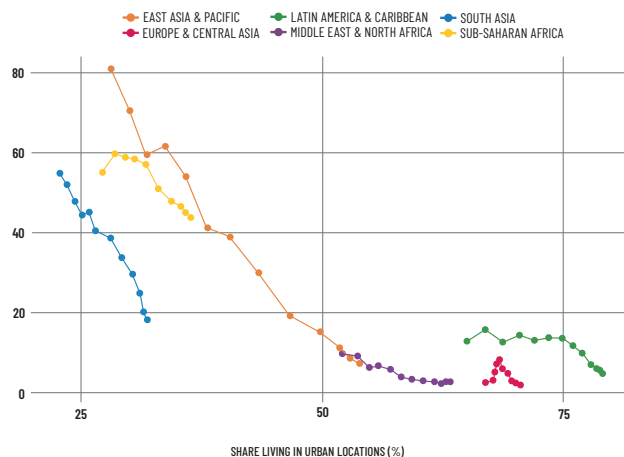
Since then, urban growth has been relentless, as has the impact of cities on the planet.

By 2027 the urban population will be reaching 60% of the total population; therefore, promoting sustainability in the urban context is a priority on global agendas.

**Expo 2027 MALAGA** will be the perfect occasion to share solutions and achievements and address pressing challenges and evaluate together how do we advance toward the sustainable urban development.

URBANIZATION HAS OCCURRED ALONGSIDE DECLINING POVERTY ACROSS MOST REGION

POVERTY VS URBANIZATION, 1981-2012



## 1.2. CITIES FACING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cities, as great consumers of energy and great green effect gas generators, contribute greatly to climate change; at the same time, climate change and all the phenomena associated with it, hit cities hard.

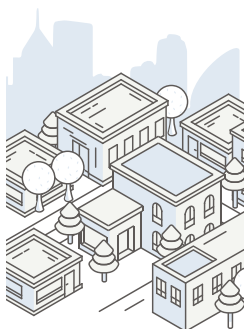
Increasing urbanisation requires ensuring that cities reduce their climate impact and calls for urban models that are resilient to natural phenomena.

**“Cities are where the climate battle will largely be won or lost”**

Antonio GUTERRES  
SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA ONU  
CUMBRE MUNDIAL DE ALCALDES C40 2019

### URBAN IMPACT \*

- Cities now account for nearly 60% of the world's **population**.
- Some 85% of the world's **economic activity** takes place in cities.
- The world's cities occupy only 3% of the earth, but account for 60% to 80% of **energy consumption** and 75% of **carbon emissions**.



Cities must try to mitigate their impact on the climate, limiting greenhouse gas emissions; and, in parallel, they must take adaptation measures to climate change, which reduce their vulnerability.

Planning, building and managing climate-friendly cities involves multiple commitments and actions; many cities are already doing this and offer hopeful examples of success that find great allies in technological advances and digitalisation. Cities and local action offer the best opportunity for positive global change.

### HOW TO REDUCE THE URBAN FOOTPRINT

- Promoting the compact, mixed and **integrated city**, which reduces displacement and allows the generation of economies of scale in the provision of goods and services.
- Decarbonising public **transport** and introducing active transport, which relegates the use of the private car.
- Improving **construction** to achieve passive, efficient and emission-free buildings.
- Promoting non-fossil **energy** alternatives.
- Using **water** rationally, improving pipelines, sanitation and recycling.
- Implementing **circular systems** in urban supply chains that reduce waste and avoid the production of goods, giving them a second life.

## 1.3. INTEGRAL SUSTAINABILITY: CHALLENGES AND INSTRUMENTS

But to achieve global sustainability and make it lasting, it must be implemented from a systemic and multidimensional perspective that guarantees a sustained socio economic development, equitable, inclusive, and balanced.

The UN\*, in various follow-up reports on the 2030 agendas and the New Urban Agenda, points out the main challenges we continue to face and the solutions to alleviate them, including among others:

## CHALLENGES

- **Marginalisation and inequality.** According to UN estimates, 1.6 billion urban dwellers worldwide – one third of the total – live in informal settlements (slums, favelas, shantytowns, etc.).
- **Fragility and scarcity of freshwater supply.** Rapid urbanisation is putting pressure on freshwater supplies, wastewater, the living environment and public health. It is also exacerbating the food crisis.
- **Limit the territorial expansion of cities** whose growth has been much greater than the growth of the population, causing an impact on the environment, territorial imbalances, social exclusion, and loss of productivity.
- **Air pollution.** More than half of the world's urban population is exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times higher than the safe standard.

## SOLUTIONS \*\*

- **Ending** poverty and combating inequalities.
- **Boosting** equitable and sustainable urban economies.
- **Decoupling** urbanisation from environmental pollution.
- **Promoting** participatory urban planning approaches to prevent urban crises.
- **Strengthening** positive economic, social and environmental connections between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.
- **Supporting** the least developed countries to construct sustainable and resilient buildings, using local materials.

## INSTRUMENTS

### 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations launched the 2020-2030 decade of action to achieve 17 sustainable development goals. SDG 11 is specific to sustainable cities and communities, but 65% of all SDG targets will only be achieved if they are addressed locally, leaving no one and nowhere behind.

### NEW URBAN AGENDA

The NUA, adopted as part of Habitat III in 2016, provides a shared vision for better and more sustainable territories and cities. It provides guidance on how well-planned and managed urbanisation can be a transformative force for sustainable development in both developing and developed countries, and for both rural and urban development.

The UN agendas have influenced the agendas of many countries, regions, and of the various networks, associations and specific initiatives related to improvements and innovation in cities (C40, UCGL, etc.); they have been the protagonists of the most important international forums specialised in Climate and Cities in recent years.

## EXPO 2027 MALAGA, A MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

**EXPO 2027 MALAGA** aims to join this global effort and contribute to bringing society closer to a recognition of the importance of this international movement, offering a framework for open reflection to share with everyone, in which to present challenges and solutions that help cities to promote sustainability from this integrative perspective. This will be a unique opportunity to disseminate and share local solutions that are applicable to different environments, and ways to implement global solutions that should be adopted by everyone; and to promote the metabolism of cities with the territories, the urban-rural links, a to advance towards local-regional resilience.

Specialised World Expos are platforms for dissemination, dialogue and promotion of international cooperation that offer a unique occasion for global reflection on a burning and critical issue. The climate emergency, the need to move towards a sustainable development model that is inclusive, and the potential impact of cities on achieving it, **make the theme chosen by Malaga 2027 in one of the most important today for the future of the planet.**



## 2 - THE THEME OF EXPO 2027 MALAGA

**“Our struggle for global sustainability will be won or lost in cities”**

Ban KI-MOON  
 SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA ONU, ABRIL 2012

### 2.1. FOCUS OF THE THEME AND SUB-THEMES

#### THE URBAN ERA: TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE CITY CITIZENSHIP, INNOVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

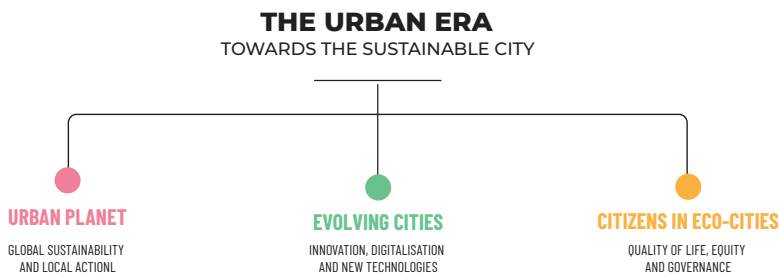
Citizenship, innovation and environment, the subtitle of the proposed theme for Expo 2027 MALAGA, expresses an **intriguing and aspirational approach towards a specific goal: the sustainable city**. This triad of interconnected concepts represents the necessary foundations for the responsible and sustainable management of the urbanisation process.

Urbanisation is an irreversible global trend; if addressed with a **sustainable approach it will be a driver of transformation** and a fundamental tool for inclusive, economic and social growth for cities and their inhabitants. **Innovation** will be one of its main allies, applied in different sectors: housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent employment, safety, inclusion, natural resources.

**The theme of EXPO 2027 MALAGA offers the necessary framework to share realities, challenges and solutions that will contribute to the sustainable development of cities, human settlements and citizens, allowing them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives.**

The Expo will also be a universal gathering that will demonstrate how culture and cultural diversity are sources of enrichment for humanity.

**The theme of EXPO 2027 MALAGA is organised into three sub-themes**, allowing the focus of analysis to be placed on three different scales:



2.2.

**SUB-THEME 1**  
**URBAN PLANET** Global sustainability and local action

Urbanisation is one of the greatest planetary transformation of our era, driven by – and also a driver of – multiple social, economic and environmental processes. On an “urban planet”, global sustainability depends, in great extent, on our ability to make cities sustainable.

**OBJECTIVES**

Global interactions between the planetary and the local scale are critical and are the focus of the sub-theme, which aims to:

- **Highlight global interactions, derived from rapid urbanisation**, such as the consequences of increasing urban concentration and its importance in relation to the environment, atmosphere, biodiversity and resources; having a global perspective on the urbanisation process, patterns and trends.

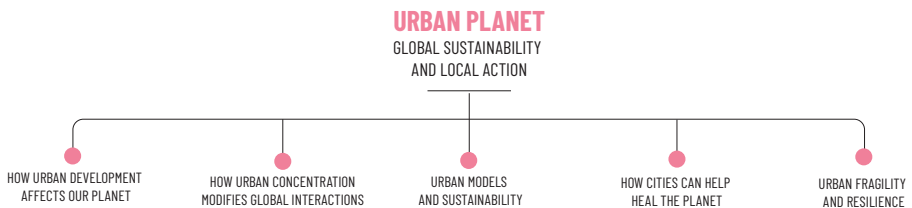


- **Raise awareness of the impacts and opportunities generated by this concentration process, at a global level:** such as consequences of adopting specific measures in cities, such as the elimination of private transport, digitalisation, etc.
- **Propose strategies and solutions that should be adopted at global and local scales** to reduce negative impacts, improve resilience, reduce the imbalance between rural and urban territories: among others, sharing national and regional urban development policies, or studying the imbalances – on a planetary scale – that urbanisation is causing in the abandonment of rural life and applicable solutions, etc.

**This sub-theme is an invitation to look at cities from a global perspective.**

## CONTENTS

- **How urban development affects our planet**  
Climate change; increase in temperatures and sea level. Loss and disturbance of biodiversity. Impact on resources. Disturbance of natural cycles caused by pollutants. Increase of natural phenomena.
- **Interactions between cities and territory**  
Cities and rurality; conurbations and complex urban systems; relationships between cities.
- **Urban models and sustainability**  
Impacts of different types of cities on the planet: size, density, complexity.  
Positive experiences and trends.  
The search for alternatives.
- **How cities can help heal the planet**  
Recovery of biodiversity, improvement of environmental quality, improvement of the city-territory metabolism. Examples of local actions with positive global impact.
- **Urban fragility and resilience**  
Models to make cities more resilient.  
Solutions for coastal cities.



## 2.3.

## SUB-THEME 2

## EVOLVING CITIES Innovation, digitalisation and new technologies

Cities are living realities in permanent evolution, but they face many challenges and need to reshape and transform themselves into sustainable cities.

## OBJECTIVES

**Innovation is the magic word**, but innovation is not only technology:

- **Knowledge, research and development (R&D+i), digitalisation, multilevel smartisation, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), the Internet of Things and big data**, are all driving forces for the management and control of the functioning of cities.
- **Innovation in social policies, in the control and reduction of environmental impacts**, in the use of resources, in their economic orientation, aligning policies with the **principles of the circular economy**, in the **recovery of biodiversity**, or innovation to achieve **healthy cities**, are equally important.

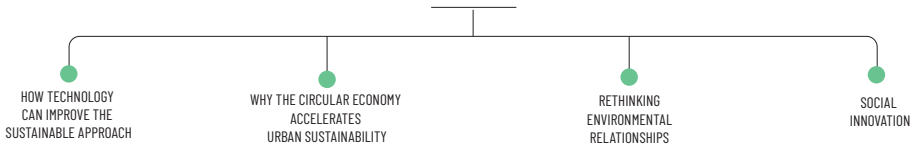
This sub-theme, in short, is designed to **share proposals and specific innovative models that improve the sustainability** of our cities, **preventing and reducing socio-economic gaps and inequalities**.

## CONTENTS

- **How technology can improve the sustainable approach:** smartisation and digitalisation; R&D+i; implementation of systems that promote knowledge.
- **Why the circular economy accelerates urban sustainability:** balancing resource use and generation; reducing consumption; increasing regeneration, recycling, etc.; working towards self-sufficiency and urban security (energy, water, food, etc.); brings cities closer to the self-sufficiency and urban security (energy, water, food), sometimes recovering traditional solutions.
- **Rethinking environmental relationships:** zero-emission models; ideas for biodiversity regeneration; territorial intelligence; implementing green/blue infrastructures and nature-based solutions; improving city resilience to climate change and natural disasters, etc.
- **Social innovation:** adapting education to new realities and professional needs; accelerating employment opportunities; examples of improving inclusiveness and equality; ideas to promote cultural life and integration; solutions to implement the “One Health” approach in urban health policies.

## EVOLVING CITIES

INNOVATION, DIGITALISATION  
AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES



2.4.

### SUB-THEME 3

### CITIZENS IN ECO-CITIES Quality of life, equity and governance

We use the expression eco-city to express an aspiration, as an open concept, with no connection to the different examples of eco-neighbourhoods that have been developed in recent decades, in different places, other than the aspirational.

#### OBJECTIVES

This sub-theme encourages:

- **Sharing of ideas, projects, models and strategies** to make the aspiration of a sustainable urban future a reality.
- **Offers space for the perspective of city dwellers** and the imagining of what life in eco-cities will be like and how it will improve quality of life, equity and governance.
- **Imagining eco-urban models** will be an effective tool to raise citizens' awareness of the benefits of change and the need to get involved to make it happen and contribute to accelerating the process.

**This sub-theme invites to share specific examples of projects that are changing and improving the life of cities and their citizens.**

#### CONTENTS

- **Passive homes in green environments**  
Passive and emission-neutral homes; energetic self-sufficiency; Compact spaces with integrated gardens and green areas; Private or communal spaces; Digitally connected; Accessible.
- **Inclusive mixed-use neighbourhoods**  
Formulas to address urban growth and land and home ownership; Socially integrated and inclusive neighbourhoods, in which different social groups coexist and interact; individual-use housing coexisting with community and shared housing solutions, residences, etc; Mixed-use neighbourhoods, integrating residential use with basic daily services: commerce, services, workplaces, parks, sports and leisure areas, etc; Neighbourhoods that are well connected and integrated into the city and attractive, allowing easy access to services and the natural environment.

- **Circular economy**

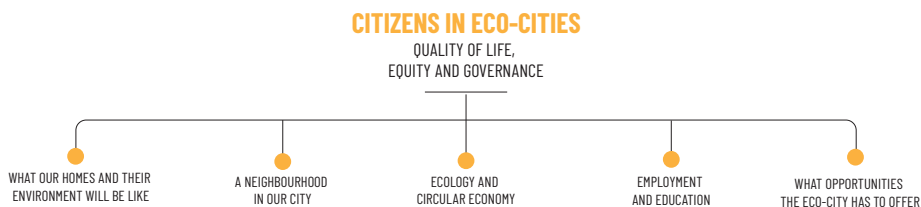
Active transport, linked to clean public transport networks and pedestrian or bicycle lanes, integrating the different areas of the city and all the diversity of services and attractions it offers; zero fossil fuels; solar and other renewable energy production; recycling systems; zero waste; high-performance supply networks and technical systems; green areas; gardens; urban community gardens; farmers' markets; barter markets for goods and services.

- **Employment and education**

Home-based work combined with co-working spaces; low-rent premises for start-ups, professionals, artisans and creative centres; economic activities that act as traction for development and employment; nearby schools; Higher education and production centres connected to public transport.

- **Equitable, inclusive and participatory**

Living, working and socialising in the same area; healthy environment and healthy quality of life; diverse, socially inclusive community; sharing of knowledge, skills, experiences and care; sharing of community work; participatory decision making in improved governance models.



## 3 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEME ON THE SITE

### 3.1. THE SITE AND PAVILIONS

#### THE SITE, AN EXAMPLE OF AN ECO-CITY

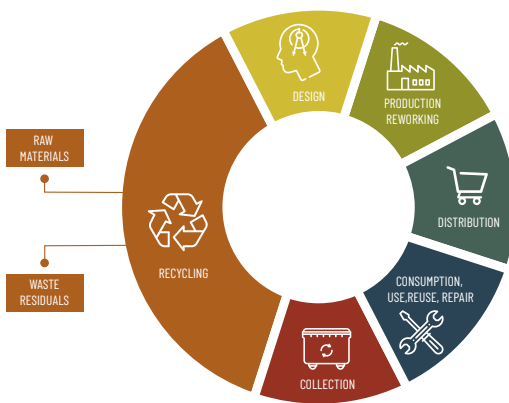
The site, located in a productive area of the city, is conceived in itself as **a model ecological neighbourhood**. During the months of the Expo, a residential area (Expo City) and service, logistics and communications areas will be set up next to the 25 hectares dedicated to the Expo itself.

Once the Expo is over, the 80-hectare intervention area will be transformed into **a mixed-use neighbourhood** with residential areas, green areas, production and service zones. The Expo buildings are being designed to be easily reconverted into an innovative business park, also connected to university uses.



The overall site is conceived as a sustainable neighbourhood, **based on the circular economy, harmonious, walkable, green, biodiverse:**

- With reduced emissions, waste recycling (a zero-waste model is being studied for implementation), balanced metabolism and minimal light pollution.
- Based on the principles of bioclimatic architecture: use of local materials, buildings that favour natural ventilation and do not depend on air conditioning systems that consume a lot of energy.
- An example of conservation of the environment, the atmosphere and the night skies.
- With precise control of its ecological footprint, both during its construction and operation for the Expo, as well as in its second life.



But, in addition, as a model neighbourhood, the principles and solutions that govern its planning, the solutions and technologies that make it up, will be made clear and visible for the public to perceive and understand.

THE RING: PARTICIPANTS' PAVILIONS

The site is delimited by a large ring-shaped building enclosing a circle approximately 75 m wide and 500 m in diameter; this building will house the participants' pavilions, catering areas and entertainment areas. Three large access areas will allow the public to enter the ring and the rest of the site.

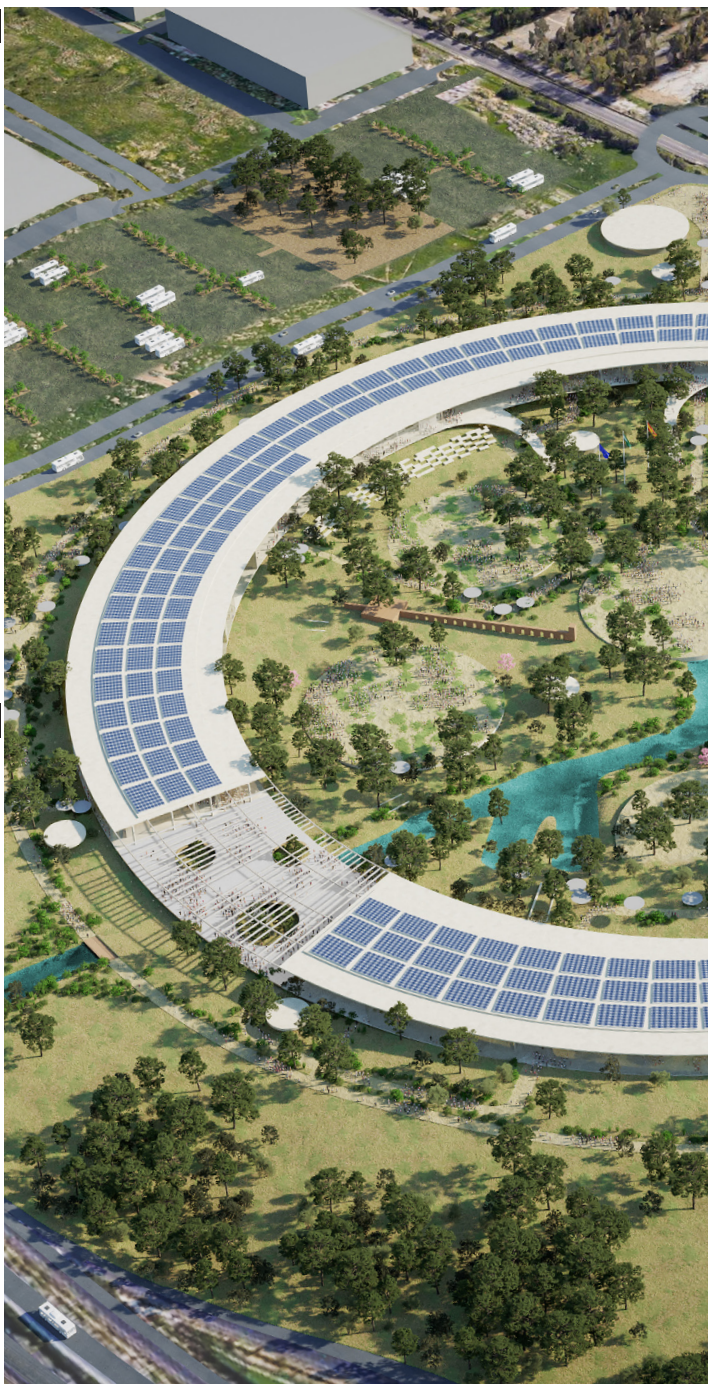
**Offers more than 73,000 m2 for participant pavilions of different sizes.**

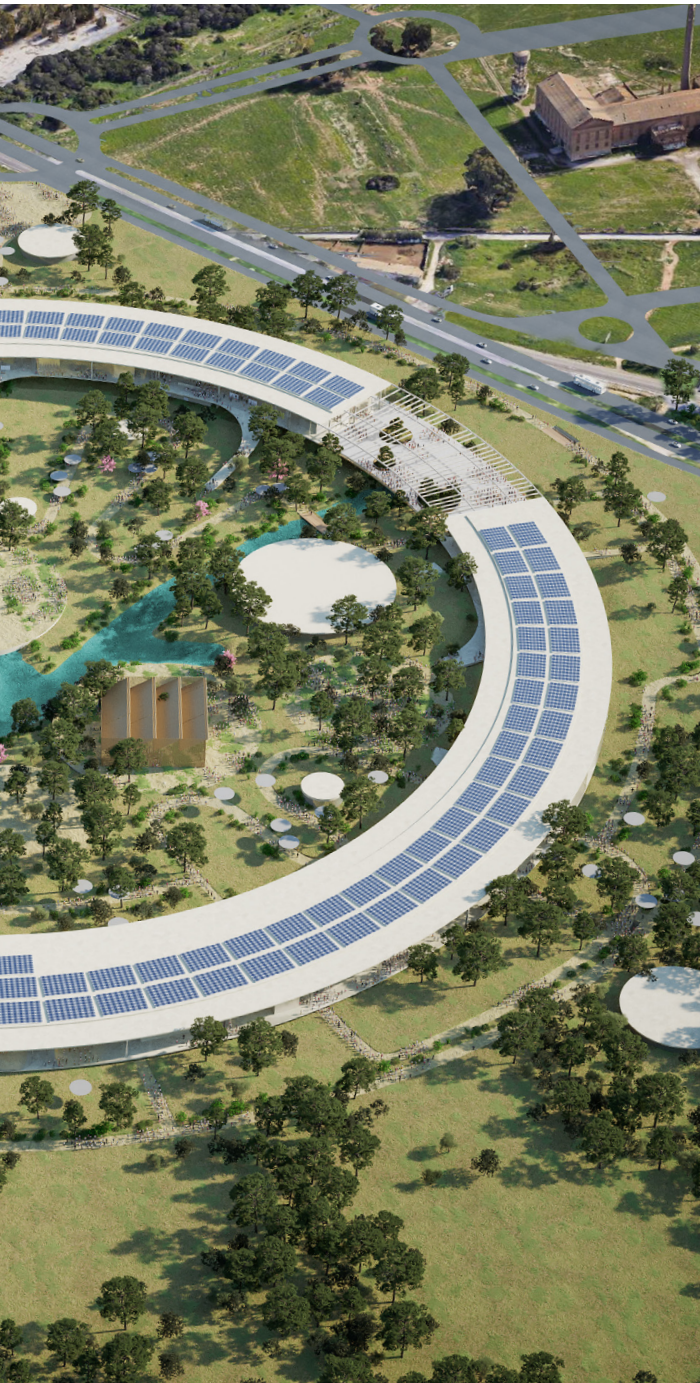
The ring will house the pavilions of the different types of participants: national, corporate and those of international organisations.

HOST COUNTRY, THEMATIC AREAS

Inside the ring, a large circular space with trees, a green area, squares and spaces for activities will be created in an area covering 125,000 m2, including a large amphitheatre with a capacity for 3,000 seated spectators and multi-purpose spaces for cultural activities. A stream crosses the site from north to south and will be the stage for the daily parade. **It will also house the pavilion of Spain and the autonomous communities and several thematic areas.**

The thematic areas will house various pavilions and complementary exhibition and activity spaces, promoted and developed by the organiser.





These **areas** will be focused on developing the three sub-themes into which the general theme of the Expo is divided. Together with these, the **Urban Laboratory** will be an area in which to present best practices to achieve integral sustainability from cities. They are conceived as exhibition spaces with large capacity and very attractive for the general public.

### URBAN PLANET INTERACTIONS AREA

7,000 m<sup>2</sup>

High visitor capacity

This thematic pavilion, **based on a large, immersive, multimedia audiovisual show, will offer an amazing panoramic view of our urban planet**, reflecting the small surface occupied by cities in contrast to the diversity of worlds that cities are home to. It will allow visitors to travel through different environments and urban situations - mega-cities, small cities, conurbations - to understand the different types of generic models and relationships that are established between the different types of cities and their environments - service, productive, natural, rural, etc. It will show the intensity of the connection networks between the world's cities and will provide an understanding of how the urban phenomenon has transformed our planet, as well as various projections of how this evolution may continue in the coming decades.

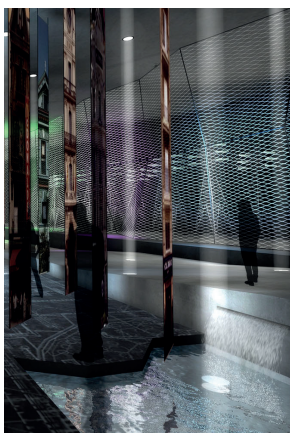
## URBAN CHALLENGES AREA

8,000 m2

High visitor capacity

The second sub-theme, evolving cities, will be developed in a thematic area formalised through **a multimedia exhibition route**, which will take visitors through interior spaces connected to open spaces.

This area is dedicated to systematically showcasing tools, technologies and strategies to address the different types of challenges facing cities: implementation of smart systems and digitalisation to improve efficiency and decouple cities from environmental problems; how the circular economy can contribute to the challenge of balancing resource consumption and waste; the instruments available to regenerate biodiversity or to improve territorial intelligence; how nature itself can help us to develop ecological infrastructures; the resources available to improve the resilience of cities to climate change; how we can advance in socially innovative urban models that address urban challenges and social gaps, adapt education systems to the needs of the digital society, turn cities into healthy spaces, etc.



## LIVING IN ECO-CITIES AREA

10,000 m2

High visitor capacity

This thematic area is **conceived as a participatory space** in which visitors collaborate in defining what eco-cities should be like. This is where the analysis of the consequences of strategic decisions in the urban development process and what kind of scenarios lead to apparently unconnected decisions, are addressed.

As a starting point, this space is conceived around a show aimed at large audiences, which through digital technologies functions as a participatory, interactive and reactive space; a sort of collaborative game that raises awareness about the relevance of decision-making, about the complexity and need to establish good governance in urban planning and management processes and about how each decision affects the quality of life of people and the balance of cities with the planet.

**The main show will be complemented by a series of informal installations**, revealing – with a new approach – different perspectives and situations of urban life in eco-cities.



## URBAN LABORATORY

As a complement to the development of the three sub-themes and the exhibitions to be held in the pavilions hosted by the different categories of participants, it is planned to organise an area to showcase best practices, dedicated to presenting specific and innovative solutions to improve and balance our cities, showcased by projects promoted by companies, start-ups, research centres, non-governmental organisations, or other entities.

### CALL FOR INNOVATIVE URBAN INITIATIVES

In collaboration with international organisations and official participants who have confirmed their participation early in the process, the organiser will promote a selection process for innovative proposals or technological solutions to improve cities; the aim is to support and give visibility to new initiatives that are in the process of development when the call is launched. A selection of these initiatives will have their space in the Urban Laboratory, in open-air displays or located in ephemeral buildings.

### THE SITE, AN EXAMPLE OF AN ECO-NEIGHBOURHOOD

This area will house an exhibition on the site itself and the neighbourhood it will become once the Expo is over since, as the project is conceived, the site itself will be an interesting laboratory of urban innovation.

### URBAN R&D+I MARKETPLACE

Ephemeral spaces will be organised to carry out thematic exhibitions that will take place throughout the weeks of the Expo, to give visibility and create the framework for sectoral exchanges, between projects related to critical issues to achieve integral urban sustainability.

### URBAN AGORA

Organised and managed by NGOs and other international institutions, this will be a point of exchange, a space for cross-pollination open to partnerships, alliances or initiatives linked to urban sustainability.



## 3.2. EXPO FORUM

Several thematic weeks will be organised throughout the 3 months of the Expo, on specific aspects related to each sub-theme.

During these weeks, all kinds of activations will take place: conferences and colloquiums, exchange of experiences, collaborative actions, co-creation workshops, awareness-raising activities or related cultural events. These activities will take place in different areas and against different backdrops of the site, as well as in Malaga.

Official and unofficial participants will be invited to participate in the organisation of these weeks.

They will cover different ranges of topics related to Urban Sustainability. They may be held in parallel with international conferences or relevant events taking place in the area during the Expo months (e.g., the Greencities fair in September).



# EXPO 2027 MALAGA A MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE CITIES

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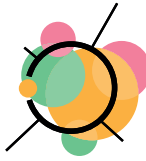
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