

Follow up to the UNHA Resolutions Action plan and Roadmap to 2025

Resolution on Accelerating the Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030

[\(HSP/HA.2/Res.2\)](#)

Version 1 - [27.09.2023]

This Roadmap has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to reflect on the resolution ON Accelerating the Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030 (HSP/HA.2/Res.2) adopted at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 09 June 2023. The Resolution was championed by South Africa, Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, India and Peru and adopted by acclamation. This Action Plan will be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, during the course of implementation of the resolution.

Overview of resolution

The resolution requests stakeholders to increase efforts towards transforming the settlements of more than 1 billion people currently living in slums globally while taking **pro-active measures accommodating rapid urbanization** preventing a drastic increase of people living in slums by 2030¹. The **resolution calls for the remaining seven years until 2030** to be leveraged strategically to build the **foundation and provide adequate transformative actions to slums and informal settlements systematically and everywhere, leaving no one and no place behind.**

It **urges long-term approaches**, and **integrated solutions to enable a decent standard of living for all** by supporting the **implementation of 10 key actions towards scaling up slum transformation** : 1) Promote multi-level participatory governance, 2) Conduct spatial planning, 3) Collect data, 4) Develop policies, 5) Implement adequate housing, 6) Diversify finance, 7) Manage land, 8) Strengthen community resilience and empowerment, 9) Advance skills and education, and 10) Promote collaboration for implementation..

Requests for UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is asked to continue its efforts and **to place the transformation of slums and informal settlements at the centre of its strategic planning and programmes**. This requires a continuous technical support capacity and strategic comprehensive **normative guidance to Member States** as well as **close collaboration with diverse strategic stakeholders to further** the ambition of slum transformation towards adequate housing for all.

The resolution further **entails a concrete request to develop a technical guideline** for a multiple partnership approach, building on existing tools and knowledge for informal settlements and slum transformation if resources become available.

Central to the resolution implementation are the following elements:

- 1) **Targeted advocacy and mobilization** towards a collective approach for slum transformation including adequate housing in line with the 10 key actions
- 2) **Continuous core technical support** for advocacy, knowledge, policy, tools, and transformative programme development building on existing tools and expertise
- 3) **Partnership building and capacity building expanding on UN-Habitat's ongoing work**
- 4) **Resource mobilization** to scale and replicate

¹ https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/07/sdg_11_synthesis_report_2023_executive_summary_final.pdf

- 5) **Close coordination with Member States and diverse stakeholders** (through the structure adopted by the Resolution on Adequate Housing for All)
- 6) **Reporting, monitoring and documentation on progress made in the implementation of the resolution (against the 10 key actions and efforts made of slum transformation integrated in key indicators)**
- 7) Development of **comprehensive slum transformation guidelines in co-production** with diverse partners and building on **existing tools and knowledge products targeting** technical support packages for acceleration

The **close coordination with Member States and stakeholders** is facilitated and addressed by the **complementary HSP/HA.2/Res.7 - Resolution on Adequate Housing for All**. It establishes an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group.

Since 2008, UN-Habitat had the support of the European Commission and the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) to respond with a global programme on Participatory Slum Upgrading, the PSUP. The funding cycle has expired, and the programme has created the momentum for a higher ambition of transformative actions in slums and informal settlements aiming at integrating settlements in an inclusive, sustainable, and equitable manner.

The response thus builds on this experience and UN-Habitat's diverse portfolio targeting informal settlements in country, regional, flagship and research and monitoring interventions. It is to create synergies and **inform context sensitive programmatic or punctual technical support inputs**. It thus requires **constant technical coordination, management, and strategic evidence-based normative and operational interventions**.

Requests for Member States and other actors

The resolution calls for Member States and other actors to **apply a systematic and transformative approach to slums and informal settlements by 2030**. It positions slum transformation as an **integrative approach delivering decent living standards for all including functional settlements** where people can access adequate, safe, livable and affordable housing and other basic services, including water, education, health and waste management, among others.

It **identifies 10 key actions to be supported and implemented by Member States, local and national governments and diverse stakeholders and actors**: 1) Promote multi-level participatory governance, 2) Conduct spatial planning, 3) Collect data, 4) Develop policies, 5) Implement adequate housing, 6) Diversify finance, 7) Manage land, 8) Strengthen community resilience and empowerment, 9) Advance skills and education, and 10) Promote collaboration for implementation.

Relationship with prior and existing mandates, resolutions (Governing Council, GA, UNHA, etc)

Overall, the resolution responds to all priorities of UN-Habitat's Executive Director, and more directly to the priority on adequate housing for all. It is aligned with efforts made in view of the persisting negative impacts of COVID-19, increasing inequalities, poverty and exclusion. It is in the global spirit of action-oriented international development agenda calling for global solidarity, inclusive, just, peaceful, resilient and sustainable development, putting the most vulnerable first.

In addition, the Ministerial Declaration of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly calls for advancing effective multilevel governance and promote integrated local and regional planning and investment, particularly to support small, intermediate and rapidly growing cities and contribute to the transformation of informal settlements and slums (paragraph 13d).

More concretely, it contributes to the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Housing and has synergies to other UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, foremost to the Resolution on Adequate Housing for All, but also to the Resolutions on Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Urban Planning and

Sustainable Infrastructure, People-centred Smart Cities, and the creation of a human settlements' resilience framework.

Previously, there has been the endorsement of the Resolutions from **19 April 2013**. Resolution **24/7 Making slums history: a worldwide challenge**² in response to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and **Resolution 24/9 Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift** referencing the realization of Adequate Housing in the context of improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

Implementing the resolution through the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-25

The implementation of the resolution delivers against the **four domains of change (DoC) of the Strategic Plan**, particularly to the **first DoC Reduced spatial inequality and Poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum**. It is aligned with its three outcome areas on 1) Increased and equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility and public space, 2) Increased and secure access to land, and adequate and affordable housing and 3) Effective settlements growth and regeneration – equally to UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme on SP1 on Urban Regeneration can serve as one vehicle for the accelerated delivery.

It further has linkages with **DoC 2 - Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions** - for example in the promotion of integrated territorial planning, connectivity and integration of informality into mechanisms of job creation and value capture of sustainable urbanization. It also related to **DoC 3- Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment**- promoting sustainable responses, an improved urban living environment, however most directly to outcome 3.3 on effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change and UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme on Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE-UP), as well as to **DoC 4 – Effective urban crisis prevention and response, and all its outcomes**: enhanced social integration and inclusive communities through participation and community-led initiatives; improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees through effective crisis response and recovery; enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure including the building back better;

The 10 key actions provide entry-points to engage with UN-Habitat's broader portfolio. Internally, it includes efforts to **mainstreaming slums and informal settlements in flagship programmes**, knowledge and **research projects as well as move towards internally aligned diverse approaches** to informal settlements and slums through the **Community of Practice, including establishing a diverse pool of experts working on informal settlements from different angles, including all governance levels and offices from UN-Habitat**.

It can further leverage the results of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and reach diverse partners (including already identified core partners) that have engaged in the framework of the Global Action Plan Initiative launched in October 2022 in South Africa, referred to in the resolution.

Fundraising strategy and key opportunities

The fundraising strategy **supports three work streams** for the implementation of the resolution in line with the design of the portfolio on slums and informal settlements:

- 1) **Technical support desk in the Land, Housing and Shelter Section** for central coordination, normative guidance, strategic frameworks and ad-hoc technical support; The **PBI** for the resolution covers a **full-time staff member at P3 level to match current resources**.
- 2) **Advocacy, knowledge management, monitoring and reporting to inform evidence-based implementation** of the **10 key actions with multiple partners**. The **PBI** for the resolution covers a **full-time staff member at P2 level to match current resources**.

² <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2014/12/Decisions-and-resolution-GC-24th-session.pdf>

- 3) **Programmatic and mainstreaming responses:** operationalization of the Global Action Plan Initiative with partner alignment and geographic focus areas, co-creation of targeted projects and programmes at global, regional and country levels using UN-Habitat's operational architecture with normative global inputs and design and in connection with key partners is in process; contributions to the flagship programmes such as Climate-resilience for the urban poor, and Urban Regeneration leveraging and mobilising XB resources;

A **resource mobilisation strategy** for the **three work streams** has been developed and is evolving. Concept notes have been developed, mobilisation of champion countries supporting the resolution and strategic outreach to potential financing partners are to follow.

An initial financial contribution for **Work Stream 1** is the repurposing of **SIDA soft-earmarked resources, 75,000 USD per year until 2025**. Partners continue to be engaged through the Global Action Plan Initiative and the production of the Global Publication on Slums.

Financing **mobilized at country and regional levels for advancing acceleration of the implementation of slum transformation at national, sub-regional and global levels will be available soon to start off tangible services in line with the asks of the resolution.**

Challenges or gaps foreseen in the implementation of the Resolution

The major challenge is to match the demand with available resources currently at hand to respond. The Slum transformation portfolio is a new initiative of UN-Habitat building on past learning and programming.

Roadmap for implementation of the Resolution including timelines (indicate if time-bound or open-ended)

Year 1 until end of 2024 already planned key milestones are:

- 1) **Existing technical working groups** can be leveraged and implicated in the production of a **needs assessment and a joint work plan against the 10 key actions**; and a **sub-regional framework** identifying **key priorities for implementation**.
- 2) Provision of a **dynamic interface for communities and people living in informal settlements and slums building on grassroot platforms** to contribute shaping the implementation of the resolution;
- 3) **The Global Action Plan Initiative as launched in October 2022 in South Africa** and developed led by UN-Habitat and jointly with partners for global advocacy framing the initiative can be expanded and serve as basis for the multiple partners initiative against the 10 key actions;
- 4) A **Global Publication on Slums** is in the process of being finalized; providing an extensive overview of current approaches to slums and informal settlements as a baseline, knowledge and research contribution for evidence-based implementation of the resolution;
- 5) Development of a **Transformative Action Matrix** for **accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in slums and informal settlements** in preparation for the guidelines for a multiple-partnership approach and linked to the findings of the Global Publication as a solid knowledge contribution;
- 6) **Mobilization of potential champion countries and financing partners** for demonstrating scaled implementation while **starting the engagement with national programmes** to be launched in the coming months (for example in: Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Kenya, Nepal and South Africa);
- 7) Organisation of a **global conference building on the Global Action Plan Initiative launched in South Africa, in October 2023 reviewing the technical work plan and implementation framework**;

Year 2 until end of 2025 already planned key milestones are:

- 8) Start of the implementation of the **global action and sub-regional frameworks in Southern Africa, Central Africa and the Global Action Plan Initiative**.
- 9) Finalization of the **guidelines based on the outcomes of the Global Publication** and the **Transformative Action Matrix and development** of an online dashboard building on e-resources and tools already available from previous work;
- 10) Development of **key joint initiatives to accelerating the implementation in 10 countries**

11) Mobilization of **financing partners to diversifying the investments in slum transformation****Year 2026-2029**

- 12) Continued **facilitation** of global, regional and national technical discussions
- 13) Continued **provision of technical support and guidance to Member States** directly to national and local governments and through the intergovernmental working group adopted in the Resolution on Adequate Housing for All
- 14) Continued **advocacy for slum transformation** and policy reviews
- 15) Targeted production of complementary **normative tools in co-production** with relevant stakeholders
- 16) Continued **mainstreaming slum transformation** in UN-Habitats work portfolio
- 17) Documentation and monitoring of the implementation of the key actions in selected 10 countries
- 18) Continuous development of joint programmes and co-creation at country level with expansion to additional 20 countries through national, sub-regional, regional and global entry-points
- 19) Organization of regular events during Urban October, World Urban Forums, and other international events

The resolution's implementation will be measured by the increased number of **countries/cities/communities implementing transformative actions in alignment with the UN-Habitat principles and the 10 key actions, targeting people living in informal settlements and slums** as a means to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban, directly contributing to Target 11.1: by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums.

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Annex – Programme Budget Implications Summary (as of after UNHA2)

Relevant Subprogramme(s)	Budget Category	Total Resources	Existing Resources	Net total
Recurrent Resource Requirements (Annual)				
SP1 (40%), SP2 (20%), SP3 (20%) and SP4 (20%)	Post Costs	340,200	-	340,200
	Non-Post Costs	218,613	-	218,613
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	65,000	-	65,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	94,000	-	94,000
	<i>Travel</i>	40,500	-	40,500
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	19,113	-	19,113
	Subtotal, Recurring Resource Requirements		558,813	-
One-Time Resource Requirements				
SP1 (40%), SP2 (20%), SP3 (20%) and SP4 (20%)	Post Costs	-	-	-
	Non-Post Costs	187,000	-	187,000
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	25,000	-	25,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	-	-	-
	<i>Travel</i>	162,000	-	162,000
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	-	-	-
	Subtotal, One-Time Resource Requirements		187,000	-
Grand Total		745,813	-	745,813