
ANNUAL REPORT

20 22



POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE SECTION

URBAN PRACTICES BRANCH

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS DIVISION



UN-HABITAT

PLGS Annual Report 2022

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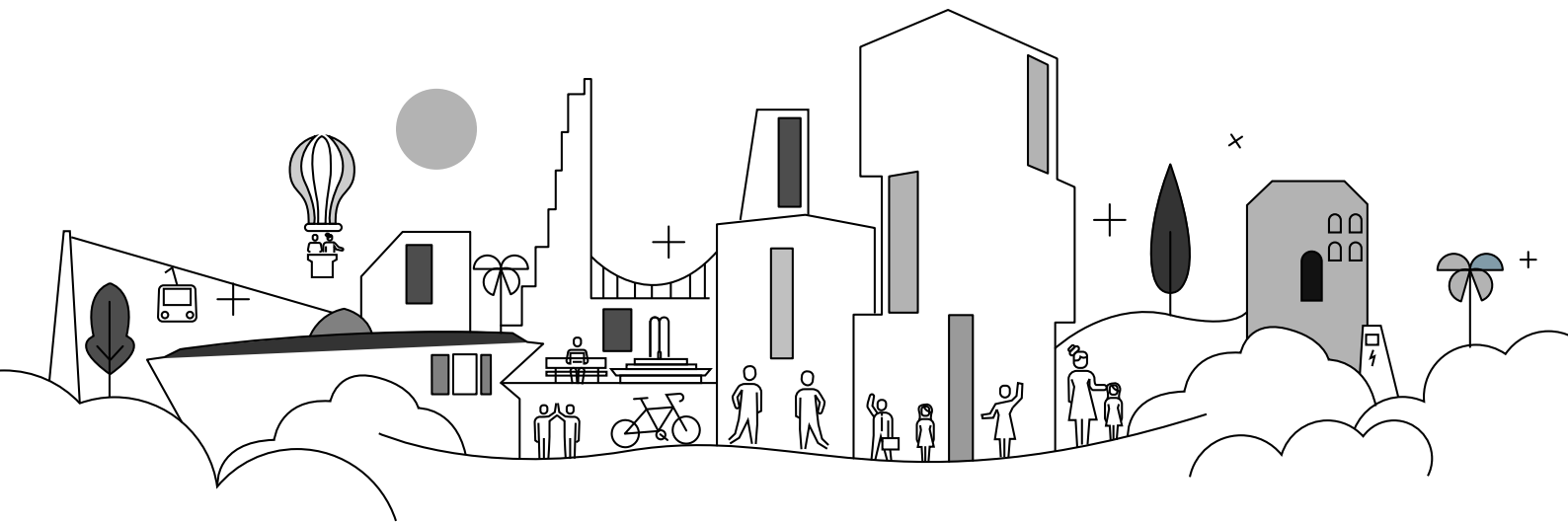
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ANNUAL REPORT

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POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE SECTION

URBAN PRACTICES BRANCH

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS DIVISION



UN-HABITAT

FOREWORD

The Urban Practices Branch (UPB) is UN-Habitat's normative hub and develops norms, standards, tools, methodologies, regulatory frameworks, and code of practices at global, regional and national level. The Branch is also home to many of the Agency's large global programmes. The Urban Practices Branch includes five sections/units: The Policy, Legislation, and Governance Section; the Planning, Finance, and Economy Section; the Land, Housing and Shelter Section; the Urban Basic Services Section; and the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit.

In recent years, inequalities and vulnerabilities have been widened by the triple "C" crises- COVID-19 pandemic, *climate change* and emerging *conflict*. At the World Urban Forum held in 2022, it was clear that concerted efforts and accelerated action is needed for cities to recover from multiple crises and embark on a rapid transition towards sustainable urban development. Many participants agreed that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in this Decade of Action will be determined in cities.

In 2022, UN-Habitat made continuous contributions to addressing these crises. For instance, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, UN-Habitat supported technical, financial, and humanitarian efforts to curtail the impacts of the pandemic. In 2022, UN-Habitat also provided coordinated responses to the conflict in various parts of the world. UN-Habitat has also been leading several initiatives to support countries to address the adverse effects of climate change in their contexts.

The policy, legislation, and governance section, one of the five sections of the Branch, supports implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan through two out of four *drivers of change*. These drivers of change cut across all UN-Habitat *result areas*, and therefore the section supported and continues supporting these efforts to address the crises along the lenses of policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.

This PLGS Annual Report 2022 builds on the progress made and results achieved as documented in the 2020 and 2021 reports. The report presents collaborative efforts within and outside UN-Habitat and demonstrates the continuity in our partnerships with governments, which is necessary to achieve and further localize the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

From the report, a lot has been achieved. 2023 looks to be a pivotal year as the world advances towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The just concluded second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly was a welcome opportunity for member States to review and renew their commitment and actions towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, and other globally agreed frameworks on sustainable development. The work undertaken by PLGS certainly featured through contribution to the adopted Resolutions and Decisions, and through the several side events, bilateral consultations, and other sessions.

I encourage you to read and reflect on the work done and outlined in this report.



Shipra Narang Suri

Chief Urban Practices Branch



I am pleased to share with you the 3rd edition of UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section Annual Report. The report provides insights into our initiatives and collaborative efforts with all our partners, and presents progress made and results achieved in 2022. The report focuses on UN-Habitat's thematic areas of Urban Policy, Legislation, Governance, Metropolitan Management and Urban-Rural Linkages.

Two years into adapting to the new normal of teleworking courtesy of COVID-19, the year 2022 saw a significant decrease in the spread of the pandemic. This opened more opportunities to go to the field to engage directly with our partner countries and cities. 2022 also featured PLGS contribution to UN-Habitat's response to the 'triple C' crises through our projects, normative tools/guides, and advocacy efforts.

The PLGS global presence spanned more than 27 countries in 2022, up from 25 in 2021, through country projects, capacity development programmes, and advocacy and outreach. This demonstrates the continuing catalytic role played by UN-Habitat through PLGS, to support countries in their efforts towards sustainable urban development.

Together with our partners, we continued providing technical assistance to countries to advance their development priorities and achieve sustainable development. Several of our projects transitioned into subsequent phases in 2022. Additionally, as one of the leading normative hubs within the United Nations, UN-Habitat through PLGS expanded our catalogue of innovative, evidence-based normative tools and knowledge products which were piloted and applied in several country contexts.

We recognize that individuals and institutions responsible for leading sustainable urban development need to have skills, knowledge, competence, and tools to effectively play their role in sustainable urban development.

Guided by UN-Habitat's capacity development strategy, PLGS employed a mix of in-person, online and hybrid capacity development sessions, coupled with the use of various online tools which resulted in a wider, efficient, and real-time global reach.

Our advocacy and outreach efforts also led to strengthening partnerships and advancing several annual global, regional, and national events. Some of these events resulted in key messages calling for stronger commitments to sustainable urban development actions.

The PLGS annual reports 2020 and 2021 also continue to inform our donors and development partners of our story for the years. We continue to use the 2022 report to not only to report progress made and results achieved, but also to review the trends and point out connecting milestones since 2020 when the reporting process began.

Much work lies ahead of us, and 2023 looks to be significantly engaging. Several projects at global and country level are ongoing, and we look forward to continuing application of our normative tools and knowledge products in these contexts. PLGS also continues responding to calls to build capacity of institutions and all urban stakeholders through the various capacity development programmes slated for 2023. We are also looking to extensively participate in several global events on sustainable urban development, with a key feature being the second United Nations Habitat Assembly.

Please read on and share widely.

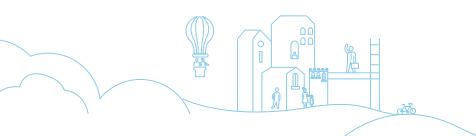
Remy Sietchiping

Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section



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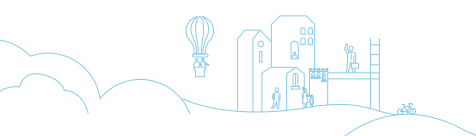


ACRONYMS

AACID	Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development
ACCD	Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament
ASOARES	Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease-2019
CoP	Community of Practices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSNUP	Global State of National Urban Policy
HLPF	High-level political forum
IALS	Institute for Advanced Legal Studies
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
IFURL	International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages
IUD	Integrated urban development
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
MAETUR	Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Mission (Cameroon)
MOLIT	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (South Korea)
MoRUD	Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (Iran)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NUSP	Niger State Urban Support Programme
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUP	National urban policy
NUPP	National urban policy programme
OECD	Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation
OPAMSS	Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador
PLGS	Policy, Legislation and Governance Section
ROAF	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa
ROAP	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
SANITA	Urban Development and Sanitation Programme (Guinea)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UPB	Urban Practices Branch
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSCN	United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
URA	Urban-Rural Assembly
URL	Urban-rural linkages
VLR	Voluntary local reviews
VNR	Voluntary national reviews
WHO	World Health Organization
WMD	World Metropolitan Day
WUF	World Urban Forum



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the third Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) Annual Report, presenting progress made and results achieved in the year 2022. The report demonstrates the Section’s position within UN-Habitat’s strategic context, and also links its area of work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.

This report shows how the section has been advancing its focus areas effectively and innovatively, using several delivery methods including technical assistance, development and dissemination of normative tools and knowledge products, capacity development, and advocacy and outreach.

The executive summary contains key PLGS achievements in 2022. The report also includes chapters on the Section’s linkage to the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda as well as contributions to UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan. The main part of the report details progress and achievements for 2022 along the delivery mechanisms (technical assistance; knowledge development; normative tools, capacity development and; our advocacy and partnerships). The final part presents the Section’s financial performance as well as planned outlook for 2023.


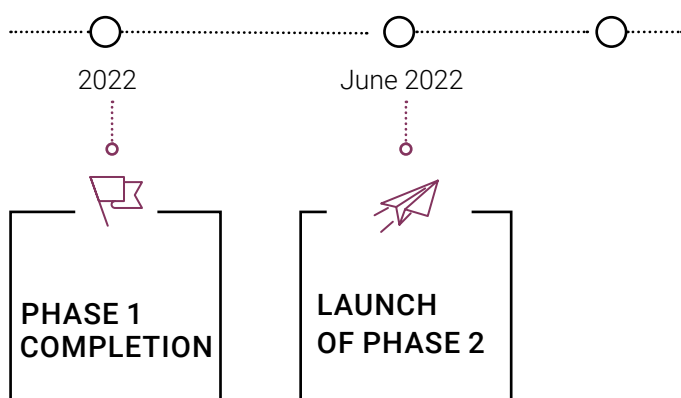
In 2022, UN-Habitat, through PLGS continued providing technical assistance and advisory services on Policy, Legislation and Governance, Metropolitan Management and Urban-Rural Linkages. PLGS was present in over **25 countries** in all regions globally through projects, capacity development, knowledge dissemination and advocacy efforts.

1. Projects




a. Urban policy development

KOREA-FUNDED NATIONAL URBAN POLICY PROGRAMME



PHASE 2

-  Azerbaijan
-  Cambodia
-  Egypt
-  Mozambique
-  Paraguay



URBAN POLICY IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES



12

capacity development workshops



40

participants each



PROJECT FOCUS

Burkina Faso
Cameroon
DRC
Guinea
Mali
Senegal

URBAN POLICY IN ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES

continued NUP development support in:

Ghana
Liberia
Sierra Leone



NEW PROJECTS

New urban policy projects in Comoros and Haiti



b. Urban Legislation & Governance

Sultanate of Oman



PLGS supported the process of strengthening of the Urban Planning Legal and Institutional Frameworks of the country

Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe,



Assessment of the capacity of climate laws, policies, and governance frameworks in the three pilot countries



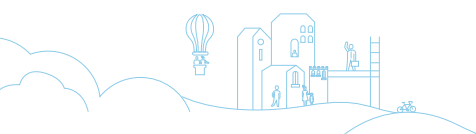
RESULT

Zimbabwe is developing a new climate planning law.

Other Legislation projects



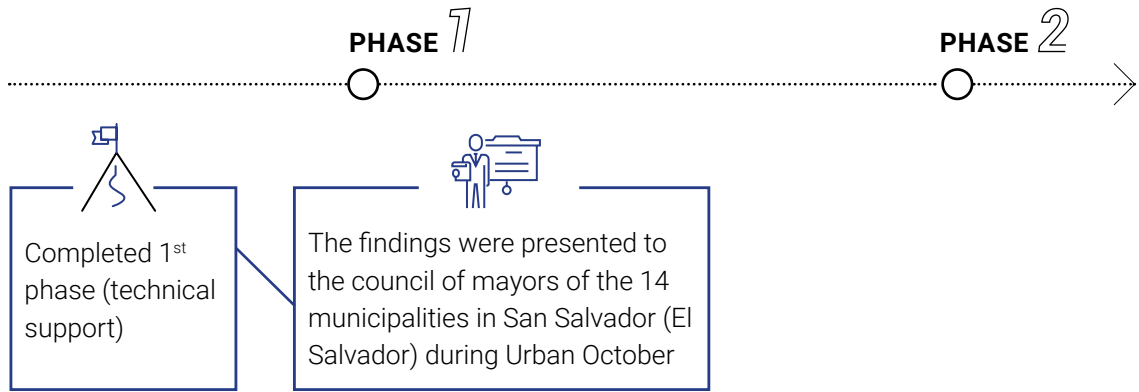
Technical support and advisory services on legislation and governance in Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tajikistan.





c. Metropolitan Management

SAN SALVADOR



MEXICO



PLGS collaborated with UN-Habitat Mexico country office in implementing the “Urban and territorial integrated development strategy for the southeast region in Mexico – Regional Corridor Tren Maya” project, especially its metropolitan, regional management, and corridor development components



d. Urban-Rural Linkages

CAMEROON, GUINEA, NIGER, STATE (NIGERIA), AND ZANZIBAR (TANZANIA)



Completion of the urban-rural linkages project funded by the UN Development Account during a **multi-country regional workshop** held in **Guinea**

COLLABORATIONS



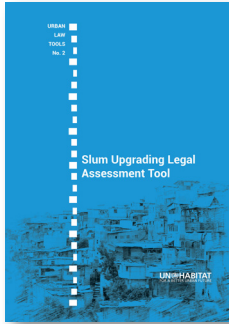
collaboration with the University of Nairobi (Kenya) on:

1. Policy review and research on urban-rural linkages
2. Capacity development for county planners



2. Normative Guides

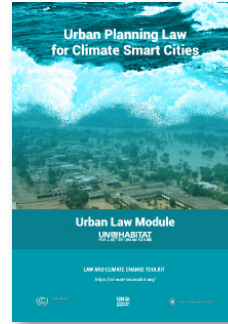
1 Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool



Link: <https://unhabitat.org/slum-upgrading-legal-assessment-tool>



2 Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities: The Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit



Link: <https://unhabitat.org/urban-planning-law-for-climate-smart-cities-the-urban-law-module-of-the-law-and-climate-change>



3 Governance Self-Diagnostic Tool



Designed to identify gaps in local governance and to support cities to strengthen local governance.

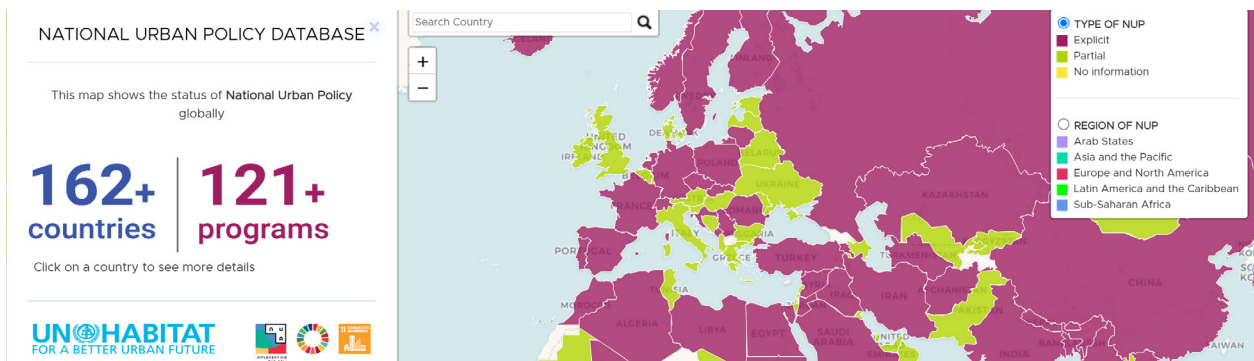
Application of the tool

The tool was piloted in 2022 in **Bolivia**. UN-Habitat (PLGS) used the toolkit to train officials from the Municipal Secretariat of Planning, La Paz Municipality.

3. Knowledge Development

a. Databases

i. Updated National Urban Policy Database



Improved **user interface** including **Ease of navigation** and **obtaining information**



ii. Urbanlex database

2022-2021 UPDATES



180
additional laws
from Syria



5
languages of the
United Nations

2022 UPDATES



improved
functionalities

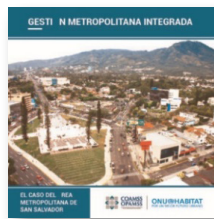


Enhanced
global access

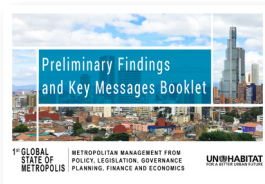
b. Publications and technical materials



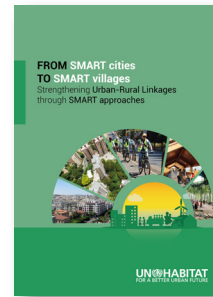
Policy Brief: Metropolitan Policies in a Global Perspective



Integrated Metropolitan Management: The Case of the San Salvador Metropolitan Area



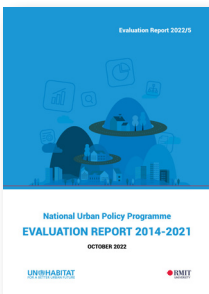
1st Global State of Metropolis - Preliminary Findings and Key Messages Booklet



From Smart Cities to Smart Villages: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages through Smart Approaches (Pre-lease)



Strengthening Local Fresh Food Markets for Resilient Food Systems



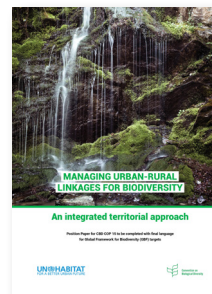
National Urban Policy Programme Evaluation Report



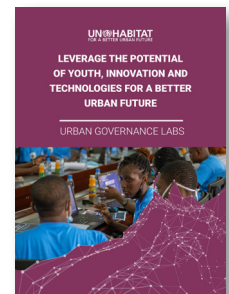
4th edition of the Urban-Rural linkages newsletter



5th edition of the Urban-Rural linkages newsletter



Managing Urban-Rural Linkages for biodiversity



Leverage The Potential Of Youth, Innovation And Technologies For A Better Urban Future-



4. Capacity Development

a. Tools

i. MetroHUB MEMORANDUM Game



The Memorandum Game © UN-Habitat & POLIMI



Developed by Milano Polytechnic (POLIMI) and UN-Habitat (PLGS)



PURPOSE

To transfer to metropolitan agents a methodology, achieving awareness about sustainable metropolitan cultural heritage development through adopting practices and systemic project actions produced by the SDGs interlinkages

ii. Revamped National Urban Policy e-learning course



CONTENTS

- What NUP is and its role towards sustainable urbanization.
- The NUP process and how it is conducted in practice.
- How to conduct NUP assessment/reviews
- How NUP relates to other sectors



Scan
HERE

iii. Urban-Rural Linkages e-learning course (preliminary version)

Instructor
Urban Policy Team

Category
Urban-Rural Linkages

Review

FUNCTIONAL URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

Lifetime Access
 All Levels
 13 Lessons
 4 Quizzes
 9 Students

Scan
HERE

iv. Massive Open Online Course on Digital Governance

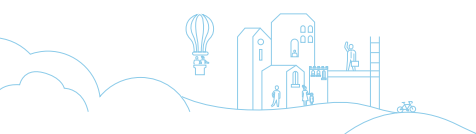


GOAL

To equip **20,000** participants with knowledge and tools on how to co-create, facilitate and support better planning, decision making, and governance in African cities

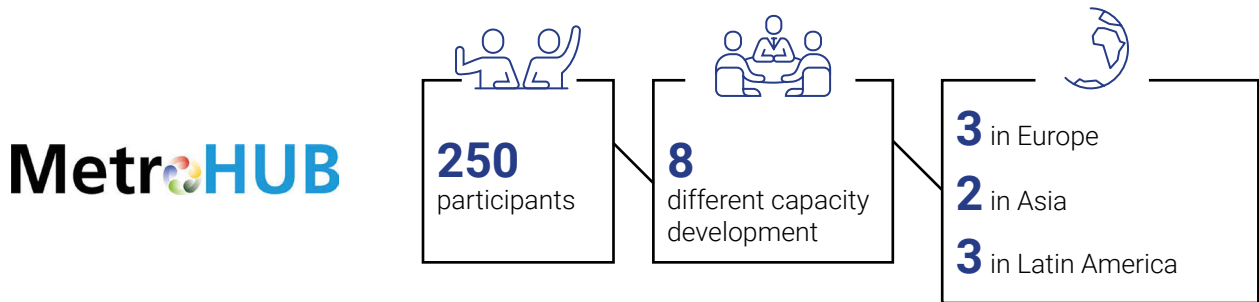


Partnership with the University of Nairobi (Kenya)

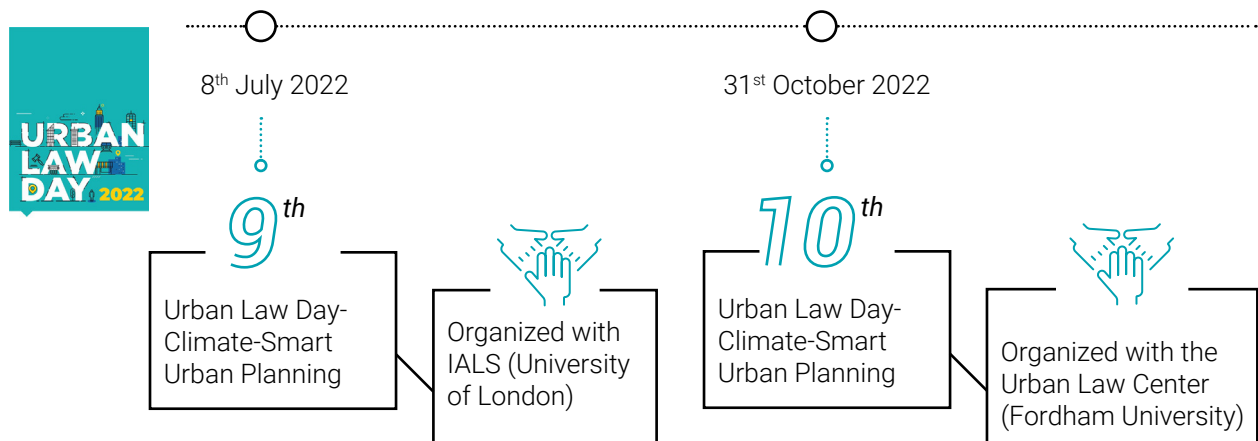


b. Programmes

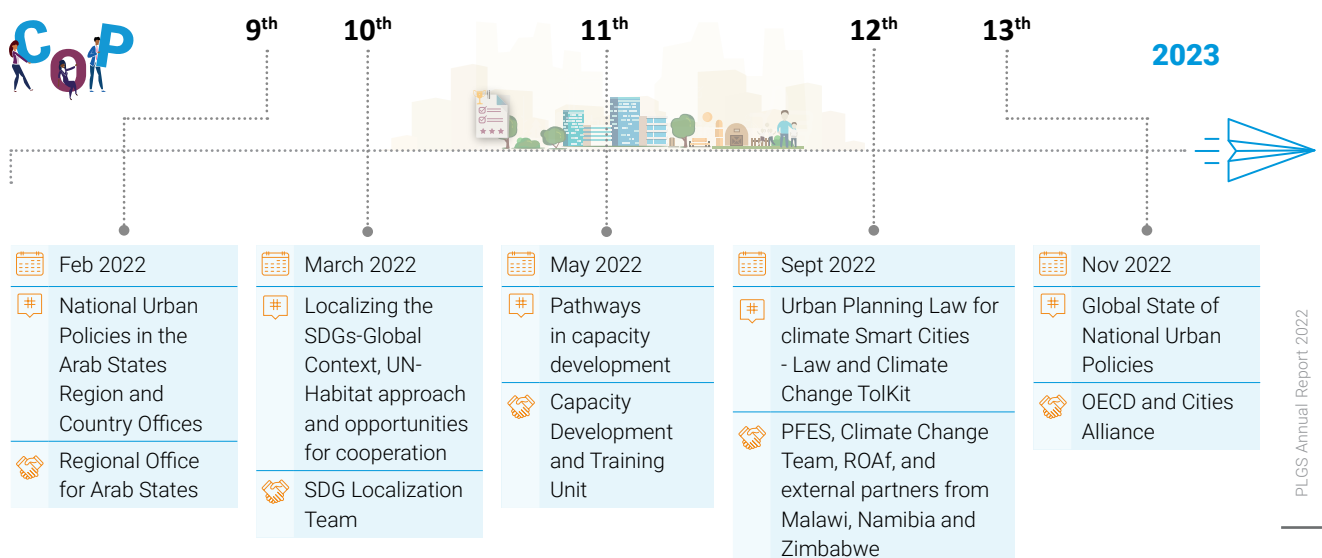
i. MetroHUB Global Capacity Development



ii. Urban Law Days

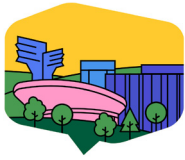


iii. PLGS Community of Practice



5. Advocacy and Outreach

**WORLD
URBAN
FORUM**
ELEVENTH SESSION



KATOWICE, POLAND | 26-30 JUNE 2022



Over **15** PLGS
Side events



Global Observance
hosted by Bogota,
Colombia



20
events held
worldwide



PLGS and partners jointly organized **9** diverse-nature
events on metropolitan and regional management



1,000
participants



Continued partnerships
and events on Urban-Rural
Linkages

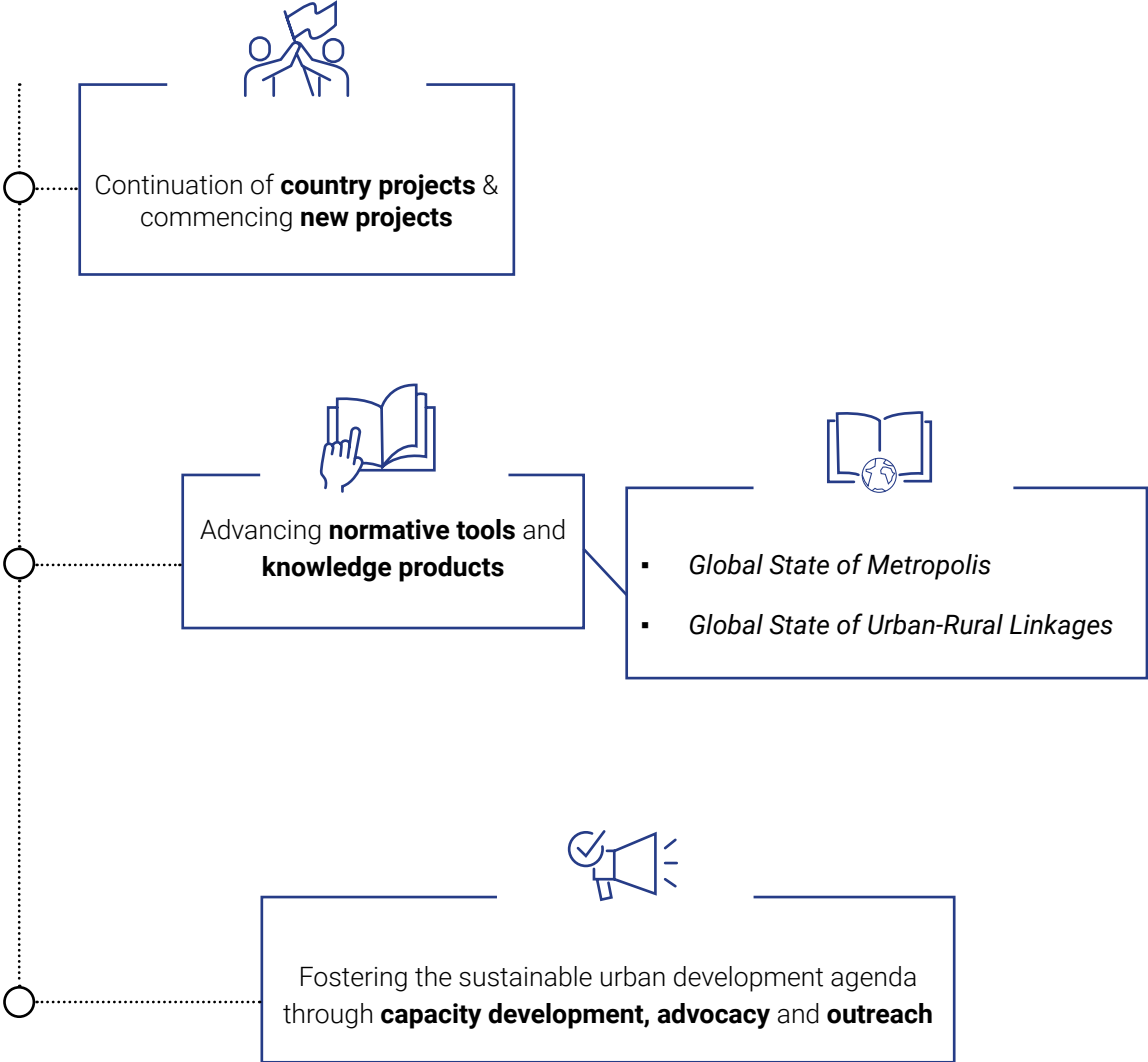


KEY EVENTS

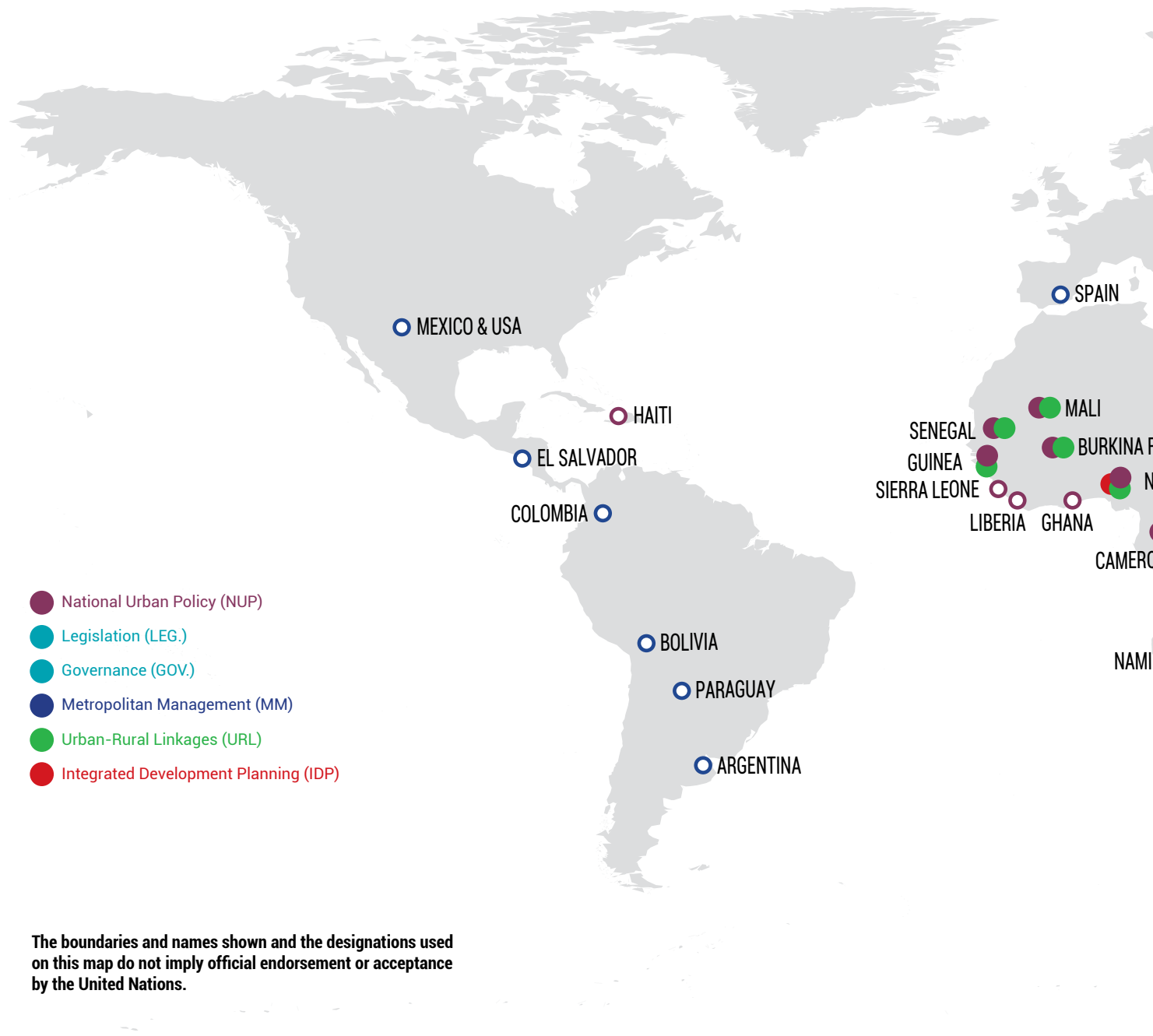
- Africities Summit
- UN Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties
- Urban-Rural Assembly Symposium.



6. Outlook 2023

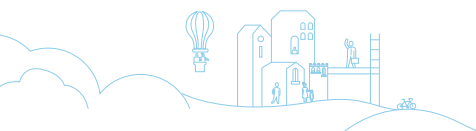


PLGS Activities 2022



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map No. 4170 Rev. 13 UNITED NATIONS
November, 2018









I. INTRODUCTION

UN-Habitat is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns, cities and communities. UN-Habitat is also the lead agency within the United Nations system mandated with supporting the implementation of the New Agenda. The Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) is one of the normative and operational

solutions hubs within the Urban Practices Branch of UN-Habitat's Global Solutions Division. PLGS supports governments at all levels with tested approaches, guidelines, and tools to plan the growth of cities in an inclusive and sustainable way, in tandem with social, cultural, economic, and environmental priorities, concerns, and particularities.

Why this report?

PLGS has been developing Annual Reports since 2020 to disseminate the section's annual progress and contribution towards implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan as well as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

The PLGS annual reporting process has streamlined and made the section's work more accessible, providing a coordinated approach to responding to requests for inputs both internally and externally. Through this increased visibility, several of the Section's normative tools and knowledge products have been referred to in the UN-Habitat Annual Reports, and the World Cities Report 2022.



The reports also continue showing how the Section has been advancing many important areas of UN-Habitat's work, using effective and innovative approaches, and working progressively with strategic partners to deliver technical and operational support to national and subnational governments and other partners.

This report is beneficial to PLGS personnel and UN-Habitat at large, implementing partners and more particularly, partner national and subnational governments where PLGS continues providing its technical expertise, knowledge, and tools for the development of programmes and projects that address country-specific priorities in the journey towards sustainable development.

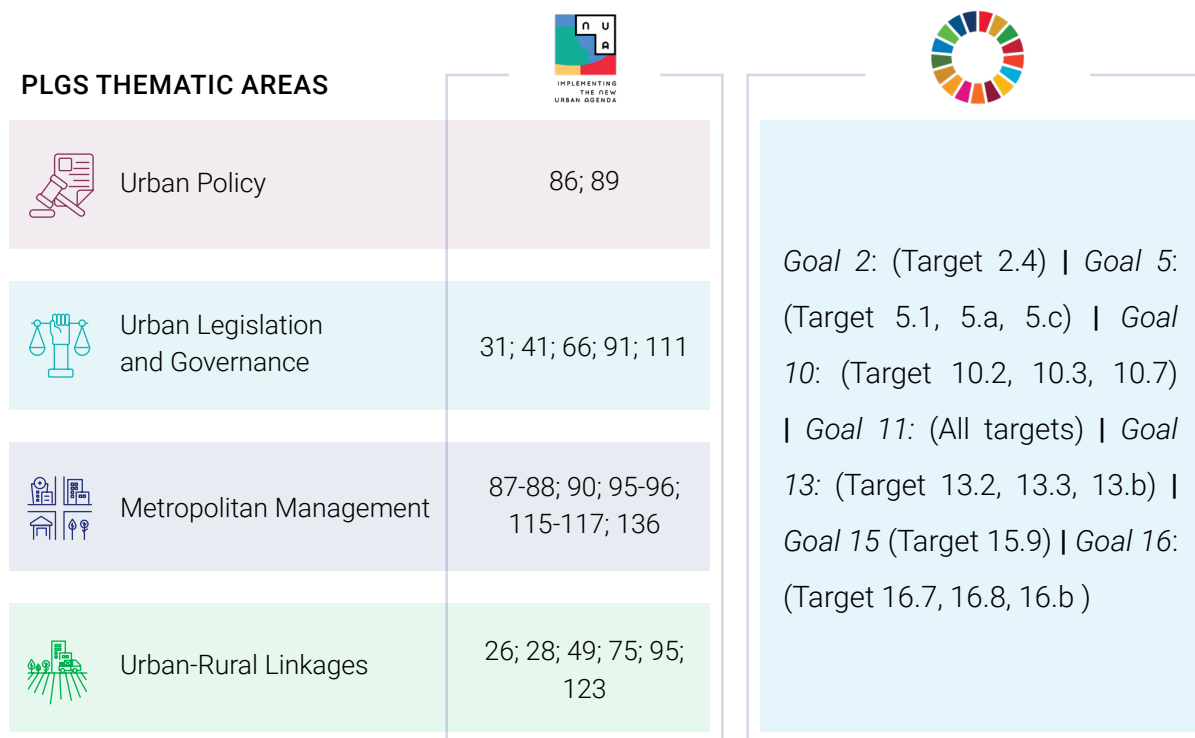
II. CONTRIBUTING TO THE SDG DECADE OF ACTION AND NEW URBAN AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

1. PLGS and the Global Goals

Policies, legislative, and governance frameworks are catalysts and drivers of change, supporting Member States as they implement development initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The New Urban Agenda's five main pillars of implementation are: **national urban policies, urban legislation and regulations, urban planning and design, local economy and municipal finance, and local implementation.**¹

PLGS in 2022 supported national and subnational governments to contribute to several targets of SDGs as well as multiple paragraphs of the New Urban Agenda through technical assistance, normative tools, and knowledge products.

Figure 1. PLGS contribution to SDGs and NUA



¹ The New Urban Agenda (2017)



2. Partnerships for the Goals

The UN Secretary General promotes collaborative work within the UN system to capitalize on the strengths and comparative advantages of the various UN Agencies. This enables governments and other partners access the experience and expertise of a wider range of UN agencies to respond to their national priorities. In this regard, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, worked with several UN organizations in 2022 in both the normative and operational nexus. This collaboration enhanced success of the several projects, knowledge products, advocacy efforts and advancing resolutions. Some of the UN organizations PLGS collaborated with on both the normative and operational nexus include; United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Diversification (UNCCD), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) through Cities Alliance, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

PLGS also collaborated with several other partners ranging from intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, academia, civil society among other partners. These collaborations took the form of funding, collaborative normative and operational work, as well as collaboration on advocacy to advance the sustainable development agenda.

Note:

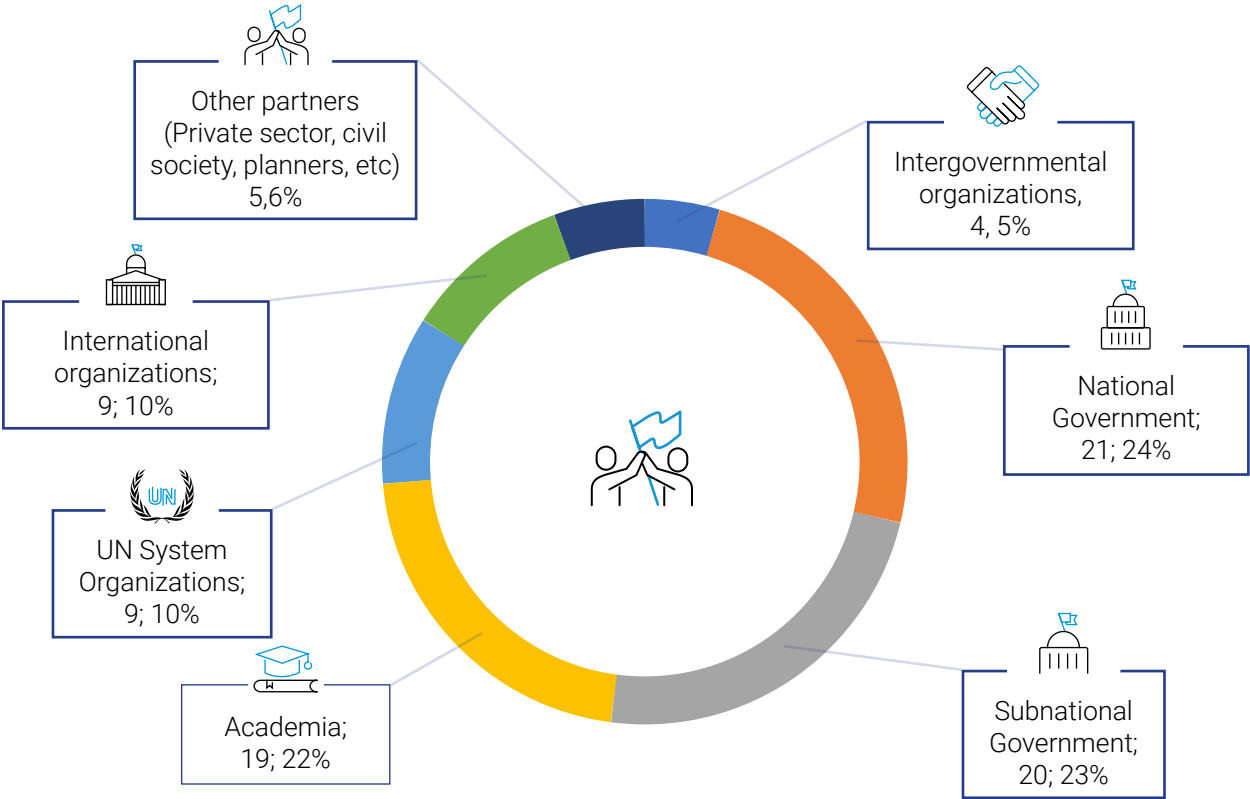


Figure 2. PLGS Development Partners



III. POSITIONING OF PLGS WORK IN THE UN-HABITAT STRATEGIC CONTEXT

UN-Habitat’s **Global Solutions Division (GSD)** is responsible for the programmatic delivery of the Strategic Plan. Within GSD, the **Urban Practices Branch (UPB)** is the tools and methodology production and skills centre that develops normative guidance and cutting-edge tools through communities of urban practice.

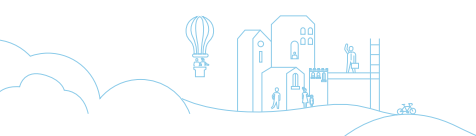
The Branch makes a significant portion of the global and multi-country programme portfolio. PLGS is one of the five practice areas of UPB, serving as the Agency’s focal point and global solutions center of excellence on Urban Policy, Legislation, Governance, Urban-Rural Linkages and Metropolitan Management.



1. UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023

UN-Habitat’s strategic plan identifies policy, legislation, and governance as part of the Drivers of Change. The work of the Section is therefore catalytic to implementing and achieving all the outcomes of the strategic plan. PLGS in 2022, through the Section’s support to national and subnational governments and other partners, on policy, legislation and governance,

urban rural linkages and metropolitan management, continued contributing towards the accomplishment of the outcome areas of the strategic plan. More specifically, PLGS technical assistance, normative tools and knowledge products and advocacy efforts contributed at varied levels to all Domains of change of the strategic plan.



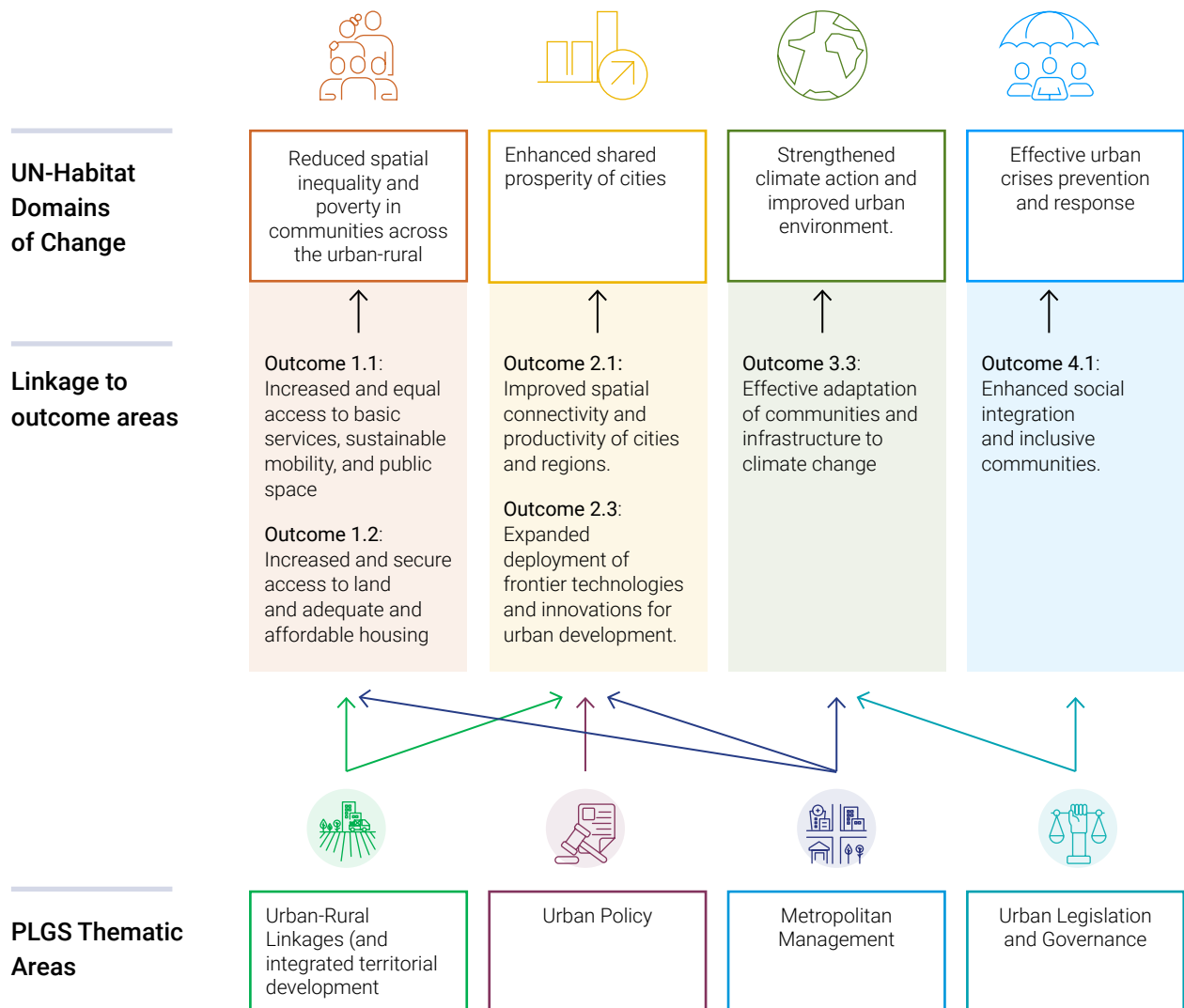


Figure 3. Linking PLGS thematic areas to the Strategic Plan

2. UN-Habitat Flagship Programmes

UN-Habitat’s five Flagship Programmes catalyze implementation of the Strategic Plan building on past and ongoing initiatives. In 2022, PLGS, contributed to advancement of four of the five Flagship Programmes.



The flagship programmes PLGS contributed to include:



People-Centered Smart Cities

EXAMPLES OF PLGS NORMATIVE AND OPERATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- > Phase 1 of the *Korea-funded national urban policy* programme developed NUP with Smart Cities Strategies for **I.R Iran, Myanmar and Niger State-Nigeria**. Phase 2 also seeks to develop NUPs with smart cities strategies in Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, and Paraguay.
- > Normatively, the guide, *From Smart Cities to Smart Villages: Strengthening Urban Rural Linkages through Smart Approaches* offers readers a collection of experiences and examples of Smart Villages from different countries globally. The [e-learning course](#) on Urban-Rural Linkages includes a module on Smart Villages.



Inclusive Cities: Enhancing the positive impacts of Urban Migration

- > PLGS is currently developing a guide, *Mainstreaming Migration into National Urban Policies*. addresses how migration can be incorporated in urban policies to promote safe, harmonious, and prosperous urban development for all.
- > Since January 2022, PLGS and the **Sultanate of Oman**, have been collaborating on the project, "**Strengthening the Urban Planning Legal and Institutional Frameworks in the Sultanate of Oman**." After analyzing over 500 spatial planning laws. PLGS also produced comparative studies on planning laws and public participation to propose a set of international regulatory and governance best practices contextualized locally.



RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor

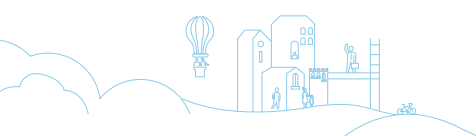
- > In October 2022, UN-Habitat and partners released a publication entitled Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities: The Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit. This companion guide to the Law and Climate Change Toolkit aims to assist cities and countries to lead the way as truly transformative spaces for climate action. In 2022, the Urban Law Module has been used by UN-Habitat, and partners, to assess the capacity of climate laws, policies and governance frameworks in Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Comoros and Oman.
- > Using the tool, over 300 participants have been trained on urban planning law



Sustainable Development Goals Cities

- > As part of the SDG Cities programme tools package, PLGS developed the Governance Self-Diagnostic Tool. The tool helps to identify gaps in local governance and support cities transition towards inclusive, effective, transparent and participatory governance. The tool was piloted in July 2022 in Bolivia.

Table 1. PLGS contributions to UN-Habitat's Flagship Programmes



3. Prioritizing Adequate Housing, Climate and a Localized 2030 Agenda

UN-Habitat identified three integrated action areas to address major urban challenges and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. These are

Adequate Housing, Cities and Climate Change, and Localising SDGs. PLGS made contributory progress to the accomplishment of these priorities.




	<h4>ADEQUATE HOUSING</h4>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > PLGS is developing a guide, <i>Mainstreaming Housing into National Urban Policies</i>. The Guide addresses how housing can be incorporated in urban policies to promote safe, harmonious, and prosperous urban development for all. 	
	<h4>CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE</h4>
<p>PLGS engaged in several initiatives on climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > PLGS is supporting Comoros to <i>Strengthen the policy and legal framework, taking into account resilience to climate change and natural hazards</i>. > PLGS supported Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, to enhance understanding of the adequacy of countries' legal frameworks to facilitate resilient and low-carbon urban development. > PLGS and partners also released the <i>Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities</i>. This companion guide helps users to navigate through and use the online version of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit. > The 9th and 10th editions of Urban Law Days (2022) were also organized with a thematic focus on climate change mitigation. 	
	<h4>LOCALISING SDGs</h4>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > PLGS implemented, jointly with Milano Polytechnic (Italy), the class <i>"Metropolitan approach to complexity and SDGs implementation"</i>, as part of the programme <i>"Rooms Without Walls. Guiding Principle For The Civic And Social Dimension Of The SDGs' Practice. Tools For The Local Policies And Projects Implementation Towards The SDGs"</i> with participation of 30+ bachelor and master international students. > The 10th session of the PLGS Community of Practice focused on localization of SDGs, in particular the global context, UN-Habitat's approach as well as opportunities for cooperation. 	

Table 2. PLGS contributions to UN-Habitat Priority Themes for 2022



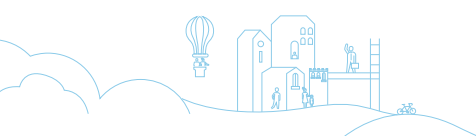
4. Internal Collaborations

PLGS works within a system of collaboration with UN-Habitat branches, sections and regional and country offices, all with the goal of fostering inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities and communities.

In 2022, PLGS continued its collaboration with several sections and country offices through in-house agreements.

OFFICE	TITLE	DONOR
Regional Office for Africa	Urban development and sanitation programme in Guinea (SANITA) - Sustainable Cities-LEGISLATION	EU
	Urban development and sanitation programme in Guinea (SANITA) - Sustainable Cities- NUP	EU
	Strengthening capacities for an Integral Territorial Development through adequate consideration of Urban-Rural linkages in development of policies, strategies as well as spatial planning at all levels in Guinea	UNDA
	Comoros	World Bank
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Metropolitan and Regional Management in Brazil - Network of Hub Cities Project	UNDP BRAZIL
	Metropolitan, Regional Management, and Corridor Development in Southeast Mexico Tren Maya Project	National Fund for Tourism Promotion of Mexico FONATUR
Innovation Unit	OECD-UN-Habitat Cities Connect Initiative:	OECD
Land, Housing and Shelter Section	Urban Rural Land Linkages	
Urban Basic Services Section	Scaling Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Service Systems (CWIS)	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Planning, Finance and Economy Section	Integrated Spatial Plan for Environmental and Socio-Economic Resilience- Tajikistan	Aga Khan Foundation for Habitat

Table 3. In-House Agreements with PLGS



IV. PLGS FOCUS AREAS

1. Country Projects

UN-Habitat provides technical support and policy advice to governments at all levels using the innovative and relevant norms, standards, guides, tools and methodologies. PLGS contributed to this in 2022 through the lens of the Section's thematic entry points: urban policies; urban legislation and governance; integrated development planning; metropolitan management; and urban-rural linkages.

Together with partners, PLGS continued providing technical assistance to **over 20** countries. This report highlights a blend of ongoing country activities before 2022 and new projects which started in 2022. This demonstrates the continued demand for our work to support countries to accomplish their national development priorities as they also align with the sustainable development agenda.



Burkina Faso

In **Burkina Faso**, the formulation phase of National Urban Policy (NUP) is complete, following several multi-stakeholder workshops over the project period. The document is undergoing final review by the Government. As part of the project, the National Housing and Urban Development Strategy (SNH DU)

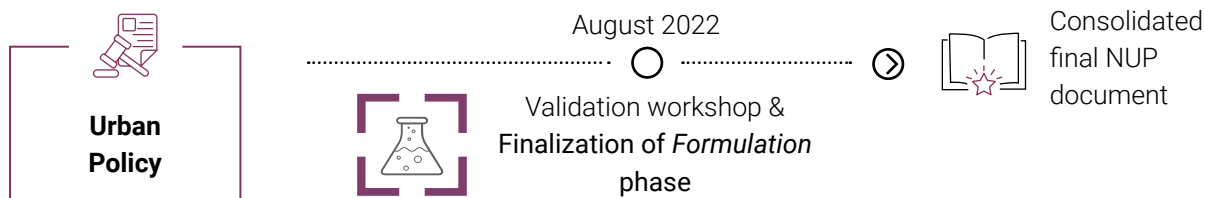
and its 2021-2025 Action Plan were reviewed and revised in February 2022. Following Government review, the NUP document will be disseminated and once adopted, will be used as one of the guiding frameworks for sustainable urban development in Burkina Faso.



Cameroon

PLGS continued to strengthen its strategic partnerships with the national and subnational governments and other partners in **Cameroon**, with

three projects: one on **national urban policy** and two on **integrated development planning**.



In 2022, PLGS supported finalization of the **formulation phase**. In enhancing participation even at the end of the formulation phase, a validation workshop was held in August, to present the draft

NUP with comments and recommendations prescribed by the Premier Minister's Office and to collect final reviews and inputs from the participants.

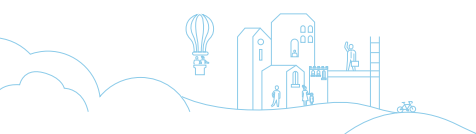



The workshop was designed to ensure every participant's voice was heard, particularly through the **three diverse focus groups** which were assigned different work areas. After reviewing and deliberating on the components of the NUP, the groups presented

their findings and recommendations, which were consolidated and included in the final NUP document. The NUP was re-submitted to the Premier Ministry for validation and adoption.



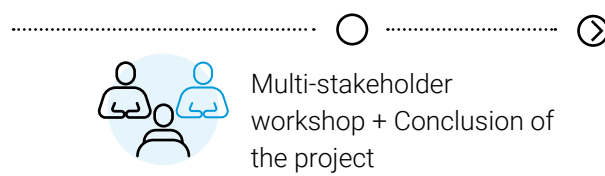

Top and bottom: Cross-section of participants during the NUP workshop © UN-Habitat





Yaounde-Nsimalen highway corridor development study

3 year Project

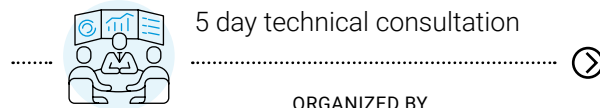
End project guide

On the **Yaounde-Nsimalen highway corridor development study**, the project was successfully concluded. In a multi-stakeholder workshop, the participants, now familiar with the over three-year long project had an opportunity to review and validate the Mission 4 report.

This presents the consolidation of achievements of the development study process of the Yaounde-Nsimalen highway corridor in the Centre Region of Cameroon. **A guide** was also developed to support replication of the project in other contexts including outside Cameroon,



Dibamba River Corridor



ORGANIZED BY

PLGS +  ARCADIS



Analyze and collect challenges and priorities from the local community stakeholders directly

In the **Dibamba River Corridor Development Study**, the project **diagnosis** was finalized and validated. Working with experts from Arcadis and officials from national government and Douala city, PLGS participated in a 5-day **technical consultation** session, to provide inputs to an integrated river resource management plan being developed for the rapidly developing urban area. Additionally, the mission's purpose was to analyze and collect challenges and priorities from the local community stakeholders

directly, which will be incorporated in the *integrated river resource management plan*. The team also engaged in an excursion along the river corridor and held capacity development sessions.

As a next step, plans are underway to create a local management committee to oversee project implementation in 2023. Specifically, an integrated management organization will be created to facilitate the participatory process among stakeholders.

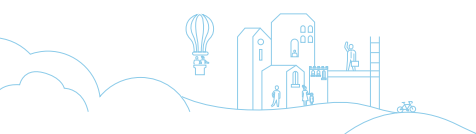


© UN-Habitat





Top & Bottom: The UN-Habitat and Arcadis Team of experts, working with Cameroonian authorities took part in an excursion along Dibamba River, as part of the development study of the river corridor © UN-Habitat



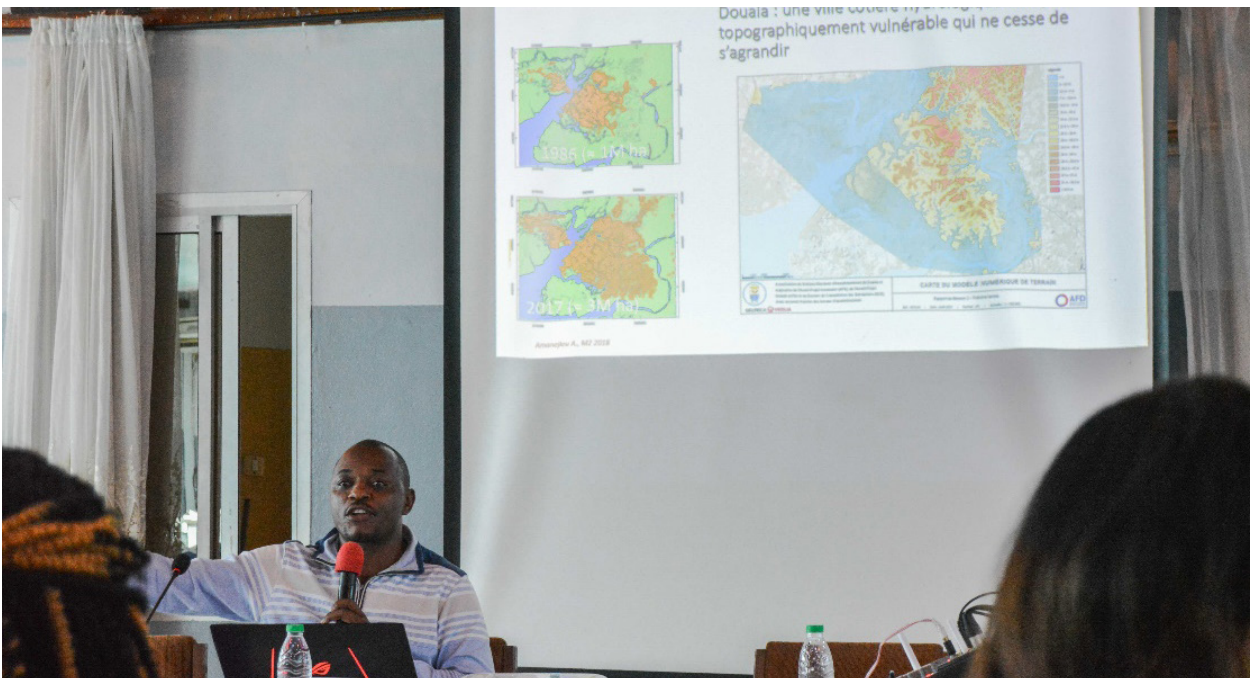


Top and bottom: As part of the technical visit, the team of experts held consultations with local chiefs and other members of the community © UN-Habitat

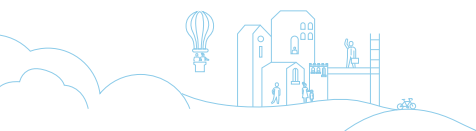




Multi-stakeholder consultations were a key part of the technical mission © UN-Habitat



Presentation of findings and ongoing development programs in Douala © UN-Habitat



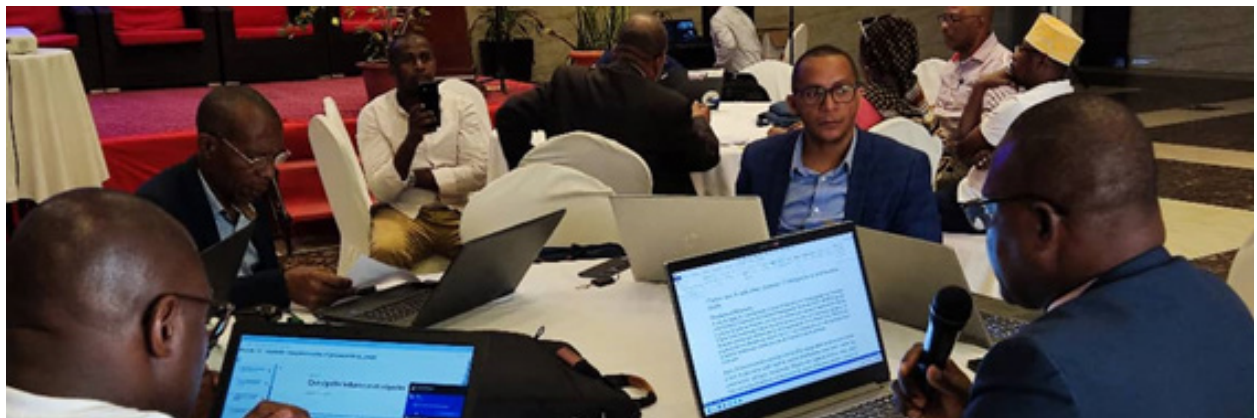


Under this project funded by the World Bank, the objective is to *develop of a normative, legal and institutional framework to help strengthen the resilience of the Comorian territory in the long term.*

PLGS leads two subcomponents: the development of the **National Urban Planning and Housing Policy** and the revision **of the Urban Planning and Construction Code.**

Under the subcomponent of strengthening legislative frameworks for enhanced resilience, the main focus was revising the Urban Planning and Construction Code of 2012, with particular attention to housing, land, and property issues. Using the [Urban Law Module](#) of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit, a detailed **diagnostic report** on the urban legal framework of the Union of Comoros was produced, along with a report evaluating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Going into 2023, plans are underway to hold local consultations in the three islands of the Union of the Comoros.

With regards to the **NUP subcomponent** of this technical support, UN-Habitat (PLGS) and the government of Comoros conducted a two-day multi-stakeholder capacity development workshop in October 2022. The workshop was held to launch the process of developing the National Urban Planning and Housing Policy (PNUH) of Comoros. More than **50 participants** attended the two days chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Territorial Planning, Urban Planning, Responsible for Land Affairs and Land Transport.

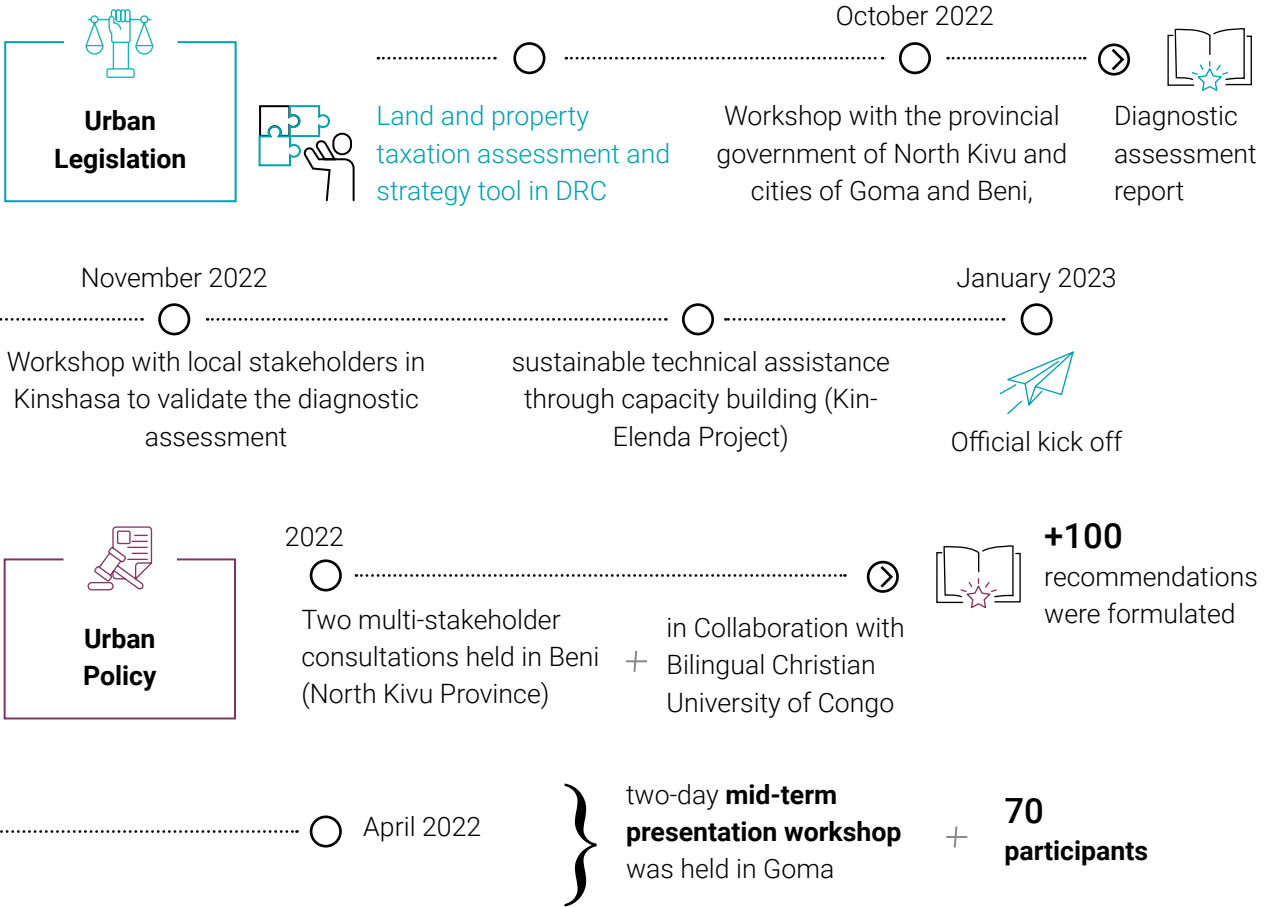


Top: Capacity development session on NUP in Comoros; Bottom: A focus group presenting findings © UN-Habitat





Democratic Republic of Congo



In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, PLGS continued collaborating with the government and other partners on national urban policy and on urban legislation.

On the **urban legislation** thematic area, in collaboration with the Land, Housing and Shelter Section (LHSS), PLGS supported the development of the land and property taxation assessment and strategy tool in DRC, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

A national workshop was organized in October 2022 to enhance the ability of the local government to run a self-diagnosis of land and property taxation or manage a land and property system in Goma/Beni town.

A diagnostic assessment report was developed that provides recommendations on land and property tax system. Another workshop was organized in December 2022 with all stakeholders in Kinshasa to validate the diagnostic assessment and develop lessons learned. Additionally, PLGS supported between May-September 2022, the review of the draft land law for DRC as well as the legal drafting workshops.

On the **Urban Policy** component, PLGS continues supporting the government to implement the New Urban Agenda (NUA) through national and sub-national urban policies, with Beni (North Kivu Province) selected as a pilot city.



In 2022, **two participatory, multi-stakeholder consultations** were held. The first, in **February**, was held in Beni to reflect on strategies for implementing the SDGs and NUA. A key outcome of the workshop is that through open plenary sessions and focus group sessions, more than **one hundred** recommendations were formulated by the participants present.

In **April 2022**, a two-day **mid-term presentation workshop** was held in Goma. The session brought together **70 participants** from different sectoral areas in Beni and Goma.



A session of the workshop in Beni, DRC © UCBC



A focus group session, during the 2-day workshop in Beni, DRC © UCBC



El Salvador

In **El Salvador**, PLGS worked closely with The Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (OPAMSS) to successfully complete the first phase of its technical support. During Urban October, the **findings** were presented to the council of mayors of the 14 municipalities in **San Salvador**. To demonstrate the continuing relevance and the impactful outlay of this collaboration, UN-Habitat

and OPAMSS agreed to continue with phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 seeks to advance the progress made in strengthening metropolitan management by the OPAMSS in an articulated manner, to adopt and implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, phase II will support formulation of the Policy for Environmentally Sustainable Territorial Development of San Salvador.

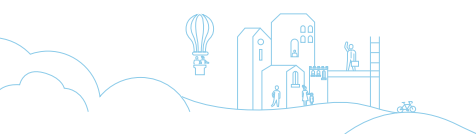




Presentation of project findings to the Council of Mayors of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador © OPAMSS



© OPAMSS





Ghana

In response to a request by the Government of **Ghana**, and facilitated by the World Bank, UN-Habitat (PLGS and Africa Regional Office-ROAf) engaged in a 5-day technical mission which involved a write shop as well as consultations to review and update the Ghana NUP which was developed and adopted in 2012. As part of World Cities Day, PLGS represented UN-Habitat in the Ghana Urban Forum on 31 October to

1st November, under the theme: *"Rapid urban growth in Ghana: promoting effective urban planning for liveable and sustainable cities and towns."* The review and revision of the NUP for Ghana has been finalized and will be subjected to a review and validation by diverse stakeholders during a validation workshop in the first quarter of 2023.



Participatory review of the Ghana Urban Policy © UN-Habitat



Guinea

PLGS engagement in **Guinea** in 2022 included two projects: on **national urban policy** and conclusion of the UNDA-funded **urban-rural linkages** project.

National Urban Policy: The National Urban Policy of **Guinea** is currently at the Formulation phase. Facilitated by the European Union as part of the SANITA² programme.

Being the formulation phase, it was important to employ a participatory approach to ensure the priorities of all stakeholders are included in the NUP. A total of **8 regional participatory and multi-stakeholder workshops** were conducted in the **8** regions of Guinea including the Capital Region of Conakry to elaborate the NUP and to collect local issues for inclusion into the Policy.



In culmination of the successful month-long multistakeholder workshops a [national workshop](#) was held in November 2022, to consolidate the key

priorities identified at regional level, and translate them into the national scale, for inclusion into the National Urban Policy (NUP) of Guinea.

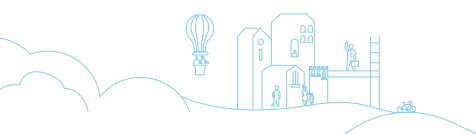


Top and Bottom: Participants identifying policy issues to include in the Guinea NUP © UN-Habitat



Urban-rural linkages: The urban-rural linkages project, funded by the United Nations Development Account, was implemented in 4 countries (**Cameroon, Guinea, Niger State-Nigeria** and **Zanzibar-Tanzania**).

Throughout the project period, over **2,500 stakeholders** strengthened their capacity on urban-rural linkages through capacity development workshops, research, and data collection field activities.





Knowledge materials disseminated during the regional workshop © UN-Habitat

In concluding the project, a regional workshop was organized in **Guinea**, attended by various stakeholders from government, civil society, international organizations and the private sector. The four country teams presented the project’s outcomes as well as post-project proposals and interventions.

A key take-away from this regional workshop and from the overall project was that ***promoting positive synergies between rural and urban agglomerations is an important part of efforts to achieve a more sustainable and healthier life for all.***

 **Haiti**

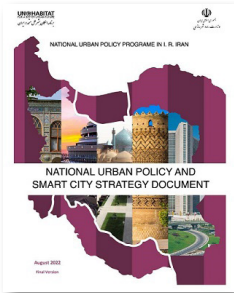
In this new project, PLGS, working with the Haitian Government, aims to support the development of a New Urban Agenda implementation plan for Haiti, through technical assistance including on national and subnational urban policies. Additionally, it will seek to equip the project partners and key players in urban and territorial management and planning with the tools, methods, and capacities necessary for its medium and long-term implementation of urban programme. The expected accomplishments include:

- Strengthened knowledge and support to Policy, Governance and Regulatory reforms
- Improved multi-level governance and participatory approaches
- Strengthened capacity of stakeholders for institutional reforms
- Strengthened institutional frameworks for urbanization





I.R Iran



Seven

supporting documents



Three Steering Committee

Three national workshops

The national urban policy of **I.R Iran**, supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea was developed through a participatory approach whereby engagement of the stakeholders happened through close collaboration with the Urban Planning and Architecture Directorate of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD) as the government counterpart, and by preparation of **seven** supporting documents, holding **three Steering Committee** meetings, and **three national workshops** during the process of developing the document. Demonstration projects were implemented in 2022 as part of the major project, building on the success of the demonstration projects implemented in 2020. In addition, following **several technical consultations, capacity development sessions** and a **validation workshop** by the Steering Committee, the NUP and Smart Cities Strategies document was finalized. To ensure a wider national audience, the document was available in **Persian** and **English languages**. To further the Programme in I.R. Iran, MoRUD intends to **approve the NUP** in the High Council of Architecture and Urban Planning.



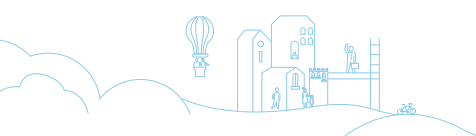
Liberia

The **Liberia** NUP is at the tail-end of its **Formulation phase**. 2022 saw significant progress made. After completion of the draft NUP, intensive sessions were held by the **Technical Support Team meeting** and the **National Habitat Committee** to present the NUP to various stakeholders from government ministries and agencies to collect their feedback and recommendations for inclusion into the draft Policy.

These sessions were followed by regional consultative workshops held in May 2022. The next steps are to hold a workshop to review and validate the final draft Policy at the national level, following the consideration for adoption by the Ministry of Internal Affairs- the lead ministry for the NUP process.



Presenting the NUP of Liberia © UN-Habitat





Mali

The national urban policy is currently at feasibility phase, building on the city policy of 2014. The goal is to better evaluate and identify how to support the country in this new process of NUP development. In 2022, UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing Mali conducted a **2-day awareness workshop** to strengthen the capacities of local and national governments in order to propose innovative and effective solutions for implementing the New Urban Agenda through National and Subnational Urban Policies.

Participants also gained knowledge on urban-rural linkages and how it can be mainstreamed into national urban policies.

The participatory and multi-segmented design of the workshop made it possible for the **over 65 diverse participants** to raise questions, experiences and reflections on the policies, management, and planning strategies in use today.



Participants converge after the NUP workshop in Mali © UN-Habitat



Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe

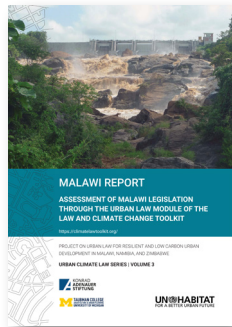
In **Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe**, the project on **Urban Law for Resilient and Low-Carbon Urban Development**, which is funded by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) promotes an improved understanding of the adequacy of countries' legal frameworks to facilitate resilient and low-carbon urban development and an improved understanding of the capacity of the countries to effectively implement these legal frameworks. In the first phase of the project, the countries' legislative and governance frameworks on climate change were evaluated using the [Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#).

This was done in collaboration with the **University of Michigan, US**. The findings were validated in **June 2022** during **national workshops** in the three countries, which attracted a total of **80 varied representatives**. Key highlights from the workshops were the need for more information on decision making at city level, and the need for accountability in governance especially in fiscal decision making. These discussions and practical experiences were incorporated into the **reports** which were published. As a concrete achievement from this project, **Zimbabwe has started the process of legal reform to enact, in 2023, its first-ever Climate Change Act**.

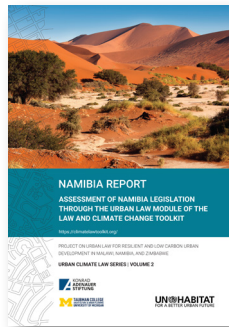




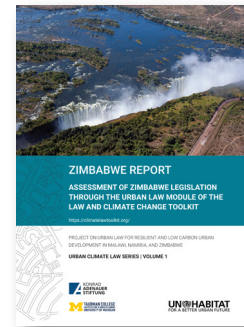
National workshop with stakeholders to validate the climate law findings in Zimbabwe © UN-Habitat



Malawi report



Namibia report



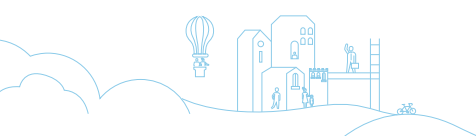
Zimbabwe report

In the second phase of the project UN-Habitat conducted capacity needs assessment of various institutions and critical stakeholders who are key in urban law and climate change response. The findings formed part of the three virtual training sessions on

law and climate change between **late September and mid-October 2022**, which discussed potential actions and strategies to address the legal and institutional climate change related capacity gaps.



Capacity development on legislation and climate change was a key component of the project © UN-Habitat





National validation workshops on law and climate change in Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe © UN-Habitat



Mexico

PLGS supported in implementation of the **“Urban and territorial integrated development strategy for the southeast region in Mexico – Regional Corridor Tren Maya”** project, especially its metropolitan, regional management, and corridor development components. PLGS technical support contributed to:

- > Harmonization of international experiences on development corridors,
- > Development of the EPC’s Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- > Development of a chapter on “Governance analysis” including a new section on the assessment results of metropolitan governance in Southeast Mexico and mainstreaming other governance issues.
- > Development of “Regulatory recommendations to operationalize the EPC”, including recommendations for the normative feasibility enabling EPC implementation in each of the five southeast States.



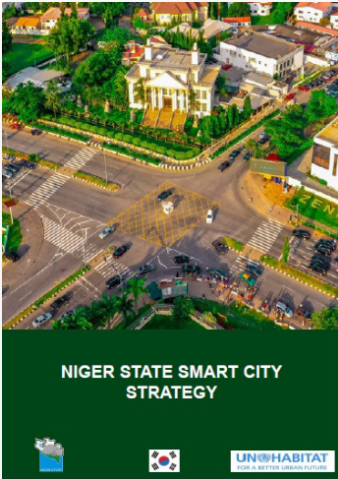
Technical consultation and field mission as part of the project in Mexico © UN-Habitat





Niger State (Nigeria)

The Niger State Urban Support Programme is comprised of five major components: Formulation of Niger State Urban Development Policy; Preparation of Integrated Development Plan for Minna and Suleja; Strengthening Urban – Rural Linkages, Development of Pilot Smart City Strategy for Suleja, and Capacity building for Urban development Institutions.



Urban Policy and Smart City Strategy Component: The **Niger State** government, working closely with UN-Habitat, and supported by the Republic of Korea, finalized its **Smart City Strategy**. This follows several big wins which include successful implementation of COVID-19 **demonstration projects** in 2020 and 2021 and quite significantly, the **approval** of the Niger State Urban Policy by the State Executive Council. In 2022, the project transitioned to the Implementation phase. A flagging off **ceremony** for the three additional demonstration projects was held in September 2022. The initiatives cover the areas of water and sanitation, and ecosystem restoration for resilience. The demonstration projects have already realized initial results. For instance, **the Tgina and Doko bi-water scheme has been fully reactivated. Also, a total of 50 hectares of land previously depleted has been recovered by mangrove trees to address the threat of desertification and improve resilience through the implementation of the Niger State Urban Policy.**

Reforestation Area at Bosso Forest Reserve, Minna – Niger State (Nigeria) ©



UN-Habitat





Rehabilitated Tegina
Bi-Water Scheme ©
UN-Habitat



Residents of Tegina fetching water from one of the water standpipe at Tegina Town © UN-Habitat

MINNA AND SULEJA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANS

As part of the continued participatory engagement, on 30th May 2022, UN-Habitat and the Niger State Government organized a **3-day workshop** with experts and stakeholders to discuss and validate institutional coordination for implementation of the **Minna and Suleja Integrated Development Plans**. The workshop gathered over **170 participants**. The stakeholders validated the **2 plans** and agreed to collaborate on their implementation.





Residents of Suleja and Members of the Suleja Emirate Council during the validation workshop for Suleja Integrated Development Plan © UN-Habitat

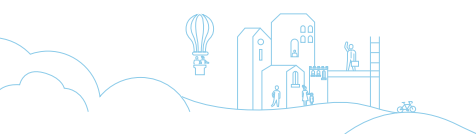


Oman

The project **“Strengthening the Urban Planning Legal and Institutional Framework in the Sultanate of Oman”** was the first ever collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Sultanate of Oman. September 2022, the project achieved significant progress which include.



Scoping mission in Oman: Discussions ongoing to map key issues that Oman is facing in terms of planning, land management, governance and public participation. © UN-Habitat



- 12TH OCTOBER
- 18TH OCTOBER
- 16TH NOVEMBER
- 7TH DECEMBER

- > The consolidated **report** of the **benchmarking case studies** on planning laws in five countries providing a set of regulatory best practices on how planning issues can be addressed in Oman.
- > PLGS represented the report on the **legal, policy and governance baseline mapping**, which shows how the current Oman spatial planning system and institutional framework works (contextual framework) in policy, law and practice.
- > PLGS presented to the Ministry the preliminary findings of the **diagnostic assessment** focusing on legal assessment of 500 laws that regulate the spatial planning system in Oman.
- > PLGS in collaboration with MoHUP organized **a workshop to validate the findings** of the legal and institutional analysis on spatial planning (diagnostic report).



Top and Bottom: Various stakeholders, during the national validation workshop, discussing the findings of the UN-Habitat spatial planning legal and governance assessment. Muscat, Oman, © UN-Habitat, 2022



NEXT STEPS

In 2023, PLGS will provide a final diagnostic report to MoHUP that incorporates feedback from stakeholders. This will culminate in the **Green Paper** which will contain the policy direction for the suggested new law in 2023 which was presented to the Minister and stakeholders in early March 2023.





Senegal

In **Senegal**, the project is on the diagnosis phase. In 2022, stakeholder mapping was completed to ensure inclusive and participatory contributions to the Diagnosis Note of the Senegal national urban policy. Additionally, **multi-stakeholder consultations** are scheduled to be held in all **14 regions** of the country.

The main objective is to collect local challenges and priorities in an inclusive and participatory approach. The outcomes of the consultations will be consolidated and included in the diagnostic note for the Senegal NUP process.



Sierra Leone

In **Sierra Leone**, PLGS finalized and shared the Feasibility report which was reviewed and validated by the ministry of planning in July 2022. Resource mobilization efforts are ongoing to transition the project to the Diagnosis Phase.



Tajikistan

Since 2020, PLGS, in collaboration with PFES, the regional office and other parts of the Agency and the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, have been supporting development of an Integrated Spatial Plan for Environmental and Socio-Economic Resilience. In September 2022, PLGS was part of a technical mission which resulted in: **Gathering of data**

necessary to analyse Tajik building codes and urban planning guidelines; **Conducting interviews** with representatives of national and local authorities on urban planning, land regulation and climate change issues to identify strengths and weaknesses, as well as the subsequent provision of recommendations.

One **key emerging issue** was that:

- > urban planning legislation of Tajikistan needs to adequately enshrine climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

As next step strategies, beginning early 2023, PLGS will carry out two main interventions:

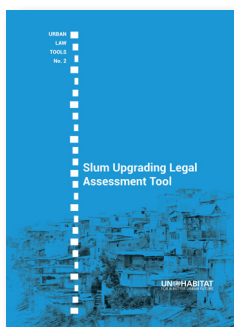
- > Analyse all the building codes received and propose fitting recommendations to amend the documents with consideration of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
- > Support Development of the urban planning guidelines for Khorog considering the mountainous region specifics, climate change perspectives and effective norms.



2. Normative Guides

One of UN-Habitat's objectives: to advance knowledge on sustainable urban development through normative tools, methodologies, and standards. In **2022**, PLGS supported this with a release of new normative tools as well as updating and revamping the more seasoned tools, which have seen years of achievements, having been applied in several country activities globally.

Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool

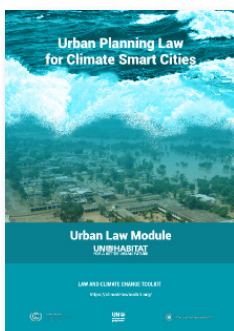


This is a diagnostic self-assessment legal tool to identify, in a structured, objective, and systematic way, the strengths and weaknesses of the regulatory framework made up of all legislation and regulations enacted at different levels and in force in a country. Developed since 2018, the toolkit has been used to carry out legal assessments in three countries (**Kenya, Iran and Guinea**).

Link: <https://unhabitat.org/slum-upgrading-legal-assessment-tool>



Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities: The Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit



This companion guide on Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities helps users to navigate through and use the online version of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit. Its structure replicates the five sections of the online module and, for each section and question, provides a narrative description and examples of legal provisions. The companion guide and toolkit have been used in several countries to carry out analysis of legal and governance frameworks. These include **Comoros, Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe**.

Link: <https://unhabitat.org/urban-planning-law-for-climate-smart-cities-the-urban-law-module-of-the-law-and-climate-change>



Governance Self-Diagnostic Tool

The tool is designed to identify gaps in local governance and to support cities to strengthen local governance. It is a first step of the larger SDG Cities programme aiming to engage cities to cultivate ambition and mobilize efforts for the achievement of the SDGs. The toolkit comprises of a survey and recommendations and will be complemented by more materials and e-learning courses. The tool was piloted in 2022 in **Bolivia**.

UN-Habitat (PLGS) used the toolkit to train 15 officials from the Municipal Secretariat of Planning, La Paz Municipality. It was also used to assess the functionality and capacity of governance systems in La Paz, Bolivia, and suggested recommendations on the reform agenda for the municipality to achieve sustainable urban development.



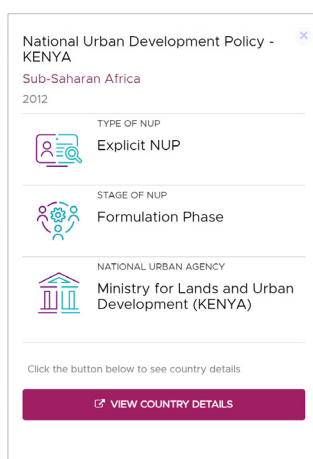
3. Knowledge Development

In 2022 PLGS expanded its catalogue of high quality, peer reviewed knowledge products related to urban policies, metropolitan management, urban legislation and governance and urban-rural linkages. These knowledge materials continue to be applied by national and subnational governments and other partners to implement their development agendas, which contribute to SDGs and the NUA.

DATABASES:

a. National Urban Policy Database: The database is a collection of information related to countries and the state of their national urban policies. The database contains NUP information from over 162 countries globally, 56 of which have been directly supported by UN-Habitat in developing their urban policies.

In 2022, the database underwent a design revamp to **enhance the user experience**, including **ease of navigation and obtaining information**. The database continues to be updated with data from the [GSNUP 2021](#) and will be used in the forthcoming 3rd edition of the Global State of National Urban Policy Report.

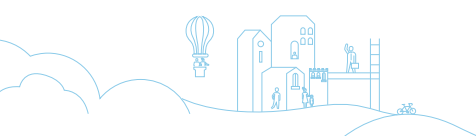


A summary of the Kenya NUP from the database © UN-Habitat

b. Urbanlex database: UrbanLex is a free global repository of laws and legal instruments, which aims to improve access to urban legislation. The laws are primarily available in their original language and accompanied by a digest in English. Which is an important added value, as it increases the accessibility of instruments and describes the core functions and mechanisms of the law.



A snip of the database landing page © UN-Habitat



Between 2021 and 2022, the database continued to be updated with

- a. 180 additional laws from Syria
- b. Availability in the remaining 5 languages of the United Nations, for a wider global reach.
- c. Design updates for an improved user experience.

In **2022**, the database continued being revamped with improved functionalities, and it continues to be accessed globally.

Publications and technical materials

Policy Brief: Metropolitan Policies in a Global Perspective

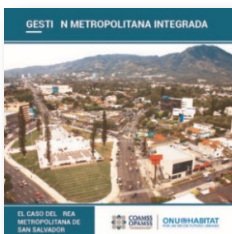


In July 2022, the week-long seminar themed “*Urban and Metropolitan Policies in the Global Sphere*”, organized jointly by the Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) and UN-Habitat, sought to familiarize the participants with a vision overview of the main governance challenges in urban areas. This report was prepared to summarize the key discussions from the 6 sessions conducted over 4 days, as well as actions to advance the metropolitan agenda.

Link: <https://urbanpolicy-platform.org/download/policy-brief-seminario-politicas-urbanas-2022/>



Integrated Metropolitan Management: The Case of the San Salvador Metropolitan Area

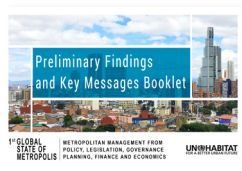


This report reflects the analysis of the policies, laws, statutes and operation of the Council of Mayors and the Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador COAMSS/OPAMSS, as an example of governance for other cities in the world. In continuing to make knowledge on metropolitan management more accessible, **the report and story featured in the UN-Habitat Latin America website, as well as external organization website, LA Network.**

Link: <https://unhabitat.org/gestion-metropolitana-integrada-el-caso-del-area-metropolitana-de-san-salvador>



1st Global State of Metropolis - Preliminary Findings and Key Messages Booklet

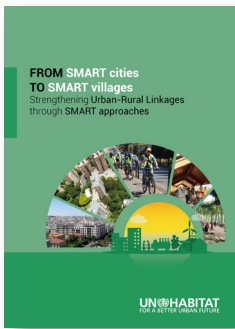


This Booklet presents the preliminary findings and key messages from the metropolitan management assessment made to a Global Sample of Metropolises defined and analyzed jointly by UN-Habitat and metropolitan authorities and experts between 2019-2022. Some outcomes of the publication are that: it has been **translated to Spanish**, enhancing a wider reach on metropolitan issues, it has also been presented and discussed in several regional and global forums such as the **International Congress on Metropolitan Solutions held in Barcelona (Spain)** and the **World Metropolitan Day 2022 in Bogota Colombia**. The Booklet also **featured** in El Pais, the most read newspaper in Spanish/Latin America.

Link: <https://unhabitat.org/1st-global-state-of-metropolis-preliminary-findings-and-key-messages-booklet>



From Smart Cities to Smart Villages: Strengthening Urban Rural Linkages through Smart Approaches (Pre-lease)

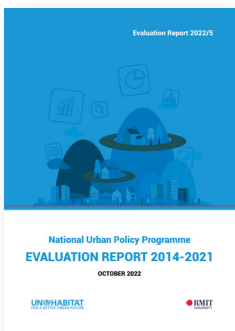


Developed in 2021 and pre-released in early 2022, this guide offers readers a collection of experiences and examples of Smart Villages from different countries globally. It presents some valuable policy recommendations on the implementation of smart villages in various contexts for different stakeholders in the field of urban-rural linkages.

Link: <https://urbanpolicy-platform.org/download/from-smart-cities-to-smart-villages-strengthening-urban-rural-linkages-through-smart-approaches/>



National Urban Policy Programme Evaluation Report



RMIT university, Australia carried out an independent evaluation of UN-Habitat's National Urban Policy Programme since 2016 to 2021. The evaluation **reaffirmed** the importance of urban policy and the core focus of the National Urban Policy Programme: that it is important for nation-states to 'get cities right' to achieve social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Link: <https://urbanpolicy-platform.org/download/nupp-evaluation-report/>



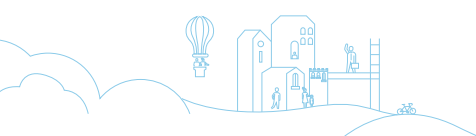
- > The evaluation provided 6 recommendations, which the NUP programme continues addressing: (a) **evidence base and policy library**; (b) **focus on knowledge sharing**; (c) **improve training for NUPs**; (d) **emphasis on Urban policy implementation**; (e) **enhance current suite of tools and guides**; and (f) **consider transferring urban policy from being a UN-Habitat programme to being part of its core activities.**

4th edition of the urban-rural linkages newsletter



The fourth edition of the urban-rural linkages newsletter covers the Second International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL2) held on 19th and 20th Oct 2021 in Songyang County, Southeast China. Included are reports on other events and achievements such as new collaborations under the section "URL Spotlight 2021". This issue also highlights a selection of projects that UN-Habitat has been implementing with partners on the localization of the URL-GP through policies and strategies.

Link: <https://urbanpolicy-platform.org/download/url-4th-newsletter/>



5th edition of the urban rural linkages' newsletter



This 5th edition showcases URL highlights at the 11th World Urban Forum and related events and UN-Habitat and partners projects or initiatives on the subject. It also presents articles prepared by experts from different organizations on biodiversity, markets, and land as major entry points to managing urban rural linkages. This edition also sheds light on UN-Habitat latest knowledge products and the recent spotlights of the guiding principles of urban-rural linkages in the 2022 UNCCD and CBD decisions among others.

Link: <https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/download/url-5th-newsletter/>



Strengthening Local Fresh Food Markets for Resilient Food Systems

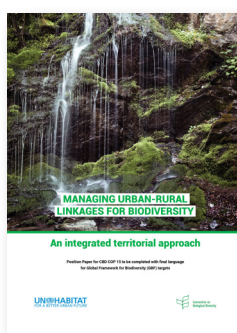


This discussion paper is written for decision-makers and practitioners to recognize and promote the idea that market systems are at the core of food systems and thus, for the transformation agenda to succeed, the catalytic role of market systems across the urban-rural continuum should be fully recognized. It argues that market systems and in particular, local fresh food markets, are key to transform food systems for sustainability and resilience and to implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It was developed through a collaboration between several partners including UN-Habitat, FAO, WUWM, GAIN and WorldFMC.

Link: <https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/download/strengthening-local-fresh-food-markets-for-resilient-food-systems/>



Managing Urban-Rural Linkages for Biodiversity



This is a Position Paper developed by UN-Habitat and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in preparation for launch of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) launched in 2022 at the UN CBD COP 15. The paper addresses 15 of the provisional GBF targets in the context of URL guiding principles. This provides a set of actionable entry points for the implementation of GBF by managing urban-rural linkages.

Link: <https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/download/managing-urban-rural-linkages-for-biodiversity/>



Leverage The Potential Of Youth, Innovation And Technologies For A Better Urban Future



This report demonstrates the relevance of innovative approaches to overcome challenges facing by cities by leveraging the potential of young people and technologies through urban governance labs in order to build more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. The report presents the idea behind the urban governance laboratories, their relevance, and how they can contribute to building better cities for all. A focus is also made on the first experience of the [Cameroon urban governance lab](#).

Link: <https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/download/leverage-the-potential-of-youth-innovation-and-technologies-for-a-better-urban-future/>



4. Capacity Development

Capacity development remains one of UN-Habitat's key delivery methods to equip national and subnational governments and other stakeholders with knowledge and skills to develop solutions to challenges inherently associated with urbanization. PLGS streamlined and advanced our capacity

development efforts employing a mix of in-person, online and hybrid capacity development sessions, coupled with the use of various online tools which resulted in a wider, efficient, and real-time global reach



Effective capacity building takes place in a dynamic and interactive learning environment that should combine a variety of tools and methods, including specialized courses, policy seminars, expert group meetings, tailor-made training, peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange workshops that support the learning cycle- "UN-Habitat Capacity Development Strategy (2020)"

Capacity development tools 2022

Revamped National Urban Policy e-learning course

National Urban Policies (NUP) have increasingly been adopted and implemented by countries as tools for enhancing sustainable urban development and the achievement of the global agendas such as the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **New Urban Agenda (NUA)**. NUP was selected as one of the ten thematic policy units affirming the

instrumental nature of the NUA in preparation of Habitat III. The NUA puts emphasis on NUP as one of the five pillars of implementation and encourages the need for capacity of the governments to develop and implement these policies. Since 2020, national urban policy is used as a monitoring tool for the SDGs through indicator 11.a.1.

The objective of this course is to understand:



a. What NUP is and its role towards sustainable urbanization



c. How to conduct NUP assessment/reviews



b. The NUP process and how it is conducted in practice

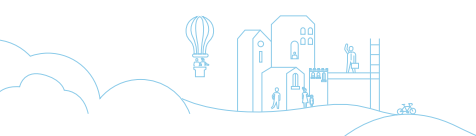


d. How NUP relates to other sectors

Urban-Rural Linkages e-learning course (preliminary version)

The screenshot shows a course interface with the following details:

- Instructor:** Urban Policy Team
- Category:** Urban-Rural Linkages
- Review:** 5 stars
- Course Title:** FUNCTIONAL URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION
- Features:** Lifetime Access, All Levels, 13 Lessons, 4 Quizzes, 9 Students
- Image:** A collage of urban and rural scenes with a 'FEATURED' banner.
- QR Code:** A QR code with the text 'Browse the course HERE' above it.



This preliminary course provides an overall understanding of the significance of Urban-Rural linkages to sustainable urbanization and integrated territorial development.

It also provides a detailed overview and methodologies of localizing the **Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles (URL-GP)** and **Framework of Action**.

This course has **FOUR** modules.



Module 1 – **Understanding the Guiding Principles of Urban-Rural linkages (URL-GP)**



Module 3 – **Developing and Action plan for strengthening URL**



Module 2 – **Stakeholder engagement in localizing URL-GP**




Module 4 – **Smart Villages to enhance digital inclusion in the urban-rural continuum**

Massive Open Online Course on Digital Governance

In collaboration with University of Nairobi (UoN), PLGS is developing the Massive Online Course (MOOC) on **Digital Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable African Cities**. This course explores innovation and technologies in the African urban system as a collaborative and participatory process of using digital techniques to improve urban governance including public participation, transparency, and





accountability while promoting inclusion in African cities and territories. In 2022, PLGS and UoN finalized recording learning sessions as part of the course, whose modules are being finalized, ready for launch in early 2023. The course will also be complemented by UN-Habitat's [Compendium of people-centered practices](#)



2000
PARTICIPANTS



The Digital Governance online course aims to equip 20,000 participants with knowledge and tools on how to co-create, facilitate and support better planning, decision making, and governance in African Cities.



MetroHUB MEMORANDUM Game

This gamification approach and tool, developed by Milano Polytechnic (POLIMI) and UN-Habitat PLGS, Through the board game's case study, the aim is to transfer to metropolitan agents a methodology, achieving awareness about sustainable metropolitan cultural heritage development through adopting

practices and systemic project actions produced by the SDGs interlinkages. The expected outcome is **achieved by educating systemic thinking that recovers the transdisciplinary view of metropolitan issues** to understand its complexity in global and local interconnected ways.





The tool was officially launched and used in a training session during the 11th World Urban Forum (WUF11), and has been used for training on metropolitan management in several capacity development sessions. The tool was also applied in a two-week Summer School on metropolitan landscape management, at Politecnico di Milano, Italy. More than **70 international students and practitioners** enhanced their capacity on metropolitan landscape management through the Memorandum Game.



Focus groups using the Memorandum game during a training session at WUF11 © UN-Habitat

Capacity development programmes

a. MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme

The [MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme](#) enhances the knowledge of urban leaders, local actors, and public servants to better manage metropolitan areas and develop instruments

and tools that allow better governance, financing, and planning of metropolises in an inclusive and sustainable way.



Students taking a course on metropolitan management- Politecnico di Milano, Italy. ©POLIMI



The programme saw significant progress and results in 2022. More than **250 participants** enhanced their capacity on metropolitan management through **8** different capacity development programmes: **3** programmes in **Europe**; **2** in **Asia**; and **3** in **Latin America**.





APRIL 8, 2022
Milan, Italy.

 **ROOMS WITHOUT WALLS**
 "Metropolitan approach to complexity and SDGs implementation"
 --
 1-Day Class as part of 4-Months Certificate for bachelor and master students.
 --
 Milano Polytechnic (Italy)
 --
 30+





JULY 4-7, 2022
Barcelona, Spain.

 **Metropolitan Policies in a Global Perspective**
 --
 1-Week Seminar for municipal and metropolitan public officers, and master students.
 --
 Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB)
 Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI)
 --
 20+

JULY 22, 2022
Asuncion, Paraguay.

 **The Role of Communications in Metropolitan Management**
 --
 1-Day Journalism School for independent journalists and municipal communication officers.
 --
 LaNetwork.org
 Association of Municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of Asuncion (AMUAMA)
 --
 20+

JULY 23, 2022
Asuncion, Paraguay.

 **Master Class on Metropolitan Management**
 --
 1-Day Master Class as part of a 3-Months Diploma in Urban Management for professionals, public officers and practitioners.
 --
 Comunera University (Paraguay)
 Alma Civica NGO (Paraguay)
 --
 30+

JULY 25-29, 2022
Brazilian Northeast (virtual).

 **Expanding Development Frameworks on Metropolitan Management**
 --
 1-Week Module as part of a 2-Months Training for public officers of 52 municipalities of Brazilian Northeast Region.
 --
 UN-Habitat Brazil Office
 UNDP Brazil.
 G52 Network.
 --
 30+







AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

Piacenza, Italy.

DECEMBER 12-14, 2022.




Seoul, Korea.

-  International Summer School on Metropolitan and Regional Management "LANDSCAPE OF LIMITS"
-
-  2-Weeks Summer School for bachelor and master students.
-
- Milano Polytechnic – Piacenza Campus (Italy)
-
-  70+

-  Heritage within metropolis, Metropolis as heritage
-
-  3-Days Seminar for master and PhD students, professionals, practitioners, international experts, and public officers.
-
- Konkuk University (Korea)
-  Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (Jerusalem)
-
-  30+

DECEMBER 15, 2022

Sejong, Korea.

-  Metropolitan Management from Policy, Legislation, Governance, Planning and Finance – Asian Zooming.
-
-  1-Day Learning Session for public officers and practitioners.
-
- Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS)
-
-  20+

Total participants
+250

Figure 4. MetroHUB capacity development sessions in 2022



In pictures: MetroHUB capacity development programme



A focus group using the Memorandum game to assess issues and propose metropolitan solutions- 2-week Summer School at Politecnico di Milano ©POLIMI



Participants interacting with UN-Habitat's Metropolitan Management Pyramid - Barcelona, Spain © UN-Habitat





Interactive discussions using UN-Habitat's [Metropolitan Management Pyramid](#). Barcelona, Spain © UN-Habitat

b. Urban Law Days

The [Urban Law Day](#) (ULD) is a global platform for capacity development knowledge exchange, peer to peer learning, best practices and lessons learned on matters of urban law. The two ULDs held in 2022 proved to be insightful and thought-provoking, challenging participants to share experiences, ideas, inspiring practices, and lessons along the events' themes.

i. 9th Urban Law Day- Climate-Smart Urban Planning

(ONLINE) URBAN LAW DAY 2022



8 July 2022

14.00 - 15.30 (GMT+3)

Nairobi, Kenya time

[Click here to join](#)

URBAN LAW DAY 2022
Climate-Smart Urban Planning

SPEAKERS

Gianluca Crispi,
Legal Officer,
UNFCCC

Benjamin Ojoleck,
Associate Legal
Officer, UN
Environment
Programme

**Prof. Anel du
Plessis,**
Research Chair
in Cities, Law and
Environmental
Sustainability (CLES)

Anne Amin,
Legal Specialist,
Policy Legislation and
Governance Section,
UN-HABITAT

Zione Ntaba,
Malawi High Court
Judge

Felicity Owoses,
Legislative drafter,
Namibia Ministry of
Justice

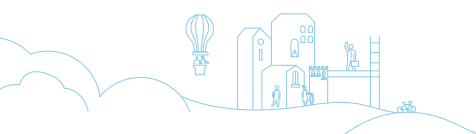


UN@HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE | IALS INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES | SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

#URBANLAWDAY2022



In the wake of the climate crisis facing urban areas, and particularly in the Global South, the **9th Urban Law Day co-organized with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies** on 8th July 2022 explored the concept of climate-smart urban planning and discussing the strategies and tools that can address the effects of climate change in urban settings and reduce the GHG emissions of urban dwellers.



With over 50 multidisciplinary professionals in attendance, presenters and participants together had the opportunity to examine the relationships between the environment, climate change and urban development processes which underpin climate-smart urban planning. For example, legal professionals and researchers from the South African region presented on the achievements and

challenges their countries face in applying principles of climate smart planning through urban law, policy and governance. These discussions promoted learning, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences which will better inform the creation of “climate friendly cities” that are more resilient and sustainable.

ii. 10th Urban Law Day: Climate-Smart Urban Planning Legislation

In celebration of World Cities Day, UN-Habitat and the Fordham University, US, hosted an Urban Law Day Roundtable Discussion, centered around climate-smart urban planning legislation, which gathered a panel of urban legal scholars from around the world.

The Roundtable began with a discussion of the application of the Urban Law Module in the Southern Africa region through the UN-Habitat project, Urban Law for Resilient Low-Carbon Urban Development in

Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe, funded by Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).

The panelists also considered climate-smart urban planning policy and climate governance in the United States context. The Roundtable Discussion highlighted the instrumental role of assessment tools such as the Urban Law Module in identifying where and how urban legal frameworks can be reformed to promote climate-smart urban planning.

c. PLGS Communities of Practice

The PLG **Community of Practice (COP)** continues to play its pivotal role in facilitating substantive discussions and agency-wide learning, information-sharing and collaboration to harness the collective breadth of knowledge, expertise and experience from the various thematic and geographic parts of the Agency. Since inception of the Community of Practices in 2020, PLGS has held a total of 13 COPs, spanning a wide array of thematic areas. These sessions have drawn presenters and participants from all parts of UN-Habitat and externally.

These COPs continue to be platforms for diffusion of experience, perspectives, best practices and lessons learned in the various themes that guided the sessions.

In 2022, the PLGS COPs demonstrated the synergy that comes out of collaboration. In the 5 COPs held, PLGS brought in perspectives from other sections, regional and country offices, as well as external partners into the fold.



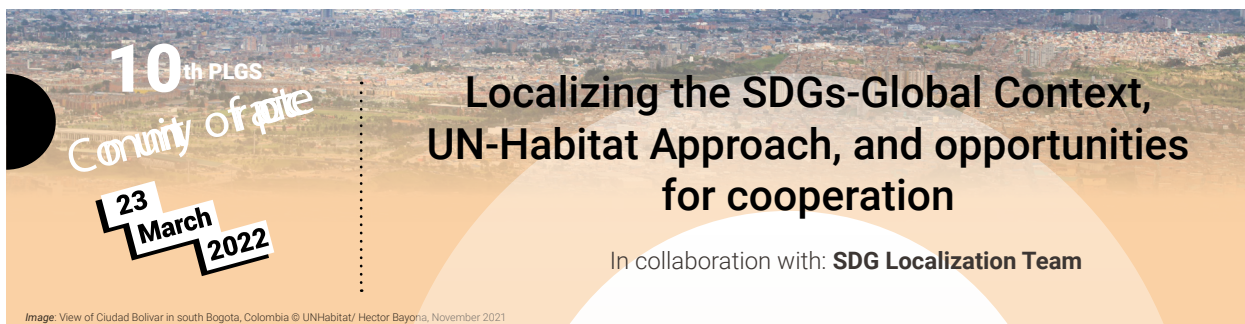
COP 9 (Feb 2022): National Urban Policies in the Arab States Region



The 9th session, attended by 67 participants, was co-organized with the Regional Office for Arab States and Country Offices in the region. It was designed to take a brief look at: the state of urbanization in the Arab region; experiences from the Arab region in developing National Urban Policies; the challenges, priorities, innovations, and lessons learned; the impacts, normative instruments and tools emerging from the process.

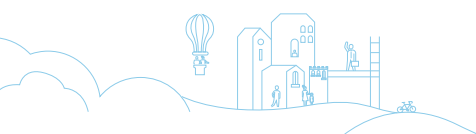
Some of the key lessons and opportunities that emerged from this 9th session include: **Need for increased awareness/advocacy** on the importance of NUP among diverse actors; **Continuing to develop capacity of decision-makers on urban policymaking** to advance on NUP development and; **Need for strengthened political support** in NUP development.

COP 10: Localizing the SDGs- Global Context, UN-Habitat approach, and opportunities for cooperation.



This 10th session of the PLGS COP focused on localization of the SDGs, in particular the global context, UN-Habitat's approach as well as opportunities for cooperation. The session was informative and dynamic, combining a collaborative presentation by the different experts working on

SDG localization-related activities, with discussion with participants to address how PLGS can support UN-Habitat's strategy on SDG localization, including ongoing activities at regional and country level, upcoming projects, and opportunities for cross-sectional engagement across the house.



COP 11: Pathways in Capacity Development



This 11th COP was centered around capacity development, where “UN-Habitat Learn”, the Organization’s primary learning platform was showcased. The session demonstrated the collaboration between PLGS and CDTU in development of capacity development tools such as the [National Urban Policy](#) (NUP) e-learning course and the [Urban Rural Linkages](#) (URL) e-learning course.

It also provided an opportunity to learn about country case studies where the developed tools have been piloted and/or applied, including NUP capacity development in **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**, URL trainings for county planners in **Kenya** and the MetroHUB global capacity development programme, with cases from **Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Italy and Paraguay**.

COP 12: Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities – Law and Climate Change Toolkit



The 12th PLGS COP involved discussions, experiences and lessons learned on how urban planning law can strengthen climate action in cities and communities. Attracting over 90 participants, the COP provided insights into the interrelationships between urban planning and climate change and explored the entry points for city involvement in climate change action through climate-smart urban planning. The session also featured a presentation of the *Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit* developed by UN-Habitat as well as reflections from PFES, Climate Change Team and ROAF.

Outcomes of the project *Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development* in **Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe** were also presented demonstrating the effectiveness of the tool in reviewing the countries’ policy and legal frameworks.



COP 13: Global State of National Urban Policies



The 13th session of the PLGS COP brought together over 55 internal and external participants under the theme of urban policies. The session offered an opportunity for participants to understand and appreciate national urban policies and their importance in contributing to the SDGs and NUA. The session's main theme was on the Global State of National Urban Policy Report, which is prepared to review and update the state of NUPs.

This knowledge product is one of the initiatives under the National Urban Policy programme, a partnership between UN-Habitat, OECD, and Cities Alliance. The session was concluded with an overview of the planned activities as the leading partners (UN-Habitat, OECD, and Cities Alliance) continue developing GSNUP3, slated for release in 2024.

d. Other capacity development sessions

> Strengthening university partnerships through capacity development

(24-25 November 2022) In the context of implementing the agreement between UN-Habitat and the University Mohamed 6 Polytechnic of Benguerir (Morocco) a two-day training on metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages was delivered to students in the Executive Masters programme. UN-Habitat tools such as the [metropolitan management pyramid](#)

and the [urban-rural linkages e-learning course](#) were applied as part of the session, attracting more interest and interaction from the participants. Discussions were initiated to engage with the partners in Morocco to develop a joint programme on metropolitan management and smart villages.

> Training of Trainers on Urban-Rural Linkages, Kenya: UN-Habitat collaboration with University of Nairobi

In 2022, UN-Habitat and UoN conducted capacity development sessions for county planners all over Kenya. To ensure access and opportunity for gaining the knowledge for all county planners, the workshops were held at different dates in Kisumu (18 counties), Naivasha (20 counties), and Mombasa (9 counties) counties. In total over 30 urban planners, county experts and other stakeholders from the 47 counties of Kenya in strengthening their capacity to integrate urban-rural linkages into their county development initiatives such as spatial planning.

Additionally, having completed the research component of the project, UN-Habitat and University of Nairobi held **two** interim validation workshops in August and in October to review the draft reports and outcomes of the project.

Another key outcome of the collaboration is that UN-Habitat and the University are setting up a research **Centre of Excellence for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa** at the university to advance urban-rural linkages.





County planners in Kenya enhancing their capacity on urban-rural linkages © UN-Habitat

> June 2022: Third Korea NUPP Knowledge Exchange Session in Katowice, Poland

The 2022 Knowledge Exchange and Celebration Event for Korea NUP programme focused on sharing the results and achievements of National Urban Policies with Smart City Strategies in the three pilot countries – I.R. Iran, Myanmar, Niger State (Nigeria) and launch of the Phase II in five countries: Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, and Paraguay.

The two-day Knowledge Exchange workshop was also an opportunity to exchange experiences, processes

and notes on the progress undertaken in each country and learn from inspiring practices. It provided tools and technical assistance to governments and stakeholders to overcome the capacity gap and benchmarking opportunity by learning from the Korean context. The meeting also explored different dimensions of financing mechanisms for the NUP with smart city strategies through different arrays of partnerships with key stakeholders.



Ms. Nayoon Heo and Mr. Bijay Karmacharya discussing key lessons of NUP in Myanmar © UN-Habitat



> June 2022 – Leaving No Child Behind: Towards Integrating Children’s Perspectives In Urban Policies, Laws And Standards in Katowice, Poland

UN-Habitat and UNICEF collaborated to create a specific tool to address inclusion of children into urban policy processes through participation mechanisms. Presented at a training event during the 11th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11), the Guidance on Developing and Operationalizing Child-Responsive Urban Policies, Laws and Standards demonstrates how to integrate children into urban policy processes and provides effective mechanisms of child-

participation practices. Featuring a lively, interactive discussion, the training event enriched both panelists and participants with insights on how the tool works, its thematic topics, the target beneficiaries, as well as some best practices included in the Guidance, for possible replication. Special attention was paid to the issue of the role of NUPs in public space designs, a key public utility for children’s self-development.



Participants following the presentation of the UN-Habitat-UNICEF Guidance. © UN-Habitat

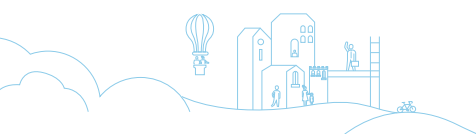
> June 2022 – Building Knowledge for Effective Climate Change Laws

167 in-person and virtual participants, ranging from national and local governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector are better equipped to make localized decisions to tackle climate change after participating in a training event during the 11th Session of the World Urban Forum that discussed the role of law in minimizing the impacts of climate change.

This three-hour session provided a platform for discussion on relevant tools and best practices related to the topic, with particular attention on the [Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#).

According to one of the co-developers from the *Commonwealth Secretariat*, **“the Toolkit is a global resource that assists countries in legal reform by suggesting exemplary legislation and specific provisions from legislation around the world that may assist in addressing identified gaps.”**

Discussions also focused on identifying the interrelationships between urban planning and climate change as well as exploring the entry points for city involvement in climate change action through climate-friendly urban planning.





The panelists from left to right: Mr Samuel Njuguna (UN-Habitat); Mr. Matthew Moorhead (Commonwealth Secretariat); Ms. Maria Mousmouti (Institute of Advanced Legal Studies); Mr. Lukas Lingenthal (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung) and Mr. Javier Torner (UN-Habitat) © UN-Habitat

> July 2022- Capacity development on Governance, Bolivia

UN-Habitat (PLGS) trained participants from the Municipal Secretariat of Planning, La Paz Municipality in Bolivia who work in research, statistics, and territorial planning on how to use the Governance Digital Tool for SDG Cities. The training was organized jointly by Global CEO Alliance, UN-Habitat HQ (SDG cities) and the Bolivia Country Office. The session focused on the data collection methodology, details

of the survey, the survey methodology, data analysis, as well as the next steps including piloting the tool. The tool was also used to assess the functionality and capacity of governance systems in La Paz, Bolivia, and recommendations were provided on the reform agenda for the municipality to achieve sustainable urban development.



5. Advocacy and Outreach

Partnership and advocacy promote and enhance awareness on policy, legislation and governance to cement UN-Habitat's position on the global map of sustainable development. PLGS aims at advocating for UN-Habitat tools and methodologies on policy, legislation and governance amongst partners and other UN Agencies for a wider global presence.

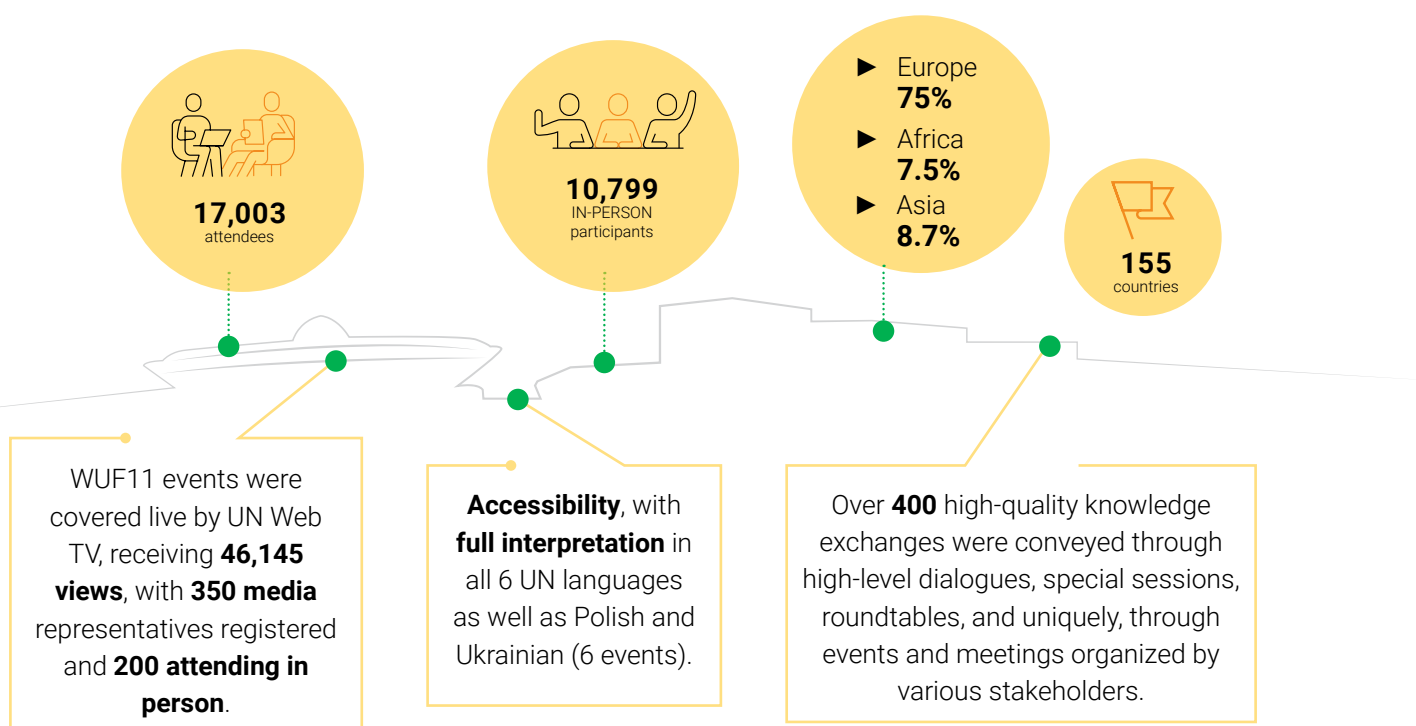
2022 saw the sustained strengthening of existing partnership and advocacy initiatives as well as striking new partnerships and advocacy efforts for a wider global reach.

Here are some of the key advocacy and outreach events that featured in 2022.

> 11th World Urban Forum

The Eleventh session of the [World Urban Forum](#) (WUF11), hosted by the City of Katowice, Poland, brought together national and subnational governments, private sector, urban actors, academia and civil society organizations, to engage in structured, thematic, and sustainable-urban-future responsive deliberations on sustainable urban development. Under the theme [Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future](#), the forum raised pertinent questions about the future of cities, what form they should take, and the kind of cities needed to support the future of humanity.

Key numbers³:



In culmination of the week-long Forum, participants came up with the voluntary [Katowice Declared Actions](#). The Declared Actions will carry the sustainable development agenda forward to the next World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt in 2024, and beyond.

³ IISD (2022): Summary report of the World Urban Forum 2022: <https://enb.iisd.org/world-urban-forum-wuf11-summary>



PLGS at the World Urban Forum

PLGS played significant roles during WUF11, in over 15 training and, networking events and technical consultations related to policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management, and urban rural linkages.

Here, PLGS showcased several global and context-specific normative tools and disseminated various thematic knowledge products. Some key events held include:


**Launch Of
 Korea-Funded
 NUPP Phase II**

- > PLGS, the Government of the Republic of Korea, government officials from participating countries (I.R Iran, Myanmar and Niger State-Nigeria) and other partners held an event to conclude Phase One of the National Urban Policy Programme. It was an opportunity to review achievements and progress made through the programme. Country focal points shared their accomplishments, experiences and lessons learned during development of respective NUPs, as well as next steps. The event provided a platform to launch NUPP Phase II which will be implemented in 5 countries in 2023 (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, and Paraguay).



Korea NUPP Networking Event on Implementation of National Urban Policy with smart city strategies, country experiences and innovative demonstration projects. © UN-Habitat





“Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws and Standards”

- > Participants got new and innovative approaches and knowledge for developing inclusive and child-responsive laws and policies based on the joint guidance developed by UN-Habitat and UNICEF.



Participants during the training on Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws and Standards © UN-Habitat

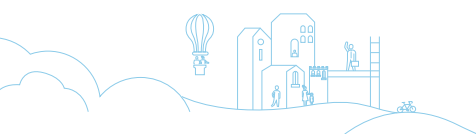


“Climate Smart Urban Planning Legislation”

The training event organized in collaboration with UNFCCC, UNEP, the Commonwealth Secretariat as well as the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Foundation featured discussions to help cities and countries craft implementable laws for effective urban planning and land use as well as support sound climate change action plans to minimize the impacts on vulnerable populations.



A participant making an intervention during the training event on climate laws. © UN-Habitat





Metropolitan innovative solutions, dealing with inclusion challenges of cities

- > Hosted by the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, participants shared and discussed innovative metropolitan examples, public policies and solutions at international level enhancing inclusive and equitable metropolises. The session included different political and technical examples that metropolises are providing to enhance cohesion, protect social rights, provide a more inclusive, secure and equitable public space, and include citizens' interests and needs into metropolitan policies and services.



Participants during the discussions on metropolitan innovative solutions © UN-Habitat



Territorial and Urban-Rural Governance: Key Tools for Biodiversity Preservation

- > The event highlighted the outcomes and perspectives of the ongoing collaboration between UNEP, UN-Habitat, FAO, ICLEI, and the CBD Secretariat to further accelerate action on biodiversity protection in cities, implementing nature-based solutions, and strengthening integrated planning and Urban-Rural Linkages, in line with the NUA objectives.



Panelists and participants during the event on Territorial and Urban-Rural Governance © UN-Habitat



> World Metropolitan Day 2022

Under the theme of “**Crossing Boundaries**”, more than **40** cities, metropolitan areas, universities, and international organizations planned and participated in activities to celebrate the World Metropolitan Day on 7th October 2022. **Bogotá** which became the first city to host the global commemoration of World Metropolitan Day, along with Metropolis

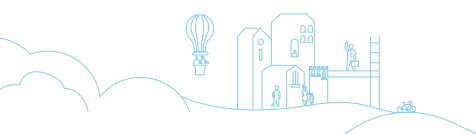
and UN-Habitat held a global conversation on relevance of care as a framework for strengthening metropolitan governance. Participants reflected on how reorganizing the metropolis to focus on care can create improve peoples’ well-being of people, the planet and democracy.



World Metropolitan Day. Bogota, Colombia © City of Bogota

Key messages:

- At UN-Habitat, we are convinced that recovery from global shocks and our journey towards sustainability will depend on how well we manage metropolitan spaces for generations to come. **Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, UN-Habitat Executive Director
- World Metropolitan Day is an opportunity to give due attention to metropolitan realities- **Jordi Vaquer** Metropolis Secretary-General.
- Adopting a metropolitan perspective allows us to bridge different land uses, bring diverse actors together and combine different narratives such as the 15-minute city with a metropolitan strategy. **Elkin Velásquez**, UN-Habitat’s Regional Director for LAC.
- In practice, applying a metropolitan vision is a question of democracy, equality and trust. **Nicolás García**, Governor of Cundinamarca.
- Cities and the way they work are much more than geographical issues, they are a profoundly human phenomenon. As such, cities need to be in tune with their communities. **Carolina Cosse**, Mayor of **Montevideo**.
- It is no coincidence that local care systems are being implemented in Latin America, as half of the population lives in the informal economy, without access to a health or a pension system. As women are the main providers of care, Bogota’s care system has a simple objective: to identify women’s needs and to respond to them. **Claudia López**, Mayor of **Bogota**.



In Pictures: Chinese cities light up their buildings for World Metropolitan Day © Metropolis



Guangzhou



Zhengzhou



Yiwu



> Global Network of Metropolitan and Regional Management

This is a platform for cooperation, knowledge, innovation, and international action for metropolitan and regional development. Events held in 2022 within the framework of the Network for sustained advocacy and awareness on metropolitan issues included:

MARCH 3-4
Launch of
Latin American
Chapter

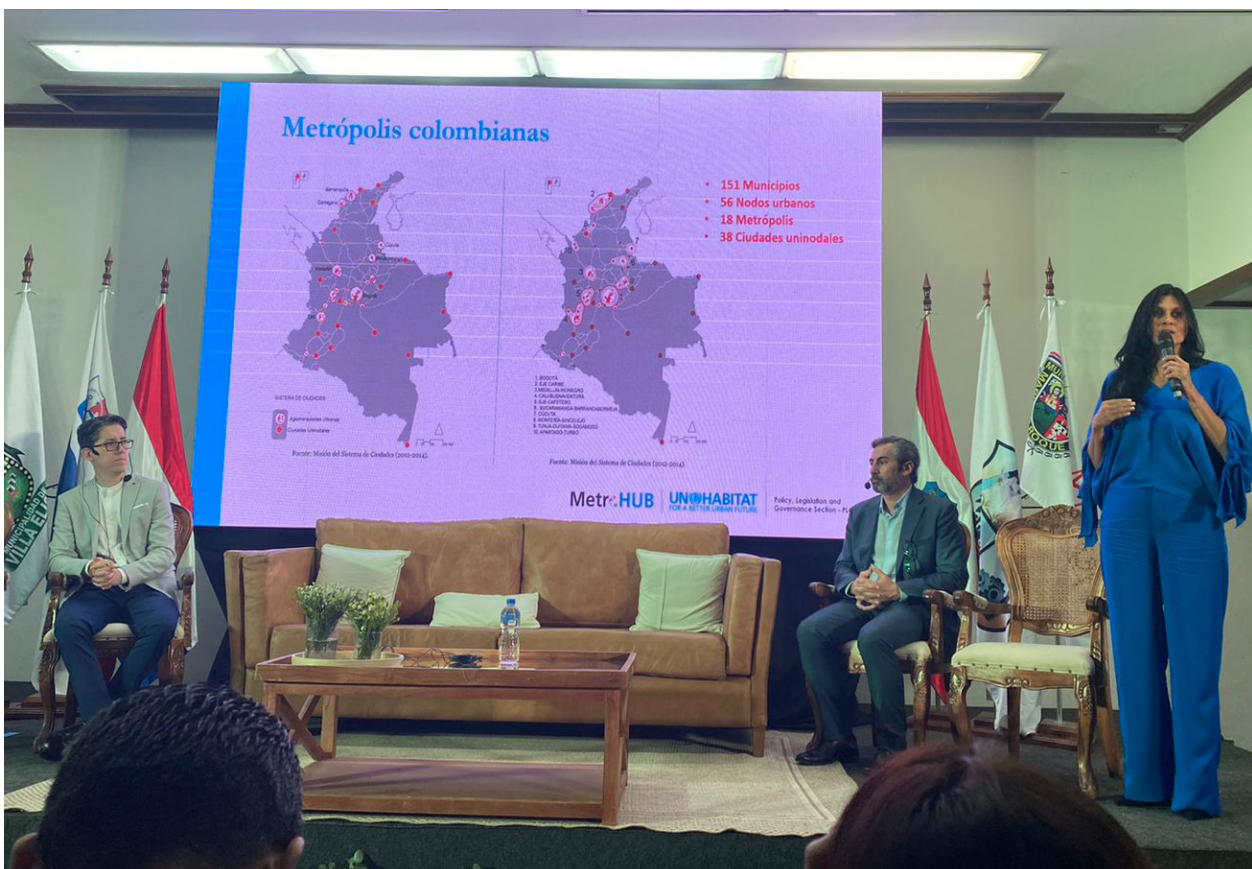
- UN-Habitat and Valle de Aburrá Metropolitan Area, **Colombia**, hosted the launch of the Latin American Chapter of the Network. Participants incorporated over 30 metropolitan representatives from **8** Latin American countries. Guests from **Africa** and **Asia** participated as observers and for peer-to-peer learning.

JULY 15
Bogota,
Colombia

- Colombian Intermediate Cities Mayors Summit: Attended by over 30 mayors of Colombian intermediary cities, the Summit identified areas of collaboration with UN-Habitat to create the Colombian Intermediate Cities Network and their participation at the G20 Platform on the SDG Localization.

JULY 21-22
Asunción,
Paraguay

- The National Metropolitan Governance Public Forum was held, "Cooperation in the Territorial Management Center", with nearly 100 participants from different spheres generating, the initiative to formalize metropolitan management through governance schemes, metropolitan plans, regulatory frameworks and financing mechanisms.



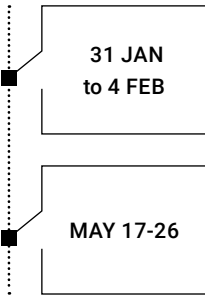
National Metropolitan Governance Public Forum, Paraguay. © UN-Habitat



> Binational Metropolitan Management initiative in Laredo-Nuevo Laredo

In 2022, progressing with the binational metropolitan management initiative along the border of Mexico (Nuevo Laredo) and the United States (Laredo), UN-Habitat engaged in advocacy and awareness events,

to continue promoting territories of peace and prosperity, reducing the inequality gaps that prevail in border cities.



- An event was held, which resulted in the design of a MetroLab to identify Metropolitan Common Affairs as well as a Binational Metropolitan Action Plan.
- Over 100 municipal officers and metropolitan actors participated in a week-long event where 12 sessions were held to draft plans and proposals for the Binational Management planning document. This resulted in information of 12 binational actors to support advocacy efforts on binational metropolitan management.

e. Other Events



Trinational metropolitan management (Argentina Brazil and Paraguay)



Trinational metropolitan governance dialogue in Ciudad del Este © Ciudad del Este Municipality



Sessions of the trinational metropolitan management initiative © Ciudad del Este Municipality



APR 2022

- 4th-5th; Barcelona, Spain; Expert Group Meeting on Metropolitan Management © AMB



MAY 2022

- 9th-20th; 15th session of the conference of parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

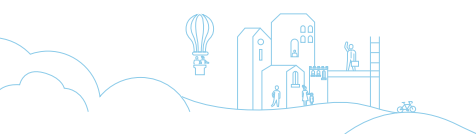
- 17th -21st; Africities Summit, The 9th edition; Kisumu, Kenya

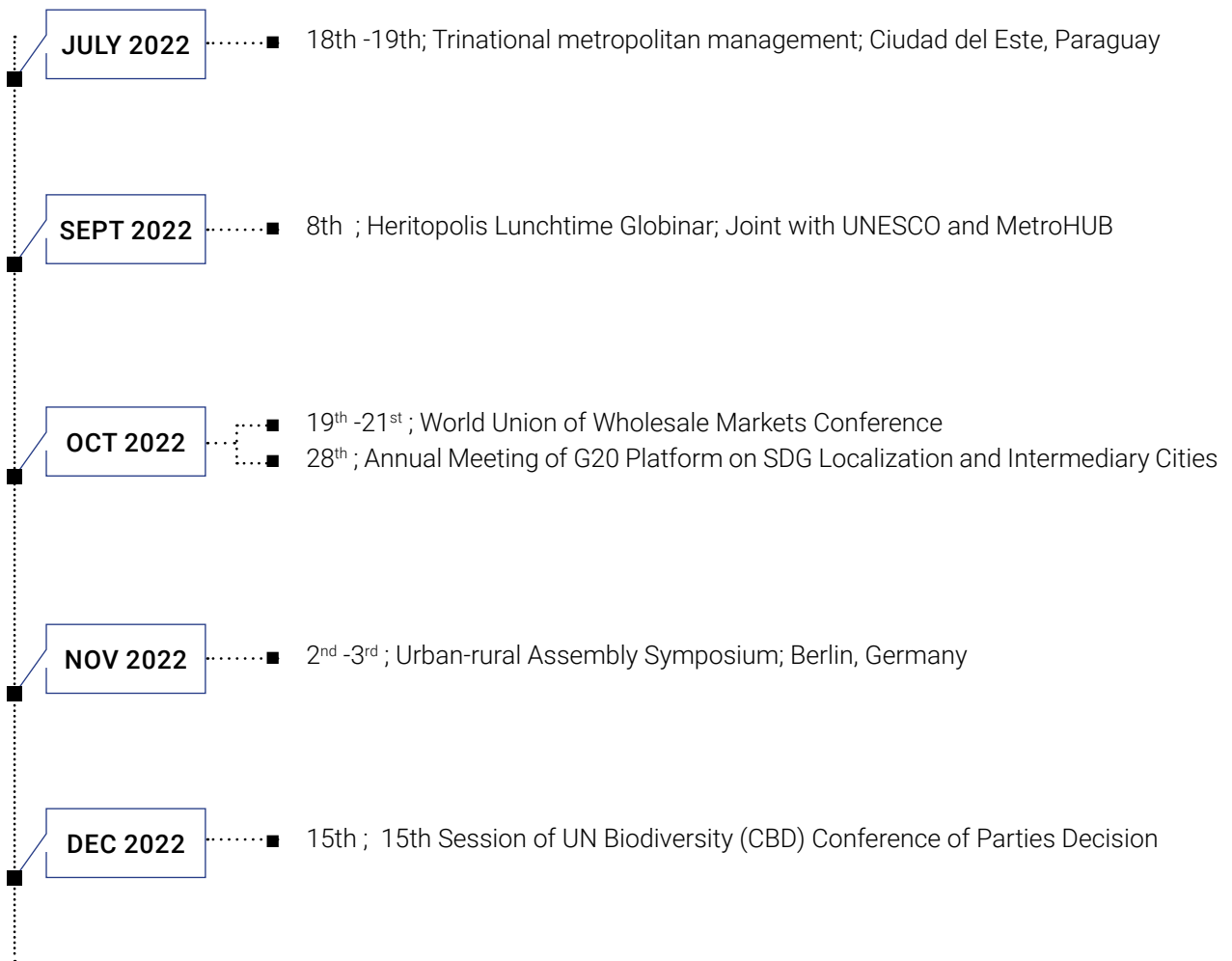
UN-Habitat Executive Director, Maimuna Mohd Sharif, during the opening ceremony of the Africities Summit © UN-Habitat



JUNE 2022

- 7th; Global Pandemics Network
- 8th;
 - Side event during the First Global Meeting of the Montevideo Programme V-
 - Webinar on Smart Cities and Sustainability; British Institute of International and Comparative Law on Law and Change
- 13th -15th ; San Salvador, El Salvador; International Metropolitan Governance Congress:
- 15th ; webinar in collaboration with UNICEF on a Child Responsive Urban Policies & Laws







VI. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2022, PLGS operated at a budget of 2.17 million USD, and an implementation rate of 85 per cent. The Section’s top donors and development partners include national governments (South Korea, Haiti, Oman, and Spain), sub-national governments (Niger State-Nigeria, and the Andalusian International Cooperation Agency, (AACID). PLGS also received funding through in-house agreements (such as UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Africa) and as well as funding from a foundation - Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. PLGS also continues to actively seek additional funding opportunities to complement existing grants and expand the global support to member states to address their sustainable development priorities.

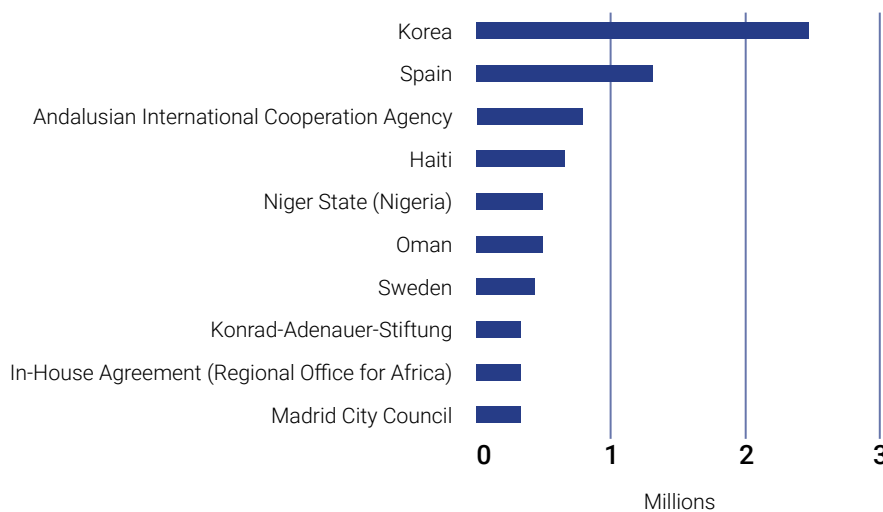
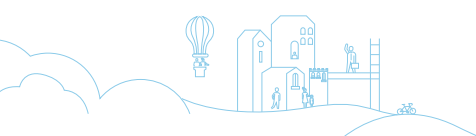


Figure 5. PLGS Top Donors



Funding Sources

National governments fund the majority (70 per cent) of PLGS projects, followed by sub-national governments who are funding 15 per cent of the section’s projects and normative products. In harnessing the synergies that come with collaboration, the inhouse agreements increased to 11 per cent, up from 8 in 2021. Three per cent of the section’s funding is from a foundation (KAS).

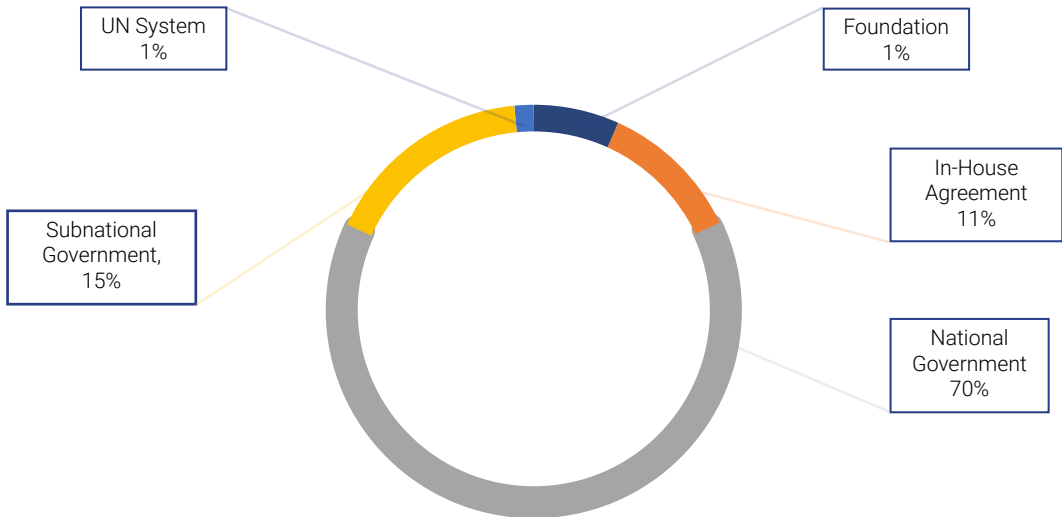


Figure 6. Funding Sources

Funding Distribution by Thematic Area

In 2022, 58 per cent of the total funding was earmarked for projects on national and sub-national urban policy while the legislation and governance thematic area made up 12 per cent. Most of the legislation projects included a governance component, hence a portion of the funds was allocated to governance activities from the legislation thematic area. Multi-thematic projects comprised nine per cent, while metropolitan management made up three per cent of total PLGS funding.

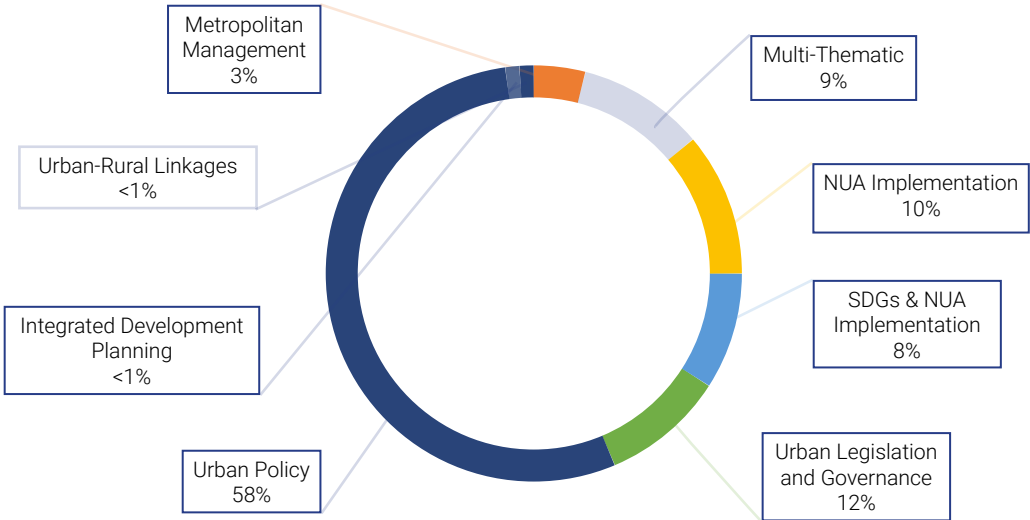


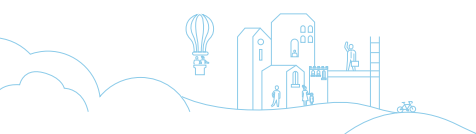
Figure 7. Funding distribution by thematic area

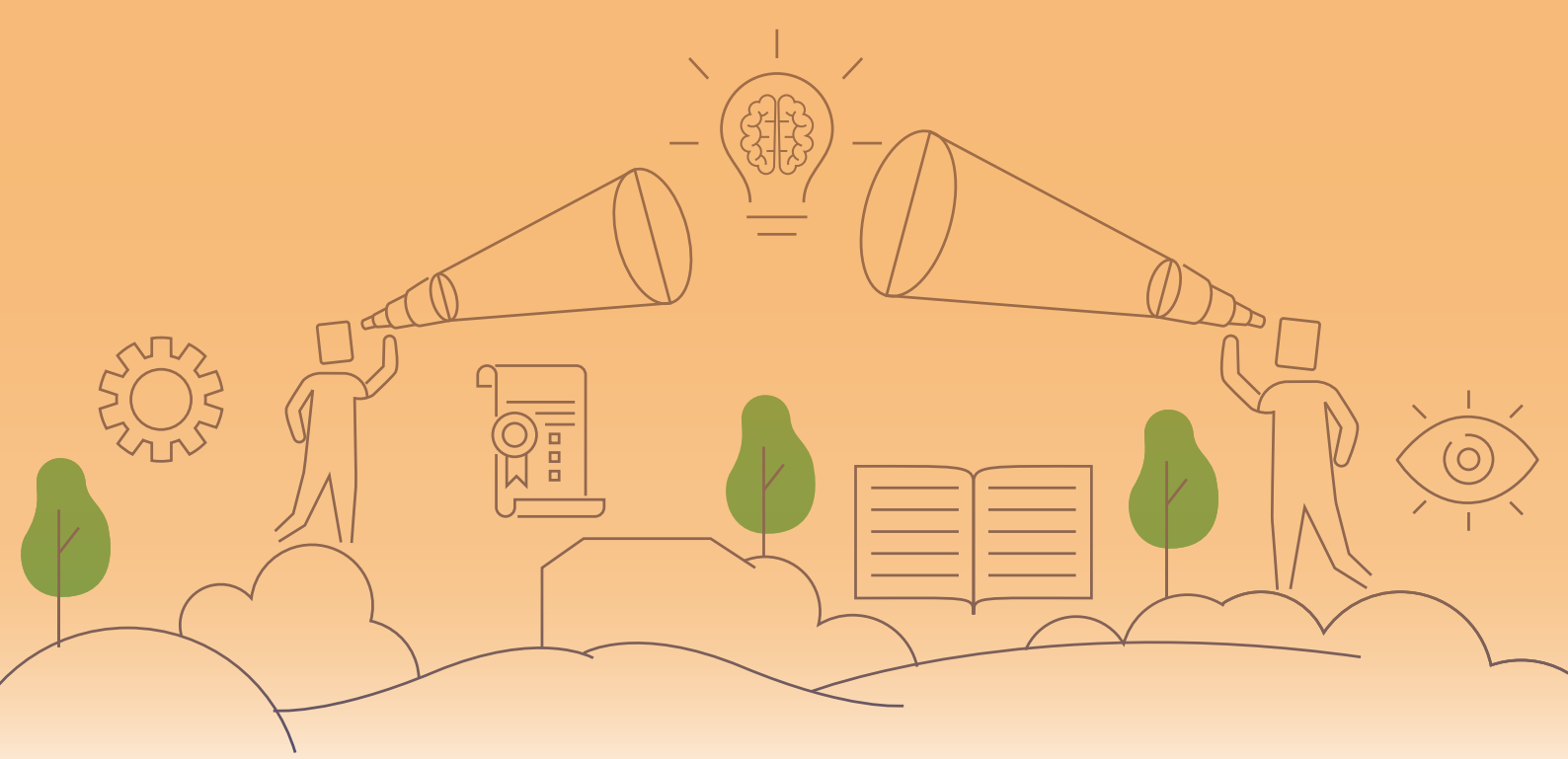


New Funding Acquisitions

In 2022, PLGS advanced its resource mobilization efforts leading to successful funding proposals. Additionally, through donor consultations, some donors acknowledged accomplishments made and approved additional funding to extend projects into new phases, while others agreed to extend the project duration. For instance, Phase II of the South Korea-funded programme titled "*National Urban Policy Programme, Phase Two: Scaling Up People-centered Smart Cities through National Urban Policy*" was launched during WUF11. The five participating countries of implementation are Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique and Paraguay.

On a second example, under the project on **Urban Law for Resilient and Low-Carbon Urban Development**, in Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe, donor consultations were held to report progress and achievements, which led to **extension of the project** for 7 months (December 2022 – June 2023). Several other projects have been extended by the donors beyond 2022. Going into 2023, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, will continue partnering with government agencies and foundations who seek advisory services in developing and aligning their policies, legislative and governance frameworks to the sustainable urban development agenda.





VII. OUTLOOK 2023

The year 2023 looks eventful and engaging for UN-Habitat (PLGS). Ongoing global processes and events call for the need to accelerate our support to governments and others to achieve the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and other internationally agreed frameworks for sustainable development. UN-Habitat, through PLGS, will continue many country activities, including **commencement** of several more.

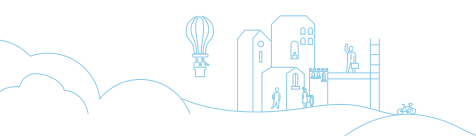
PLGS also aims to finalize and release several normative tools and knowledge products to support national and subnational governments in driving their development agendas. Notable ones include two inaugural reports, Global State of Metropolis and Global State of Urban-Rural Linkages. These reports seek to track developments in the metropolitan management and urban rural linkages fronts, as they also present the current state of play in the two thematic areas and their critical role in the sustainable development agenda. UN-Habitat, through PLGS will also continue advocacy and awareness raising events throughout 2023.



Here are some of the planned interventions in 2023:

THEMATIC AREA	PROJECT
URBAN POLICY	National Urban Policy Programme, Phase Two: Scaling Up People-centered Smart Cities through National Urban Policy (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique and Paraguay)
	Urban Polices in Francophone Countries (Over 8 countries)
	National Urban Policy project in Liberia
	National Urban Policy Project in Sierra Leone
	Piloting Multi-level Urban Forums Guideline and toolkit
URBAN LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE	Project extension: Urban Law for Resilient and Low-Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe
	Strengthening the policy and legal framework (Comoros)
	Strengthening policy and legal frameworks (Guinea)
	Strengthening the Urban Planning Legal and Institutional Framework in the Sultanate of Oman
	Strengthening capacity in development of an effective legal framework for urban development (DRC)
METROPOLITAN MANAGEMENT	Phase II of metropolitan management project: San Salvador (El, Salvador)
	Phase I and II of Metropolitan management project in Barcelona (Spain) .
	Binational metropolitan management in Laredo and Nuevo-Laredo and Tijuana-San Diego (USA and Mexico)
	Trinational metropolitan management (Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay)
	MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme (Multiple universities and countries)
	Contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the post-pandemic recovery in Central America and the Dominican Republic
	Contribution to metropolitan management in Yucatan, Mexico
URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES	Advancing collaboration with University of Nairobi (Kenya)
	Urban Rural Land Linkages
	Songyang Legacy Project

Table 4. Planned and active projects for 2023



Normative tools and knowledge products

NORMATIVE TOOLS AND GUIDES	Massive Online Course on Digital Governance
	Multi-level Urban Forums: A Guide
	Normative Guide on Developing Child Responsive Urban Policies, Planning Laws and Standards:
	Guide for Decision Making in Metropolitan Governance
	Guidelines for the Scrutiny of the Quality of Urban Legislation: A Manual for Parliamentarians
	Benchmarking Case Studies of Public Participation in Four Countries (Australia, Chile, South Africa and UK)
	Comparative Analysis of Housing Acts in Five Countries: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria And South Africa
	Enabling Meaningful Participation in Spatial Planning Processes
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS	Global State of Metropolis Report
	Global State of Urban-Rural Linkages
	Comparative Analysis of Urban Governance for Planning in 10 Countries of the Global South (Afghanistan, Cameroon, Guinea, Niger State, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, and Uganda)
	Comparative Analysis of Non-Profit Housing Legal Frameworks in Five Countries: Austria, Brazil, England, Netherlands, and South Africa.
	Preliminary Findings: Global State of National Urban Policy-3 rd Edition
	Self-Sustainable Development Simulator: (With Cameroon case study)
	6 th Urban-rural linkages newsletter
	3 rd Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages
	Mainstreaming Migration into National Urban Policies
	Songyang legacy Book: Inspiring practices from the first and second international forums on urban-rural linkages
	Global Compendium of Case Studies on Metropolitan Management

Table 5. Normative tools and knowledge products 2023



Key Advocacy platforms (Events)



DATE	EVENT	PLGS ROLE
March 2023	First session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation Consultations with Member States on Multi-level urban forums
March 2023	9 th International and Comparative Urban Law Conference (ICULC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in event
June 2023	Second United Nations Habitat Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of progress on Urban-rural linkages resolution Presentation of a resolution proposal on metropolitan management Launch of Draft Global State of Urban-rural Linkages report Consultations on Multi-Level Urban Forums High-level regional meeting on Law and Climate Change
July and October	Urban Law Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-organizing with academic partners (IALS and Fordham)
1-31 October	Urban October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in events Organizing side events
October	World Metropolitan Day (WMD 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-organizing with Metropolis Global observance to be held in Istanbul by Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) Supporting organization of other global/ country events related to WMD



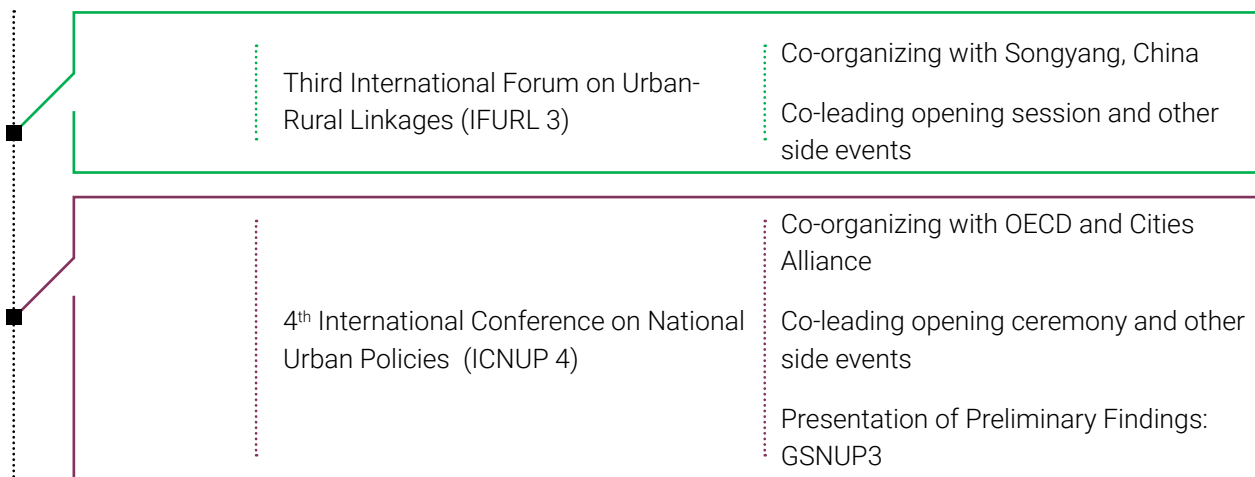


Figure 8. Planned events for 2023



ENDNOTES

Through thank-you letters, several partners expressed their satisfaction and appreciation of the outcomes of the collaborations. Below are a few examples:

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
PAIX – TRAVAIL – PATRIE

MINISTÈRE DE L'HABITAT ET DU
DEVELOPPEMENT URBAIN

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

PROGRAMME DE GOUVERNANCE URBAINE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
PEACE – WORK – FATHERLAND

MINISTÈRE DE L'HABITAT ET DU
DEVELOPPEMENT URBAIN

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

N° 4902 / L/MINHDU/SG/PGU/

Yaoundé, le 26 SEPT 2022

Object : Lettre de remerciements.
Accusé de réception



MADAME LE MINISTRE

A

**Monsieur Remy SIETCHIPING
Chef de la Section Politique,
Législation et Gouvernance
ONU-Habitat/Nairobi**

-Kenya-

Monsieur,

Par lettre du 26 août 2022, vous avez bien voulu m'adresser vos remerciements relatifs à ma participation en tant que modératrice à la cession d'échanges sur le thème « **la Planification du développement intégré en Afrique avec les exemples du Cameroun et du Nigéria.** »

Y faisant suite, Je tiens à exprimer mes sincères remerciements et ma profonde gratitude, à toute l'équipe organisationnelle de cet évènement de réseautage qui m'a permis de relever l'importance de la participation des populations, dans le processus de planification du développement intégré en Afrique.

Notre vœu le plus cher, est de voir la forte implication des parties prenantes au cœur du développement urbain, pour une urbanisation durable, réussie et effective en Afrique en général et au Cameroun en particulier.

Veillez agréer, **Monsieur**, l'expression de mes salutations distinguées.

LE MINISTRE

Colette Ketcha Celestine



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21.XI.2022

Dear Ms Sharif,

I would like to personally thank you for your participation, through a video recording, to the Green Cities initiative (GCI) 2nd year Anniversary.

The collaboration between our two institutions is crucial to accelerate cities' transformation, so that urban areas become cleaner, climate-friendlier, and more resilient.

I am pleased to highlight that the event was covered by social media and to share with you some [images](#) and the link to the [press release](#).

I am sure, together, we can convince more mayors and local governments that acting for significant changes is feasible and will provide long-term benefits for all: dwellers, environment, local business and the urban community.

In this regard, I hope our teams can develop more projects where sustainable urban food systems, urban and peri-urban agriculture, as well as urban and peri-urban forestry are integrated into urban planning and actions.

Together, let us keep up this movement to green our cities!

Again, thank you for contributing to the success of this event.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Helena Semedo
Deputy Director-General



Subject: Thank you: 22nd Infopoverty World Conference

Dear Dr Sietchiping,

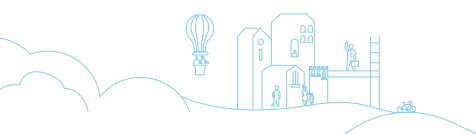
We would like to thank you for your important statement at the 22nd Infopoverty World Conference “*The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer Future Society*” (rewatch [here](#)) and in particular for your interesting insights on how UN HABITAT intends to contribute to define a world where rural and urban areas are equally considered and connected while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Conference was a great moment of reflection and elaboration that produced a clearer vision of the phenomenology underway and indicated feasible solutions to define the future Digital Citizenship.

On the interest aroused by the issues you have addressed, we would be glad to receive more details about the projects you have presented in case you wish to enrich the Final Declaration and the Plan of Action that we will make circulate in the upcoming month.

Wishing you the best of success for your initiatives, we look forward to strengthening our collaboration.

Kindest regards
Pierpaolo Saporito
(President of OCCAM and Infopoverty Programme)



A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world

This is the third edition of UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section Annual Report. The report demonstrates the Section's position within UN-Habitat's strategic context, and also links this area of work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.

The report provides insights into our initiatives and collaborative efforts with all our partners, and presents progress made and results achieved in 2022. It presents these achievements along four focus areas: Country Activities (projects); Normative tools and knowledge products; Capacity development and; Advocacy.

The PLGS annual reporting has streamlined and made the section's work more accessible, providing a coordinated approach to responding to requests for inputs both internally and externally. The 2020 and 2021 reports have demonstrated a clear connection of the section's projects and programmes to the overall Organization mandate of promoting sustainable urban development. The 2022 report advances this by doing three things: highlights the progress made and results achieved; reviews the trends; and points out connecting milestones since 2020 when the reporting process began.



PLGS Publications



Annual report 2022

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