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Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2024

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/79/438](#), para. 9)]

79/214. Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions [32/162](#) of 19 December 1977, [56/206](#) of 21 December 2001, [65/165](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/207](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/216](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/239](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/226](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/210](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/235](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/226](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/239](#) of 20 December 2018, [75/224](#) of 21 December 2020 and [77/173](#) of 14 December 2022,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,



Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling its resolution [71/256](#) of 23 December 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, in which it endorsed the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, as contained in the annex to the above-mentioned resolution,

Reaffirming its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on repositioning the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming also the commitment to urban and rural development that is people-centred, protects the planet and is age- and gender-responsive and to the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, facilitating living together, ending all forms of discrimination and violence and empowering all individuals and communities while enabling their full and meaningful participation, and reaffirming further the commitment to promoting culture and respect for diversity and equality as key elements in the humanization of our cities and human settlements,

Reaffirming further the commitment to promoting the use of multi-stakeholder partnerships in urban development processes, as appropriate, and welcoming the decision by the United Nations Habitat Assembly in which it requested the Executive Board, on an exceptional basis, to continue its work to develop a stakeholder engagement policy and to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the Assembly at its resumed regular second session,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030³ can contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Reaffirming the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, given its role within the United Nations system as the focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

Acknowledging the leading role played by the United Nations Habitat Assembly in global urban policymaking, including accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, principally Goal 11, by making cities and other human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,

Recalling the decision of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to endorse the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development⁴ as a whole-of-system approach by the United Nations to harness the opportunities and mitigate the challenges of rapid urbanization through existing global inter-agency processes, regional collaboration platforms and the resident coordinator system to assist countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Recognizing the efforts by the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the Executive Board of UN-Habitat to align the strategic planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting for increasing the quantity and quality of funding for operational activities, while recognizing the need to ensure an adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational and normative activities of UN-Habitat, including its core resources, and the need to make funding more predictable, efficient and effective,

Reaffirming also that the focus of the work of UN-Habitat, in line with the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, should remain within the framework of sustainable development, with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions as its overarching objective, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda,

Acknowledging effective multilevel governance as a key dimension and driver of Sustainable Development Goal localization and strengthening institutional integration, policy coherence and stakeholder engagement across levels and sectors,

Reiterating that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

Recognizing the role of national, subnational and local governments, as appropriate, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, throughout the process, including policymaking, regulatory reforms, policy coherence, urban and regional planning, design, implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, as well as the financing and timely delivery of services,

Aware that the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires enabling policy frameworks at, as appropriate, the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, effective means of implementation, including finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and mutually beneficial partnerships,

Reaffirming the importance of financing sustainable and resilient urbanization and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and maximizing the impact of public and private investments to improve the financial conditions for urban development, taking into consideration the different capacities of governments at all levels,

Reaffirming also the role of the World Urban Forum as an advocacy platform for all stakeholders in the fields of human settlements and sustainable urbanization,

⁴ [CEB/2019/1/Add.5](#).

based on its non-legislative nature, expressing its appreciation to the Government of Egypt and the city of Cairo for hosting the twelfth session of the Forum from 4 to 8 November 2024, focusing on the theme “It all starts at home: local actions for sustainable cities and communities”, and looking forward to the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in the city of Baku from 18 to 22 May 2026,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Emphasizing the furtherance of the New Urban Agenda to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and noting the importance of addressing, as appropriate, the particular needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons and host communities in urban settings,

Recognizing that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by the negative impact of climate change, disasters and environmental degradation, which have exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities for people experiencing homelessness, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, and stressing the need to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, including through the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and to ensure that the right to an adequate standard of living is promoted and respected,

Reiterating its commitment to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and support developing countries to plan and implement just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient and sustainable cities,

Recognizing the profound and dynamic impact that well-managed digitalization and smart cities have on human settlements and human lives, including by providing new ways to support sustainable urban development, enhancing access to basic services, promoting equality, improving accessibility and fostering economic growth while ensuring privacy rights,

Taking note of the Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda for its continued efforts to work on strengthening the interface between the Secretariat and the General Assembly in order to strengthen UN-Habitat, highlight the power of urbanization for sustainable development and accelerate the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Welcoming the convening of the ministerial meeting on urbanization and climate change, held on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and taking note of its report,

Welcoming also the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22-23 September 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, at which resolution [79/1](#) entitled “The Pact for the Future” and its annexes were adopted,

Acknowledging the work of the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments,

Looking forward to the Secretary-General's recommendation on how engagement with local and regional authorities could advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),⁵

Welcoming the comprehensive and integrated approach of UN-Habitat to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the first part of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 June 2023, takes note of the report of the session,⁶ welcomes the resolutions and decisions contained therein, and calls for their full implementation;

2. *Also welcomes* the ministerial declaration entitled "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crisis", adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at the first part of its second session, in which it focuses on a multilevel, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approach to urbanization, with strong attention to data systems and knowledge for evidence-based policies and results monitoring, innovation, advocacy and communication, partnerships, capacity-building and digital transformation for accelerated progress;

3. *Further welcomes* decisions 2/1 and 2/2 of 8 June 2023 of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, to extend the strategic planning cycle of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023 until the year 2025, and to adjourn its second regular session and to resume the session for a duration of two days, on 29 and 30 May 2025, in order to achieve the alignment of the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system;

4. *Takes note* of the review of management and administration in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit,⁷ and encourages UN-Habitat to provide regular updates to its Executive Board on the implementation of the recommendations of this review;

Ensuring adequate funding and improving information to monitor funding trends

5. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary additional financial resources to service the intergovernmental governance processes of UN-Habitat;

6. *Encourages* the strengthening of UN-Habitat so that it can deliver effectively on its mandate through the provision of financial resources, taking into account the special interests and needs of developing countries, by exploring innovative resource mobilization options, as well as by overseeing and providing strategic guidance for the Programme's normative and operational activities;

7. *Invites* Member States, international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions, especially non-earmarked contributions, to the United Nations Habitat

⁵ [A/79/606](#).

⁶ [A/79/8](#).

⁷ [JIU/REP/2022/1](#).

and Human Settlements Foundation, including the urban basic services trust fund and other technical cooperation trust funds, invites Governments and other stakeholders to provide voluntary predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of its mandate, and requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to ensure that reporting on funding is transparent and easily accessible to Member States, including through the creation of an online registry that contains relevant financial information;

8. *Invites* all Member States making financial contributions earmarked for the operational activities of UN-Habitat to ensure that such resources are fully aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Habitat and are in accordance with the priorities of Member States benefiting from those contributions;

9. *Reiterates* the need to ensure that UN-Habitat has appropriate capacity to generate, manage and disseminate its evidence-based urbanization knowledge, based on its normative and operational work, building on existing international instruments, assessments and information networks to raise public awareness of critical, as well as emerging, urbanization issues;

10. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of UN-Habitat to implement its mandate;

Implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

11. *Reaffirms* that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda⁸ will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequalities, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development, improve human health and well-being, foster resilience and protect the environment;

12. *Also reaffirms* the central role that cities and human settlements can play in sustainable development, and urges UN-Habitat to further support increased participation of governments at all levels and regional organizations in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular by providing technical assistance aimed at developing the capacity of all levels of government, especially in developing countries, to plan and implement sustainable urbanization and human settlements and related programmes and projects;

13. *Further reaffirms* that youth policies, tailored and adapted to national and local contexts, help ensure that youth development challenges are addressed, and encourages meaningful engagement with youth in urban policy and decision-making processes;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening the capacities of cities to increase the integration of risk management into preventive urban development policy to create urban resilience;

15. *Also reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind and to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

⁸ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

16. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national legislation and practices, as well as policies and priorities;

17. *Also recognizes* the findings contained in the Sustainable Development Goal 11 synthesis report and its recommendations on the need for continued technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for the production and monitoring of the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda targets, including the timely application of the global urban monitoring framework and implementing the degree of urbanization methodology to delineate cities, urban and rural areas;

18. *Requests* UN-Habitat to continue to support countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda with a strategic focus on adequate housing, land and basic services for all, and the transformation of informal settlements and slums for the period 2026–2029, in line with the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, to be adopted in 2025, and in line with relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly;

19. *Notes* the launch by UN-Habitat of the Global Action Plan: Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030,⁹ and its 10 key actions towards scaling slum transformation;

20. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue its support to countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, giving consideration to evidence-based urban planning practices that promote access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, inclusive urban prosperity and finance, poverty eradication, water and sanitation, effective climate action and environmental sustainability, multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and effective urban crisis response and recovery;

21. *Also encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to assist countries in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in complementarity with the Statistical Commission methodology for delineation of cities, urban and rural areas for international and regional statistical comparison purposes, develop a common methodology for aggregating subnational urban statistics, strengthen means of verification of new tier III indicators of targets under Sustainable Development Goal 11 on cities and communities, utilizing the Global Urban Monitoring Framework to develop innovative methods, approaches and guidelines for data collection, analysis, monitoring and implementation and harnessing the Urban Agenda platform to share progress, action and knowledge resources on sustainable urbanization, and looks forward to the contributions of UN-Habitat to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

22. *Further encourages* UN-Habitat to continue promoting and implementing the People-Centred Smart Cities flagship programme, including in line with United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution 2/1 of 6 July 2023, entitled “International guidelines on people-centred smart cities”, to ensure that the benefit of digital transformation is widely shared among all urban dwellers, especially those in vulnerable situations, living in slums and informal settlements, including through developing normative guidance and providing technical support to governments, cities and communities;

⁹ Available at <https://unhabitat.org/global-action-plan-accelerating-for-transforming-informal-settlements-and-slums-by-2030>.

23. *Requests* UN-Habitat to provide all support necessary to all meetings of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing for all, including the conduct of research and the preparation of information documents and analysis as may be requested by the working group or the Executive Board;

24. *Urges* UN-Habitat to ensure that its normative and operational activities are balanced, that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work and that its experiences in the operational field feed into its normative work;

25. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development to facilitate coordination among entities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to ensure effective support for countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

26. *Also encourages* UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to ensure coherence of policy support and the alignment of large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda and to facilitate increased investment in sustainable urbanization, including through, but not limited to, the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds;

27. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to continue to work in close partnership with United Nations country teams, under the leadership of the resident coordinators, to promote joint urban programming as well as catalytic localization initiatives that mobilize collective resources and expertise, to contribute to enhancing the design of common country analyses and to the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, providing normative guidance and operational support towards the development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and the strengthening of national, subnational and local governance systems to meet this goal;

28. *Looks forward to* the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat, to be held in Nairobi before the third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, in 2027, requests UN-Habitat, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the preparatory process and organizational arrangements for the commemoration, encourages participation at the highest possible level, requests the Secretary-General to support the commemoration, and encourages Member States and other donors in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions, for the preparation of the event and to support the participation of developing countries;

29. *Decides* to hold a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda, to be held in New York for a duration of two days at the highest possible level following, or preceding, the 2026 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to assess progress on integrating the New Urban Agenda into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practices, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the New Urban Agenda by 2036, taking into account the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be presented in 2026, invites States and local and regional governments to assess progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the local, national, regional and global levels, to share findings, good practices and recommendations with UN-Habitat, to be included in a report on the midterm review, which will also take into consideration the stocktaking, thematic reviews and outcomes of regional forums for sustainable development, and to include this topic in

their deliberations as inputs for the meeting that will inform the midterm review process, decides that the high-level meeting shall consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment, interactive multi-stakeholder panels and a closing segment and shall adopt a concise and action-oriented political declaration to renew commitment and accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations led by two co-facilitators to be appointed by the President of the Assembly, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, and to be submitted by the President of the Assembly for adoption by the Assembly, and requests the President of the Assembly, in consultation with Member States and UN-Habitat, to finalize the preparatory process and organizational arrangements for the meeting, with any additional costs to be met through voluntary contributions;

Review and implementation

30. *Welcomes* the establishment of a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries to attend United Nations Habitat Assembly and UN-Habitat Executive Board sessions, and invites Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, to be entitled “Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”;

32. *Decides*, for its next consideration of this topic, to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session the item entitled “Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”.

*54th plenary meeting
19 December 2024*