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**Update on the implementation of all the resolutions
adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of Resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly

1. In its first two sessions, held in 2019 and 2023, the United Nations Habitat Assembly adopted a total of fifteen resolutions on a variety of topics, both thematic and cross-cutting. This report provides a summary update on the implementation of those resolutions. UN-Habitat's limited core resources (from the regular budget or the non-earmarked foundation) have been strategically deployed to directly and indirectly support such implementation, in conjunction with earmarked (extra-budgetary) resources, where available.
2. There are, however, important process distinctions between the resolutions adopted first and the second sessions of the Assembly, which could be attributed to the streamlined Resolutions support process established within the Secretariat preceding the second Assembly session, building on the lessons from the first, as well as the stronger relationship between the Secretariat and the Executive Board, which was extremely nascent at the time of the first Assembly in 2019. The transformation of the budget as a spending plan, and the emphasis on costing the implementation of each Resolution through an accompanying Programme Budget Implication (PBI) was also helpful in determining what it would take to implement each Resolution. The PBI remains an important signpost to guide resource mobilisation for the Resolutions adopted at the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, and one of the benchmarks against which the success of implementation can be assessed.

I. Implementation of Resolutions adopted at the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assmebly held in 2019

1.1 – United Nations Human Settlements Programme Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 (HSP/HA.1/Res.1)

3. The implementation of the Strategic Plan is underway, and a mid-term evaluation has just been completed. The Plan has been extended until 2025 by United Nations Habitat Assembly through Decision 2/1.

1.2 – United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements (HSP/HA.1/Res.2)

4. The implementation of the UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements has proceeded albeit relatively slowly due to no dedicated funding stream and no opportunities for identifying

additional human resources. Despite the significance of the issue facing cities and urban areas of increased crime and violence globally, there has been limited success in mobilising extra-budgetary resources for the implementation of the guidelines. The challenges faced with the foundation non-earmarked budget and the periodic liquidity freezes imposed within the regular budget have further hampered the implementation of the Resolution. Earmarked resources from the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund and soft-earmarked funding received from SIDA under the 2020-25 PCA have been the chief source of funding for the implementation of the Resolution.

5. Despite the challenges, however, some progress has been made, including the development of an urban safety monitoring prototype, an e-learning introductory module on UN-Habitat Learn, the commencement of a cities peer review and learning process led by the secretariat and partners in the Global Network on Safer Cities (Habitat Norway, UCLG, Vibe Lab Germany).

6. Broadening of UN collaboration has advanced with joint pilot activities with the UNODC (evidence-based community safety policies), UN Human Security Unit (Human Security Participatory Appraisals and Plans), UNOCT (UN Global Compact on Counter-Terrorism) and UNODA (Module on Gun-free zones).

7. The United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in South Africa is considering a Joint Programming framework to scale up the implementation process in country. Egypt is organising an Expert Group Meeting in Cairo in April 2024 to review the implementation of safer cities in Africa, in the run up to WUF 12.

1.3 – Enhancing capacity building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HSP/HA.1/Res.3)

8. In response to SP/HA.1/Res.3, UN-Habitat is continuing to implement the 2020 Capacity Building Strategy (HSP/EB.2020/13/Add.1) with the objective of enabling capacity-building at scale.

9. UN-Habitat's Draft Strategy for digital capacity building guides the institutional mainstreaming of innovative capacity-building approaches, mixing digital and in-person, enables cost efficiencies, scaled impact, and increases institutional learning and replication. UN-Habitat Learn – UN-Habitat's online learning platform since 2020 – accelerates the progress towards NUA and Agenda 2030, improving implementation and monitoring of training activities and products, and scaling reach to a wider audience. Currently, UN-Habitat Learn offers 30 courses to over 10,000 active users.

10. UN-Habitat is strengthening engagement with universities, training institutes, private sector, and global initiatives. In 2022, UN-Habitat launched the report “Linking UN-Habitat and universities: Harnessing the potential of knowledge partnerships” and is currently developing an internal framework to increase coherence and efficacy of partnerships with academia. Multiple partnerships have been established or renewed in 2023-2024, such as with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative (CSCI), the University of Twente's Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), the University College of London (UCL), and the International Urban Training Center (IUTC). In 2021-2023, the Shelter Program in partnership with Arcadis conducted 28 shelter missions where experts provided technical support to UN-Habitat in the development of sustainable urban solutions and capacity building, benefiting over 600,000 community members.

11. UN-Habitat is also taking steps towards structured and innovative approaches to increase institutional capacity to assess and address capacity gaps at scale. The Capacity Development and Training Unit (CDTU) is exploring new technologies and methods to qualify and quantify capacity gaps from local and national governments to achieve the NUA and Agenda 2030, specifically in terms of human capital (i.e. competencies, skills, knowledge, behaviour) at the individual and institutional level. CDTU increasingly facilitates coordination and provides support on capacity-building to projects and programmes.

1.4 – Achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and sustainable development (HSP/HA.1/Res.4)

12. Gender mainstreaming remains a priority for UN-Habitat and there has been a marked improvement in gender mainstreaming efforts in projects presented for review from both the field and regional offices and HQ. A concerted effort is being made to recognise those projects that have successfully mainstreamed gender equality through the Gender Champion Award launched in the first quarter of 2024. The UN Systemwide Action Plan on

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UNSWAP) reporting for 2023 also showed improvement in three key areas and for 2024 there is a clear 'UN-Habitat 2023 SWAP Improvement action plan' that the management has agreed to support. The reconstitution of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI) is in the final stages and a call for nominations for new members of this group will be shared with partners and member states in the coming weeks.

1.5 – Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlement (HSP/HA.1/Res.5)

13. UN-Habitat has effectively implemented the resolution through advocacy, knowledge and operational activities, leveraging partnerships to overcome financial constraints.

14. In collaboration with Songyang County, China, UN-Habitat convened the [third international forum on urban-rural linkages](#) in November 2023. With approximately 180 participants from 18 international agencies and 17 countries in attendance, the forum underscored the importance of urban-rural connectivity on a global scale. In March 2023, an expert group meeting aimed at recovering territorial balance in the European context was convened, hosted and supported by the government of Extremadura, Spain.

15. The publication of the [5th](#) and [6th](#) editions of our newsletter on urban-rural linkages, as well as the [third compendium of case studies](#) on the subject, highlight the focus on knowledge management. Additionally, in collaboration with the University of Nairobi, policy reviews were undertaken across five African countries—Kenya, Cameroon, Niger state, and Zimbabwe—leading to the establishment of a [Center for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa](#) at the University of Nairobi in October 2023.

16. Finally, despite financial limitations, UN-Habitat has supported ten countries in integrating urban-rural linkages into their national policies/strategies since the adoption of the resolution. The soft-earmarked funding received from SIDA under the 2020-25 PCA has been the chief source of funding for the implementation of the Resolution.

II. Implementation of Resolutions adopted at the adjourned second session of the United Nations Habitat Assmebly held in 2023

2.1 – International Guidelines on People-centred Smart Cities (HSP/HA.2/Res.1)

17. In response to HSP/HA.2/Res.1, UN-Habitat has been working with stakeholders over the past several months towards the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities (IG-PCSC), which it aims to complete by June 2025.

18. The UN-Habitat Executive Director has appointed a dedicated Expert Working Group (EWG) of 31 experts nominated by member States in November 2023 to ensure a globally inclusive consultation process, as requested in HSP/HA.2/Res.1, paragraph 4. The experts held their first meeting in December 2023, and have since February been holding monthly consultations to steer the preparation of the guidelines. Following a call for expressions of interest to host global and regional meetings issued in November 2023, two global Expert Group Meetings are now on the calendar – the first one to be held in April 2024 in Strasbourg, France, and the second in October 2024 Baku, Azerbaijan.

19. In addition, several countries have expressed initial interest in hosting regional consultations to review the draft international guidelines to ensure an inclusive process. Furthermore, preparations are underway to organize dedicated consultations with stakeholders and on key thematic issues. UN-Habitat has presented the preparatory process of the guidelines at numerous smart-city events globally as part of its wider outreach and engagement efforts.

20. In tandem, UN-Habitat is drafting a global study, the World Smart Cites Outlook, with a partner selected through an open and competitive call, to inform the drafting of the guidelines.

2.2 – Accelerating the Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030 (HSP/HA.2/Res.2)

21. UN-Habitat's work on slum upgrading and transformation has been central to the pursuit of its mandate since inception and has been funded through a combination of core and extra-budgetary resources. With extra-

budgetary resources on the decline, the implementation of the Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.2 has also been hampered. Pursuant to paragraph 6, a minimum level of technical support capacity is being maintained through ad hoc extra budgetary funding. Since June 2023, technical assistance has been provided in this manner to 10 countries and to one sub-regional dialogue. Technical capacity is supported by an internal community of practice and a concept note requesting technical assistance funding has been developed.

22. Pursuant to paragraph 7, the preparation of a global report on slums and informal settlements will be completed in the course of 2024, providing an evidence-based foundation for future activities. A regional framework and working group for slum transformation in SADC countries has been launched with UN-Habitat support. A Memorandum of Understanding on slum transformation has been developed with the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) representing 79 Member States.

23. Pursuant to paragraph 8, an outline for guidelines on a multiple partnership approach for informal settlement and slum transformation has been developed. This has been facilitated by in kind contributions from partners and a tentative offer to host a follow up meeting is being explored.

2.3 – World Cleanup Day (HSP/HA.2/Res.3)

24. Building on the UNHA Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.3 adopted in June 2023, the United Nations General Assembly approved the resolution A/78/L.11 on 8th December 2023, proclaiming 20 September as World Cleanup Day, to be observed annually from 2024 onwards. The GA resolution invites UN-Habitat to facilitate the observance of World Cleanup Day, emphasising that the costs of all the activities should be met through voluntary contributions.

25. UN-Habitat is preparing to launch an expression of interest to host the World Cleanup Day 2024. An Agreement of Cooperation with an implementing partner with facilitate outreach and help mobilise communities to do the clean-ups on the day. Sufficient resources for the facilitation of the international day will be required and outreach is ongoing to several countries to explore possible funding support. In addition, a retreat will take place in Panama with “Let’s Do It World” – mobilizing people worldwide in joining local, national and regional clean-up events. In 2023, 198 countries and territories and over 19.1 million people were engaged in clean-ups.

2.4 – Biodiverse and Resilient Cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning (HSP/HA.2/Res.4)

26. In response to HSP/HA.2/Res.4, UN-Habitat has been working on engaging with the resolution’s co-sponsors to raise financial and political support for this theme. The government of Costa Rica is collaborating closely with the implementation of the project “*Cities and nature: planning for the future along a spectrum of ecological preservation, conservation, restoration, and creation*”, funded by SIDA. As part of the proposed toolkit on urban development for more biodiverse and resilient cities, the project is piloting a multidisciplinary mapping methodology that means to equip local governments with spatial information to proactively project urban expansion that prioritizes areas for biodiversity preservation, predicts land use conflict zones, and prevents replication of mistakes at the peri-urban edge. Data collection and ground-truthing of this methodology is taking place on the first quarter of 2024 in the metropolitan regional of San José. The inception report and tool launch are planned to take place at WUF12, in Cairo, later this year.

27. In tandem, in May 2024, the project will also convene a Regional Expert Group Meeting focused on the promotion of mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in territorial planning and management, alignment on multilevel urban policies sensitive to the theme, especially in biodiversity hotspot zones in the region, and sharing practices that contribute to more biodiverse and resilient cities, based on the best available evidence and science. As requested in the resolution, the outcome report will be presented to the Executive Board, at its last session of 2024.

2.5 – Enhancing the Interlinkage between Urbanization and Climate Change Resilience (HSP/HA.2/Res.5)

28. With regard to multilevel climate action and the request to organize relevant meetings at the margins of COPs to the UNFCCC, UN-Habitat supported the COP28 Presidency with the Local Climate Action Summit and co-hosted the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at the margins of COP28. UN-Habitat further discussed the urban dimension of NDCs with member states at COP28 - an in-depth analysis in this regard is forthcoming. UN-Habitat has further strengthened the linkage between climate change and urbanization in its work as witnessed by the growth in the number of projects and funding volume of Sub-

Programme 3. A growing portfolio of Projects in support of the Flagship: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor, methodological support for member states and cities is being developed to accelerate support.

29. New climate change related tools and guidelines are also being published across the agency. However, the limited core funding has constrained efforts to provide direct support to Member States in response to urban climate change challenges and to grow the project portfolio in line with the demand.

30. The operationalization of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative is seen as a way to strengthen the implementation of Subprogramme 3 across the agency and in collaboration with a wide range of partners. Broadening of the donor base, the publication of the World Cities Report on Cities and Climate Change, and support to the development of the IPCC Special Report on Cities and Climate Change, *inter alia* through the convening of the Innovate4Cities Conference 2024, are other next steps to be pursued in 2024.

2.6 – Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (HSP/HA.2/Res.6)

31. The Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.6 is being implemented through organizational consolidation, multiple normative, operational and capacity-building activities, as well as acceleration of resource mobilization efforts.

32. Pursuant to paragraph 2, normative and capacity-building highlights include the development and launch of the Action-Oriented VLR Methodology; the SDG Localization Policy Paper Series launched with UNDESA; the development of a new training module on SDG Localization in partnership with UCLG; as well as the conceptualization of a comprehensive capacity-building offer for the UN Resident Coordinator Offices and Country Teams under the framework of the Local2030 Coalition. Under advocacy, planning is underway for the High-Level Political Forum, the Summit of the Future, the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, 5th session of the UN World Data Forum, and COP29. Active engagement is also planned in the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. Operational activities to support Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are ongoing in 15 countries, with each VLR serving as an entry point for the city to engage within the broader SDG cities process.

33. The Local2030 Coalition has partnered with the Joint SDG Fund and the Government of Spain to develop a ‘SDG Localization marker’, ensuring that joint programmes across the Fund’s portfolio effectively prioritize localization efforts. The Local 2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network supported by Italy is also ready to be launched, with pilot activities in Tunisia and Jordan.

34. Pursuant to paragraph 4, UN-Habitat has continued to reach out and support multiple partners, cities and member states to apply the global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) in their urban monitoring systems. Over 80 new cities have now applied the UMF, while another 42 cities have reached out for support on adapting and applying the framework to their local structures. This accelerated uptake follows the earlier linkages and alignment between the UMF application, SDG cities programme and SDG localization approaches. The data collected from the UMF roll-out has improved the data coverage for cities in the Global Urban Indicators Database and will be available for progress reporting in the 2024 World Cities Report, and the 2026 Quadrennial Report on the New Urban Agenda, among others.

35. UN-Habitat has continued to work closely with European Commission, World Bank, FAO and OECD and the UN’s regional economic commissions to implement key interventions in about 15 countries to apply the Degree of urbanization approach to define cities and human settlements and thereby increase the coverage of SDG 11 and UMF indicators. To scale up the efforts and expand interventions to cover more countries, in July 2023, UN-Habitat, UNFPA and UNICEF launched a 3-year multi-partner programme to advance the implementation of the DEGURBA approach in 43 additional countries. With the exponential growth in the demand for UMF and overall urban data support, UN-Habitat is working on new partnerships at the global and within the UN System and regions, including working with pioneer UMF cities to support other cities.

2.7 – Adequate Housing for All (HSP/HA.2/Res.7)

36. The implementation of Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.7 is well-underway. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 8, a needs assessment is being carried out to shape the technical development of the proposed platform for the achievement of access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, with a projected launch in 2025. This process will ensure that the Platform provides a broad range of policy best practices and examples for the progressive realization of adequate housing and also facilitates collaboration and informed decision-making for adequate housing for all.

37. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 1(c), in December 2023 UN-Habitat convened an expert group meeting on housing indicators, the recommendations of which will contribute to the deliberations of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.

38. Pursuant to paragraph 2, UN-Habitat has provided advice on the possible activities and programme of work of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters for its consideration and possible recommendation to the Executive Board.

2.8 – Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure (HSP/HA.2/Res.8)

39. In order to implement the Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.8, a concept note, and resource mobilization strategy have been drafted and are being utilised to initiate action.

40. Pursuant to paragraph 1, the Our City Plans platform has been updated with infrastructure tools and related processes, starting with urban mobility. The other existing sectoral tools will follow. At the same time the need for additional tools (for the regional scale planning) has been identified.

41. Pursuant to paragraph 5, discussions have been initiated with the Capital Investment Facility in order to identify relevant information and partners. These will be extended to other in-house programmes in 2024. The integration of planning and infrastructure in technical assistance and tools is advancing through a series of relevant projects, and new ones (e.g. Water as Leverage) are being formulated to raise additional extrabudgetary resources.

42. Pursuant to paragraph 6, resources need to be identified so that normative and operational activities can be accelerated, and capacities established to respond to requests for support received from Member States.

2.9 – Creation of a human settlements resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response and post crisis recovery and reconstruction (HSP/HA.2/Res.9)

43. The implementation of Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.9 has thus far focused on utilising existing resources to build outreach with a broad range of partners for development of the global framework requested in paragraph 1. Discussions have been initiated with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to collaborate on the Earlywarming4ALL initiative.

44. Some strategic partnerships have been established for the use of artificial intelligence and technology innovation for the creation of an intelligent model to gather data and information and provide city profiles and diagnostics on resilience. UN-Habitat has been mapping also ongoing country-level initiatives that have relevant components on access to data and science, as well as on developing capacities for resilience building and risk reduction in countries/regions like Mozambique, Malawi and the Sahel. Urban recovery frameworks are being initiated and/or developed in contexts such as Syria and Ukraine.

45. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Resolution, the reactivation of the emergency response fund is under consideration and is included in resource mobilization efforts. UN-Habitat is working with UN-OCHA to expand the use of the existing standby partnerships within the UN secretariat, by UN-Habitat, in its crisis response.

2.10 – Resolution on Equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly (HSP/HA.2/Res.10)

46. The resolution seeks to improve the funding of under-funded resolutions by establishing the Urban Action Funding Window as a new funding mechanism complemented by regular reporting on the implementation of resolutions. The Funding Window was established in 2023 in the financial system of the Organization and its Terms of Reference¹ were endorsed by the Executive Board in its decision 2023/62 at its third session of 2023.

¹ HSP/EB.2023/CRP.8

² HSP/EB.2023/23

47. In 2024, the contribution agreement template will be revised to include the elective transfer of project balances to the Funding Window, with express references to the Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.10, the decision of the Executive Board, and the Terms of Reference of the Funding Window. Engagement with donors on such transfers will be supported with advocacy and communications. By 2025, the tracking system on the implementation of resolutions will be publicly available, updated on a regular basis.