

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

Resolution on Enhancing the Interlinkage between Urbanization and Climate Change Resilience ([HSP/HA.2/Res.5](#))

Version 1 - [20 October 2023]

This Roadmap has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to reflect on the resolution on Enhancing the Interlinkage between Urbanization and Climate Change Resilience (HSP/HA.2/Res.5), adopted at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 09 June 2023. The Resolution was championed by the Group of African States and Pakistan and adopted by acclamation. This Action Plan will be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, during the course of implementation of the resolution.

Overview of resolution

The resolution's preambular paragraphs recall the relevance and interdependencies of resolution-based intergovernmental frameworks for sustainable urbanization and climate change resilience such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with specific reference to the Sustainable Development Goals 9, 11, 13 and 17, the New Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This resolution is put in context with the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change under the Sixth Assessment Cycle recognizing the importance of local and subnational authorities and actors in addressing climate risks, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and adapting to climate change. Underlining the importance of multilevel and cooperative action, the resolution acknowledges the first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change and the integrated launch of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative. The resolution's operational paragraphs request the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in line with UN-Habitat's mandate, to further enhance the linkage between urbanization and climate change to contribute to the objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. It encourages to continue the practice of organizing Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change at the margins of UNFCCC COPs. It further requests the Executive Director to develop options and recommendations for operationalizing the SURGe Initiative for the Executive Board's consideration, as well as expand the cooperation between different levels of government (multilevel climate action) to enhance inclusion of local-level contributions in and the implementation of new and updated nationally determined contributions. It requests further to continue scaling up the Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE UP) Flagship Programme.

Requests for UN-Habitat

1. To **further enhance the linkage between urbanization and climate change in the work of UN-Habitat** in order to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.
2. To continue the practice of organizing meetings, including **ministerial meetings as appropriate**, following the organization of **the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change** held in the margins of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
3. To inform the Executive Board, and subsequently **develop options and recommendations for operationalizing the SURGe initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement** for the Executive Board to consider;

4. To support initiatives aimed at **enhancing the capacity of communities to face and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and related loss and damage**,
5. To scale up the **RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor** flagship programme.
6. To continue efforts to **mobilize resources; disseminate information on innovations, good practices and policies relating to climate action; and support Member States** in this regard
7. Provide **updates to the Executive Board** at its regular sessions, starting from the first session of 2024, on the implementation of the present resolution, including any challenges encountered, and to propose further measures as needed.

Requests for Member States and other actors

8. Encourages Member States to expand cooperation between different levels of government (multilevel climate action) in order to enhance inclusion of local-level contributions in new and updated nationally determined contributions and support the implementation of nationally determined contributions at the local level.

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

The draft resolution directly links to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its relevant goals including **SDGs 11, 13 and 17**. Moreover, it aligns with the vision, principles, and commitments of the **New Urban Agenda**, in particular with **paragraphs 63, 64 and 79**.

The resolution refers to the **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change**¹, under the COP27 Presidency, where the **Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe)**² initiative was launched. The initiative was developed in collaboration with UN-Habitat and facilitated by ICLEI and continues to be part of UN-Habitat's work programme with a 2030 vision that focuses on effective multilevel governance to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all.

It is also important to note that the **Twelfth Session of World Urban Forum** will be hosted in the city of Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt. This opportunity will allow to coordinate further efforts in enhancing the linkage between urbanization and climate change in collaboration with Member States.

Further, the **Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Habitat Assembly** at its second session emphasizes the importance of multilateralism for "just urban pathways for environmental action and sustainable consumption and production and ways in which integrated and participatory urban climate action, measures to curb waste and pollution, and biodiversity action can be strengthened through the relevant global, regional and local initiatives that enhance the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change"³

Relevant previous UN-Habitat resolutions and decisions

HSP/GC/22/Res. 3 Cities and Climate Change

1. Requests the Executive Director to increase awareness of the role of cities in addressing climate change, with particular emphasis on the impact of climate change on the urban poor and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development;

¹ Report of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change:
https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/04/cop27_ministerial_meeting_on_urbanization_and_climate_change_final.pdf

² <https://unhabitat.org/cop27-presidency-sustainable-urban-resilience-for-the-next-generation-surge>

³ Paragraph 13 (b) of the Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session:
https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/09/english_14.pdf

2. Invites Governments which are in the position to do so to provide technical and financial support to the Cities and Climate Change Initiative, to widen the geographical scope of the initiative and to expand the range of capacity-development approaches in order to support local authorities in addressing climate change;

HSP/EB.2022/13 Outcomes adopted by the Executive Board at its first session of 2022

2022/2 (a): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

4. Requests the Executive Director to actively provide support to Member States by means of normative guidance, technical assistance and strategic partnerships to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate, and also requests the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change towards its seventh assessment cycle and the special report on climate change and cities planned for that cycle;

5. Encourages the Executive Director to explore with the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the possibility of convening a housing and urban development ministerial meeting on cities and climate change, to be held on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, to highlight the importance of climate action in urban areas in the development and achievement of nationally determined contributions;

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

In relation to UN-Habitat's work, this draft resolution lines up to its **Strategic Plan 2020-2025** third domain of change namely **Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment** and the **Executive Director's priorities 2022-2023**, particularly on **cities and climate change: the emergency and the response by cities**. In addition, one of UN-Habitat's five global flagship programmes, **RISE UP – Resilient Settlement for the Urban Poor** is directly related to this resolution. The objective of the flagship programme is to leverage large scale investment to build urban adaptation and climate resilience in the hotspots of vulnerability globally. The resolution requests the Executive Director to **enhance the linkage between urbanization and climate change in the work of UN-Habitat** thus mainstreaming of climate action is to be further advanced across all Subprogrammes, Flagship Programmes and other global programmes as well as the workplans of all organizational units.

Fundraising strategy and key opportunities

PBI: For this resolution the programme budget implications have been kept to an absolute minimum with an emphasis on the interagency and partner coordination as well as the monitoring and reporting of the resolution.

Recurrent Resource Requirements

Resolution	Post Requirements	Non-Post Requirements	Total Requirements	Existing Resources	Total Requirements less Existing Resources
Urbanization and Climate Change	\$308,467	\$260,167	\$568,634	\$25,817	\$542,817

The implementation of the resolution, in particular the operationalization of the SURGe Initiative, the further scaling up of the RISE UP initiative and the institutionalizing of multilevel governance will require significant additional resources. The enhancement of the linkages between urbanization and climate change in the work of UN-Habitat will require additional coordination, including in the development of the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, and reprogramming of projects, programmes and Subprogrammes.

The emerging fundraising strategy is comprised of the following:

- SURGe – work packages have been developed and engagement options have been shared with key partners and will be shared with member states.
- RISE UP – a resource mobilization strategy is under development and has been informally presented to vertical climate funds.
- UN-Habitat’s Scalability model further supports the rollout of SURGe and Rise UP
- Regional Climate Change and Urban Environment strategies are under development by regional offices.
- A frameworks agreement with the Green Climate Fund for readiness proposals and the accreditation as multilateral implementing entity is underway.

Key opportunities for resource mobilization:

- Better knowledge management (global analyses portfolio and project outcomes) and better communication of the climate change related work of UN-Habitat (on the website, and through social media) which further highlights the specific role/niche of UN-Habitat capacities and achievements to date and the impact which additional resources could bring.
- UN-Habitat is increasingly engaging in key climate events (the Climate Change COPs being the most prominent) to highlight the importance of inclusive and effective multilateralism, international cooperation, multilevel and urban climate action and the role that UN-Habitat plays.
- Through operationalizing SURGe, UN-Habitat considers paragraph 13b of the UNHA-2 Ministerial Declaration to “Explore just urban pathways for environmental action and sustainable consumption and production and ways in which integrated and participatory urban climate action, measures to curb waste and pollution, and biodiversity action can be strengthened through the relevant global, regional and local initiatives that enhance the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change”.⁴
- Engagement with key partners such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy which represents more than 12,000 cities that have committed to addressing climate change and the Local Government and Municipal Authorities constituency to the UNFCCC.
- A cutting edge Environmental and Social Safeguards System as well as a strengthened Environmental Management System which will strengthen the confidence of member states and partners in UN-Habitat’s project delivery and institutional environmental performance.

Challenges or gaps foreseen in the implementation of the Resolution

The primary challenge relates to Operational Paragraph (OP) 6 which refers to the mobilization of resources; dissemination of information on innovations, good practices and policies relating to climate action; and the support Member States in this regard. Whilst there is strongly expressed demand for support, the required resources for urban climate action, including adaptation and mitigation over the coming decade is in the range of trillions of US Dollars. In order for UN-Habitat to play its role, significant additional extra-budgetary resources need to be mobilized to supplement current Sub-Programme 3 funding.

- Challenges relative to Operational Paragraph 2 (and by extension OP 7), relating to the Ministerial Meeting and advancing Multilevel Climate Action include: limited capacities or mandates of Housing and Urban Development Ministries, and related urban Ministries in some countries to engage on climate action and to do so at the global level. Endorsement of Ministerial Meetings is subject to a COP Presidency buy-in.

⁴ Paragraph 13 (b) of the Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/09/english_14.pdf

- Challenges relative to Operational Paragraph 3: (and by extension OP 1) on SURGe and the linkage between urbanization and climate change in the work of UN-Habitat include: The programme depends on a wide range of partners. Whilst the initiative explicitly works with a very large number of key urban climate change stakeholders, there is some competition and the narrative of the comparative advantage of a global, member states endorsed initiative is yet to be fully communicated.
- Challenges relative to Operational Paragraph 5: (and by extension OP 4) on the RISE UP flagship and community resilience include the perceived overlap with other initiatives. UN-Habitat will redouble efforts in working with Member States to highlight the synergies. Diversifying the donor-base for RISE UP portfolio needs donor commitment for climate resilience for the most vulnerable urban poor.

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

- Engagement in Regional Climate Weeks and other opportunities to highlight UN-Habitat's climate action work (all OPs).
- Supporting the COP28 presidency in the organization of the Local Leaders Summit to be held on 2 December 2023 for inclusive and effective multilateralism, international cooperation, multilevel and urban climate action (all OPs).
- Supporting the operationalization of the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change in collaboration with the COP28 Presidency to be held on 6 December in Dubai as a curtain-raising event for the Multilevel Action, Urbanization, and Built Environment/ Transport Day. (OP1 and OP2)
- Engaging in discussions with the UNFCCC to institutionalize Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change at the margin of future COPs. (OP1 and OP2)
- Operationalizing the Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion at COP28 (OP1 and OP 8)
- Develop advocacy, communications material as well as regional climate change strategies (OP1, OP3, OP4, OP5 and OP6).
- Developing value propositions for each track under SURGe aligned with strengthening the urban lens in new and updated NDCs prior to the next Executive Board Meeting (OP1, OP3, and OP7)
- Operationalizing SURGe at the 12th World Urban Forum (OP1, OP3 and OP8)
- Scaling up the RISE UP portfolio by understanding hotspots of vulnerabilities globally through a standardized multilayered vulnerability assessment methodology and tool, capacity building trainings for national and local authorities and key urban stakeholders, as well as development of RISE UP pipeline projects (OP1, OP5, and OP6).
- Diversifying the donor base of the RISE UP portfolio for future proposal development (OP1, OP4, and OP6)
- Distributing knowledge products, resilience design solutions and praxis resulting from the RISE UP portfolio through the SURGe platform to scale up ambitious, tested, and bankable climate action solutions (OP1, OP3, OP5, and OP8).

Operational Paragraph	Lead and supporting organizational units, Milestones and Timelines until 2025	Lead and supporting organizational units, Milestones and Timelines 2026-2029	Financial Implications
<p>1 The ED, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, and in coordination with the Member States, the Executive Board, and stakeholders, to further enhance the linkage between urbanization and climate change in the work of UN-Habitat in order to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Programme Development Branch / Climate Change and Urban Environment Team (PDB). Regional and country offices. Urban Practices Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocacy, Outreach and Communications Strategy (early 2024). ○ Regional Climate Change and Urban Environment Strategies (Q2 2024) ○ Knowledge Platform (early 2024) ○ Annual increase of SP3 projects (no. of projects <u>and</u> volume) by 20% ○ Systematization of knowledge products from SP3 projects 	<p>Full integration of OPs in Strategic Plan 2026-2029 – stand-alone pillar such as SP3 would facilitate resolution implementation.</p> <p>Clear articulation of mainstreaming climate action across all Subprogrammes.</p>	<p>Limited additional Programme Budget implications for coordination and programme development (as this OP is anchored in the current work programme).</p> <p>Extrabudgetary implications for platform development and portfolio growth to be absorbed by 3 and 5 below.</p>
<p>2 Encourages the Executive Director to engage with Member States and relevant stakeholders, including international and national associations of local authorities recognized by the United Nations, to continue the practice of organizing meetings, including ministerial meetings as appropriate, following the organization of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change held in the margins of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;</p>	<p>PDB</p> <p>Supporting the operationalization of the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change in collaboration with the COP28 Presidency to be held on 6th December in Dubai as a curtain-raising event for the Multilevel Action, Urbanization, and Built Environment/ Transport Day. A Ministerial Declaration is planned.</p> <p>Engaging in discussions with the UNFCCC to institutionalize Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change at the margin of future COPs.</p>	<p>Annual engagement with COP presidencies.</p> <p>Continuous engagement with UNFCCC.</p>	<p>In addition to existing staff time PBI implications:</p> <p>Non-post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doc/Mtg/Serv: USD 20,000 - Consultants USD 30,000 - Travel USD 25,000 <p>Extrabudgetary resources will allow stronger substantive engagement in support of advancing multilevel climate action in climate negotiations.</p>

<p>3 Welcomes the Executive Director's efforts to launch the SURGe initiative during the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to inform the Executive Board, and subsequently develop options and recommendations for operationalizing the SURGe initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement for the Executive Board to consider;</p>	<p>PDB Urban Practices Branch Development of options and recommendations for operationalization of SURGe</p> <p>Developing value propositions for each track under SURGe aligned with strengthening the urban lens in new and updated NDCs prior to the next Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>Full operationalization of SURGe at the 12th World Urban Forum</p> <p>Technical assistance to local governments to develop strategies and projects for climate action in alignment with NDCs.</p> <p>Distributing knowledge products, resilience design solutions and praxis resulting from the RISE UP portfolio through the SURGe platform to scale up ambitious, tested, and bankable climate action solutions</p>	<p>Subject to finalization of options:</p> <p>Rollout to additional number of countries and cities.</p>	<p>1. Core (PBI) <u>Post Cost (year)</u> USD 162,650</p> <p><u>Non-post cost/year</u> - Doc/Mtg/Serv: USD 30,000 - Consultants USD 30,000 - Travel USD 25,000 - Other USD 10,000</p> <p>2. XB - 2024 USD 5M - 2025-2030 USD 50M+ / year)</p> <p>Work Packages: - Management and governance - Sectoral Tracks coordination and normative development - Country level secretariats - City roll out / implementation of priority activities</p>
<p>4 The ED, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to support initiatives aimed at enhancing the capacity of communities to face and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and related loss and damage,</p>	<p>Regional Offices with technical assistance from HQ</p> <p>Development of regional climate change and urban environment strategies.</p> <p>Expansion of XB, e.g. expansion of funding through vertical climate funds.</p> <p>Accreditation to GCF.</p> <p>This OP is largely to be implemented through RISE UP and SURGe</p>	<p>See OP3 and OP5</p>	<p>PBI: Limited additional support for coordination.</p>
<p>5 and subject to the availability of resources, to scale up the RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor flagship programme.</p>	<p>RISE UP Secretariat (SP3 Outcome 3.3), Regional Offices, RISE UP Project Country Offices</p> <p>Scaling up the RISE UP portfolio by understanding hotspots of vulnerabilities globally through a standardized multilayered vulnerability assessment</p>	<p>RISE UP Secretariat (SP3 Outcome 3.3), Regional Offices, RISE UP Project Country Offices</p> <p>Increase portfolio to 40 countries and 500 million USD by 2029</p>	<p>1. Core (PBI) <u>Post Cost (year)</u> USD 120,000</p> <p><u>Non-post cost/year</u> - Doc/Mtg/Serv: USD 15,000 - Consultants USD 33,000 - Travel</p>

	<p>methodology and tool, capacity building trainings for national and local authorities and key urban stakeholders, as well as development of RISE UP pipeline projects</p> <p>Increase portfolio to 25 countries and 130 million USD by 2025 – Creation of system to reinvest funding in the development of subsequent project proposals. (UNEP model) and diversification on thematic areas in relation to climate action: land, basic services, housing and informal settlements, planning, finance,</p> <p>GCF Accreditation Submission for small-scale projects (max. 50 mil USD)</p> <p>Alignment with SURGe subject to SURGe operationalization.</p>		<p>USD 11,700 - Other USD 10,467</p> <p><u>2.1 XB Development Support</u> 2024-2025 USD 500,000 Emphasis on: - Knowledge Management - Consultant for RISE UP portfolio development, - GCF Accreditation Consultant - Methodology and Tool Developer - Comms consultant (jointly with SURGe) - personnel for resource mobilization (in particular in regions) -Travel to project portfolio countries and NAP countries for backstopping support and roll-out of normative products in operation</p> <p><u>2.2 XB Implementation</u> XB (2024 \$10M, 2025 10M; subsequently \$20M+ / year) Work Packages: Expansion of XB, eg Adaptation Fund, diversifying donor base</p>
<p>6 The ED, in cooperation with relevant partners, to continue efforts to mobilize resources; disseminate information on innovations, good practices and policies relating to climate action; and support Member States in this regard and to</p>	<p>PDB with all Branches and Offices</p> <p>Train country and regional offices on accessing vertical climate funds through CofP CCUE, target training, and joint proposal development</p> <p>Link to knowledge platform as per above.</p>	<p>Continued capacity development, advocacy and communication, portfolio development and partnerships.</p>	<p>To be implemented in conjunction with 2,3 and 5 above</p>

7 provide updates to the Executive Board at its regular sessions, starting from the first session of 2024, on the implementation of the present resolution, including any challenges encountered, and to propose further measures as needed.	PDB		1. Core (PBI) <u>Post Cost (year)</u> USD 120,000 <u>Non-post cost/year</u> - Doc/Mtg/Serv: USD 20,000
8. Encourages Member States to expand cooperation between different levels of government (multilevel climate action) in order to enhance inclusion of local-level contributions in new and updated nationally determined contributions and support the implementation of nationally determined contributions at the local level.	PDB led and whole of house Operationalizing the Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion at COP28.	PDB led and whole of house Mainstreaming urban into NDCs through multilevel climate action	UN-Habitat to provide support through existing resources and additional XB: 500,000 USD jointly with ICLEI. 100k for pavilion and 100k for communication, campaigning, event organizations

Focal point and contact

Bernhard Barth, Subprogramme 3 Coordinator - bernhard.barth@un.org

Javier Torner, Programme Management Officer - javier.torner@un.org

Cerin Kizhakkethottam, Programme Management Officer - cerin.kizhakkethottam@un.org

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

Relevant Subprogramme(s)	Budget Category	Total Resources	Existing Resources	Net total
Recurrent Resource Requirements (Annual)				
SP1 (10%), SP2 (10%), SP3 (70%) and SP4 (10%)	Post Costs	308,467	25,817	282,650
	2x P-3 (PT)*	185,300	-	185,300
	2x P-2/P-1 (PT)*	103,267	25,817	77,450
	1x G/LL (PT)*	19,900	-	19,900
	Non-Post Costs	260,167	-	260,167
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	85,000	-	85,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	93,000	-	93,000
	<i>Travel</i>	61,700	-	61,700
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	20,467	-	20,467
	Subtotal, Recurring Resource Requirements	568,634	25,817	542,817
One-Time Resource Requirements				
SP1 (10%), SP2 (10%), SP3 (70%) and SP4 (10%)	Post Costs	-	-	-
	Non-Post Costs	-	-	-
	Subtotal, One-Time Resource Requirements	-	-	-
Grand Total		568,634	25,817	542,817

(PT)* denotes that at least one of the positions in this Post Level are designated part-time