

Raf Tuts

Director of the Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat

Raf Tuts is Director of the Global Solutions Division of UN-Habitat, based at its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. He is overseeing the development and application of UN-Habitat's normative guidelines through global initiatives and flagship programmes, covering various dimensions of sustainable urbanization. He has led an agency-wide effort to study city responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including rethinking the form and function of the city, addressing systemic poverty and inequality in cities, building a new urban economy, and clarifying urban governance arrangements. From 2016 to 2019 he was Director of the Programme Division of UN-Habitat, overseeing its thematic branches and regional offices. From 2012 to 2016 he was Coordinator of the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, with a focus on promoting compact, integrated and connected cities that are inclusive and resilient to climate change. Earlier coordinating assignments at UN-Habitat included the Localising Agenda 21 Programme, the Training and Capacity Branch and the Cities and Climate Change Initiative. He coordinated UN-Habitat's engagement in formulating the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG-11 on 'making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'. He authored and co-edited several publications on a wide range of sustainable urban development topics, including 'Urban Dialogues', a book reflecting on urban space as a resource for sustainable development, based on work in Morocco, Kenya, Vietnam and Cuba. Together with colleagues from the World Bank, UNEP and Cities Alliance, he received the World Bank Vice-President Team Award in 2011 for global partnership building on Cities and Climate Change. He also received ISOCARP's 50th Anniversary Award in 2015 on behalf of UN-Habitat, in recognition of UN-Habitat's urban planning work. Before joining UN-Habitat in 1995, he worked for the Department of Architecture, Urbanism, and Planning of the University of Leuven in Belgium and the Housing Research and Development Unit of the University of Nairobi. In 1985, he obtained a Masters of Science degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Leuven. In December 2016, he was awarded the title of Honorary Professor from the same university.

