

Technical Briefing on the Implementation of UNHA2 Resolutions

Thursday 2 November 2023, 10h00, CR 4

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

UN-Habitat is pleased to host this technical briefing on the progress we have made since the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA2). At UNHA2, you approved 10 resolutions in addition to the Ministerial Declaration, setting ambitious targets.

Our team has been mobilised to quick start the implementation of resolutions. We have established a **Task Force** that I am chairing, including focal points at the senior level and substantive officers to make sure that what was adopted at the Assembly is put into action. Along with the Note Verbale dated 25 October, inviting you to this briefing, we shared **the list of focal points** for each resolution. We encourage you to reach out to them, should you need further information on any resolution.

The Note Verbale also contained links to **the action plans for the implementation of the 10 resolutions**. These outline the contribution of each resolution to broader UN mandates and their alignment with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan, making sure they fit with our overall goals. The action plans also present the next steps and roadmap for implementation and certain challenges. In addition, a **fundraising strategy** was developed for each resolution to make sure we get the funding needed for implementation and **the updated PBIs** were annexed to the action plans. A more detailed breakdown by operative paragraphs can be made available by the focal points.

At the corporate level, we have assessed the resource needs for each resolution, guided by the PBIs. For recurring resources, we have identified staff roles that

are required for both the implementation of the resolutions and core functions of the organisation. This part of resources is **incorporated into our scalability model**. These resources will be sourced from foundation non-earmarked funds. For the remaining resource needs, the focal points of each resolution are leading resource mobilization efforts. They conducted detailed assessments of resource types and associated activities, identifying suitable donors and types of resources, whether in cash or in kind.

We are determined to make sure that the resolutions are implemented **but we need your help**. I believe Member States will continue to be interested in all the resolutions and contribute to the foundation non-earmarked fund of UN-Habitat. Without adequate core funding, it will be impossible for the Secretariat to support each and every resolution equally. Funding alone will not help us implement these resolutions. We also need your **political support and guidance**.

As you were provided with detailed action plans, I would like to simply highlight the key milestones that are ahead of us:

❖ *Resolution 1: International guidelines on people-centred smart cities*

As you know, the resolution on people-centred smart cities is **timebound**, and therefore many activities are ongoing. Over the last two months, we **launched different calls** to join the expert working group, host the global and regional EGMs and carry out the World Smart Cities Outlook. This month, we will announce the **composition of the Expert working group** and hold a virtual kick-off meeting. Three EGMs will be scheduled between early 2024 and early 2025, while three rounds of draft guidelines are planned. The **final draft international guidelines** on people centred-smart cities should be ready by June 2025.

In terms of fundraising, we are very thankful to France who contributed USD 106,000 this year in support of this resolution. We continue reaching out to

member states not only for financial contributions but also **in-kind contributions** such as hosting the EGM and providing human resources. **Technical contributions** from academic partners are also sought to ensure the implementation of this resolution. We also continue to promote and advocate for the resolution in global events related to smart cities.

❖ *Resolution 2: Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030*

Regarding the resolution on slum transformation, different activities are planned in the first year of implementation. Our first step is to set up of a **technical support desk for assistance**, followed by the review of data needs and methods. Early next year, the team will finalise a **global publication on slum transformation** and devise a **matrix for transformative actions**. A **technical guideline for a multiple partnership approach** to slum transformation will be developed as well as sub-regional strategy for SADC countries.

In the following years, other activities will take place subject to the availability of funding. These include the finalisation of the technical guideline, capacity building, and joint initiatives among others.

In order to raise funds, the strategy is to mobilise champion countries and financing partners to finance the different workstreams.

❖ *Resolution 3: World Cleanup Day*

With regards to the World Cleanup Day, **informal consultations** have been taking place in New York during October 2023 on the draft resolution to proclaim 20 September as the 'World Cleanup Day'. The Government of Estonia shared a final version of the resolution with all missions in New York and launched a **24-hour silence procedure** on 27th October 2023 to gather final inputs prior to submission. Discussions are ongoing with **the office of the UNGA regarding**

submission of the resolution which will be on 27 December 2023 or during the first plenary in January 2024.

Once the resolution is passed in the UNGA, preparations for the observance will start with the launch of the **Expression of Interest** to host the World Cleanup Day 2024.

When hosting the observance of World Cleanup Day, costs of all activities should be met from voluntary contributions.

❖ *Resolution 4: Biodiverse and Resilient Cities -Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban-territorial planning*

Regarding the Biodiverse and Resilient Cities resolution, some preliminary normative work has started thanks to Sida funding. **Best practices and guidelines** in terms of more biodiverse and resilient cities are being compiled. And an agreement of cooperation with **the University of Pennsylvania** will help the **production of a toolkit** on urban development for more biodiverse and resilient cities. The draft toolkit is to be presented to the Executive Board at the last session of 2024. Additional funds are needed to establish an advisory group and carry out capacity building and pilots as stated in the resolution.

To secure these funds needed, the co-champions of the resolutions are being consulted to help mobilise other Member States. As the Regional Office for Latin America will receive funding from the **Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean** (CAF), these could help establish future projects in support of this resolution.

❖ *Resolution 5: Enhancing the Interlinkage between Urbanization and Climate Change Resilience*

As part of the implementation of the resolution on the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience, UN-Habitat will support the COP28

presidency with the **Local Climate Action Summit** to be held on 2 December. In addition, the COP28 Presidency and UN-Habitat will host the **second ministerial meeting on Urbanisation and Climate Change** on 6 December, as the curtain raiser event of the Multilevel Action, Urbanization, Built Environment and Transport Day at COP28. The objectives of the Ministerial Meeting are: firstly, to reinforce mechanisms for multi-level climate action to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement; secondly, to accelerate climate finance for cities and local governments to respond to the climate crisis. Invited participants are Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment, Finance; local and regional leaders; financial institutions; non-government organizations; and other stakeholders. A Note Verbale has been sent through the Permanent Missions and personalized official invites will be sent out this week through the COP28 Presidency.

Furthermore, as part of the implementation of this resolution, the team has planned activities to **strengthen the SURGE initiative and scale up the RISE UP portfolio**. Both have been included in UN-Habitat's scalability model, in addition to the development of a resource mobilization strategy for climate funds as well as work packages. Work is also underway to obtain a framework agreement with the Green Climate Fund and accreditation.

❖ *Resolution 6: Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals*

The implementation of the SDG localisation resolution was initiated with the launch of the **Local2030 High Impact Initiative** during the SDG Summit last September and the launch of the **SG's Advisory group on Local and Regional Governments** in October. I will not go over all of them, but many activities are planned until the end of the year to support the implementation of this resolution. In addition, we planned to have the **Local2030 Coalition office fully operational** in Bilbao in March 2024. Next year, we have scheduled many different activities

to continue the promotion of SDG localisation. In parallel, UN-Habitat continues its **normative work** in this area, and efforts are ongoing to scale up the SDG Cities flagship programme, the Urban Monitoring Framework as well as the mobilisation of local and regional governments.

In terms of fundraising strategy, our team has identified opportunities for resource mobilisation in terms of core, soft-earmarked, in-kind, earmarked funding, as well as joint fundraising efforts with Italy, Spain and Brazil. The PBI Summary that you see on the slide is slightly different from the one in the action plan, as there were new calculations based on ongoing work.

❖ *Resolution 7: Adequate Housing for All*

Regarding the resolution on Adequate Housing for all, our focal points have devised a roadmap for establishing both the **open-ended intergovernmental Expert Working Group and a platform** on adequate, sustainable and affordable housing. For the intergovernmental expert working group, first a **preparatory reference group** will be set up. Consultation with the Executive Board will take place at its 2024 first session. The inaugural meeting of the expert working group is planned for late 2024.

To set up platform, first, **available platforms and resources** will be assessed, before policy and best practices are compiled. Subject to the availability of resources, the development of a digital platform can be planned in the second and third quarters of 2024.

The fundraising strategy to ensure the implementation of this resolution includes direct engagement with Member States, but also collaboration with financial institutions.

❖ *Resolution 8: Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure*

The Urban Planning and Sustainable Development Infrastructure resolution will

be implemented through coordination across the planning, finance, and basic services areas of work. The team has assessed the feasibility of **integrating the digital platform** for urbanisation and infrastructure development requested by the resolution **into an existing platform**, the Our City Plan Platform. There are also activities planned to reach out to financial institutions and build on existing work to implement the capacity building component of the resolution and the creation of urban labs.

In terms of resources, upfront investments are required for the establishment of the platform, while the creation of labs and capacity building are to be covered by either existing or new field projects. The capacity building component of the resolution was included in the SIDA proposal for 2024-25. We encourage Member States to consider cash or in-kind contributions.

❖ *Resolution 9: Creation of a Human Settlements Resilience Framework*

For this resolution, the implementation is planned in two phases. In the first phase (2023-2025), the next steps will be to develop a **scoping paper** to finalise the framework. We are also planning to establish a **partners' network** for each aspect of the framework (early warning, foresight, risk reduction etc.), which will convene at WUF12 in Cairo for an initial consultation. The second phase (2025-2030) will be dedicated to **operationalise the framework**, and includes an impact assessment. In parallel, it is important to note that UN-Habitat will reactivate the **Emergency Fund**, which will support the operationalisation of the framework globally.

In terms of fundraising strategy for this resolution, beyond reaching out to donors, we would like to take advantage of **partnerships at technical level with other UN agencies**. We are also exploring secondment of UN-Habitat's experts to other UN agencies as well as secondment of other UN staff to UN-Habitat.

❖ *Resolution 10: Equitable Financing and Effective Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolutions Adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly*

With regard to this last resolution, UN-Habitat has set up the **urban action funding window** in the financial system. The next step will be to establish its terms of reference. In 2024-2025, we will work on designing and **developing the webpage** on the resolution tracking and we plan to establish mechanisms to collect and publish information regularly on the implementation status of UNHA resolutions.

No direct fundraising is anticipated for this resolution. While existing resources have been identified, the remaining requirements will come from available project balances.

Thank you for your attention, and we're here to answer any questions you may have on the implementation of resolutions.

[Q&A on the implementation of resolutions]