

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

Resolution on Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure

[\(HSP/HA.2/Res.8\)](#)

Version 1 – [15 October 2023]

This Roadmap has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to reflect on the resolution on Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure (HSP/HA.2/Res.8), adopted at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 09 June 2023. The Resolution was championed by the Africa Group (Nigeria and Kenya) and seconded by Pakistan. It was 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 main aim of the Resolution is to boost access and adoption of tools and approaches for sustainable planning and infrastructure development. It outlines three key components: the establishment of a digital platform, the creation of a portal for financing institutions' information, and the provision of technical assistance and capacity building, as well as centers of excellence, urban labs, and development agencies.

The Resolution places significant emphasis on aligning with nationally identified needs and encourages broad access to these tools. It also highlights the importance of voluntary contributions from Member States. A central theme throughout the Resolution is the promotion and sharing of best practices among all stakeholders.

This Resolution is relevant to several outcomes of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan, including Domain of Change (Doc) 1 on providing urban basic services, DoC 2 on connectivity and productivity, and DoC 3 and DoC 4 on resilient infrastructure. It encourages internal collaboration, fostering integration across Planning, Finance and Economy (PFE) and Urban Basic Services (UBS) Sections. The resolution highlights the importance of access to finance and finance information. The resolution seeks to build upon existing tools and platforms and to complement existing in-house initiatives. The Resolution is open-ended in terms of timelines.

Requests for UN-Habitat

The resolution requests UN-Habitat to:

- Develop a **global technical digital platform for urbanization and infrastructure development** that harnesses, existing tools and knowledge bases, to serve as a **resource of flexible and adaptable tools for holistic urban planning and sustainable infrastructure**, including:
 - (a) Relevant technical resources (innovative policy initiatives, tools, good practices and solutions) related to spatial data management, transportation systems, capital investment planning and financing options for infrastructure development;
 - (b) Mechanisms for capacity-building, knowledge exchange and access to technical assistance;
 - (c) Collaboration mechanisms to facilitate access to technical and other forms of assistance for developing countries;
- **Allow for information and guidance from multilateral and bilateral financing institutions and other financing actors 6. Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to countries and cities and other stakeholders in developing and implementing participatory and sustainable integrated urban planning and infrastructure development initiatives, and to establish localized**

centres of excellence, urban labs or development agencies to support participatory and sustainable integrated urban planning and infrastructure development through best-practice applications and tools and by building local capacity and knowledge within government structures

- **Provide regular updates on the operationalization and uptake** of the global technical digital platform to the Executive Board.

Requests for Member States and other actors

The resolution addresses Member States as follows:

- Member States and United Nations specialized agencies are encouraged to **identify their urbanization needs through evidence-based analysis and profiling** of territories and urban areas and to **assess their planning systems** in order to inform the **strengthening of planning systems and facilitate the identification of capacity-building needs** and of relevant **tools**;
- Member States are encouraged to **avail themselves** of the variety of tools and technical support available and to **customize tools** and methods to their specific contexts;
- Member States, partners and stakeholders are invited to consider **voluntary contributions to the global technical digital platform, incorporated into the programme of work and budget of UN-Habitat**;
- All stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations entities, international, regional and national finance institutions, local and regional authorities and their associations, civil-society organizations, private-sector entities and relevant professional associations, are invited to **work together in a coordinated manner to promote and share best practices for sustainable urban planning and infrastructure development through the global technical digital platform**;

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

- Overall the resolution directly responds to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and specifically Sustainable Development Goal 11 (target 11.3 and 11.2 among others) and to the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito in October 2016, and its endorsement by the General Assembly in resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016.
- In particular, the resolution references the commitment to working towards an urban paradigm shift, including by adopting sustainable, people-centred, age- and gender-responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development by implementing policies, strategies, capacity development and actions at all levels, based on fundamental drivers of change, including but not limited to paragraph 15 (c) (i) of the New Urban Agenda, on **long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design**, and paragraph 15 (c) (iv), on **innovative and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments**, as well as the pledge to leave no one behind,
- OP1, OP6, OP2 and OP3 relate to the Ministerial Declaration of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, para 13: Advance effective multilevel governance and **promote integrated local and regional planning and investment, particularly to support small, intermediate and rapidly growing cities** and contribute to the transformation of informal settlements and slums;
- OP2 builds upon Governing Council resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 approving the **international guidelines on access to basic services for all**, as well as upon resolution 25/6 of 23 April 2015, in which the Governing Council approved the **international guidelines on urban and territorial planning**.
- OP6 expands action already identified in paragraph 20 of Governing Council resolution 26/8 of 12 May 2017, in which the Council encouraged the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, within the scope of the available resources and existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to **develop further the Urban Planning and Design Lab**.

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

The resolution relates to all dimension of the Strategic Plan considering that planning is a driver to the achievement of its different outcomes, and infrastructure is a key deliverable under several outcomes – including those related to basic services, connected cities, smart cities, as well as environmental and climate change and finally, for the response and prevention of crisis and disasters.

Domain of Change 1: The Resolution directly contributes to this domain by emphasizing sustainable urban planning to ensure increased and equal access to basic services and sustainable mobility (outcome 1.1). It promotes the creation of urban spaces that are accessible, efficient, and equitable (outcome 2 and 3).

Domain of Change 2: The Resolution directly supports this domain by promoting sustainable planning for infrastructure development which is essential for enhancing spatial connectivity and productivity in urban areas (outcome 2.1).

Domain of Change 3: The resolution advances sustainable urban planning and sustainable infrastructure which can contribute significantly to reduce emissions, enhance resource efficiency, protect ecosystems, and adapt to climate change (outcome 3.1, 3.2, 3.3).

Domain of Change 4: The resolution supports crisis prevention and recovery efforts through planning and infrastructure. It can contribute to the improvement of living standards for vulnerable populations, including migrants and refugees (outcome 4.2), while enhancing the resilience of infrastructure and the built environment (outcome 4.3).

The resolution activities could inform UN-Habitat's Flagship programmes, in particular Urban Regeneration for Vibrant and Inclusive Communities (flagship programme 1), RISE-UP: resilient resettlements for the urban poor (flagship programme 2), by contributing with infrastructure planning for well distributed basic services, infrastructure, resilient to climate change and promoting resource efficiency and protecting the environment.

The resolution furthers the Strategic Plan's vision of focusing on outcomes, by promoting internal integrated work between the Planning and Urban Basic Services Sections. It can build upon UN-Habitat's initiatives such as Our City Plans, Her City Toolbox, the Network of Labs, the SDG Project Assessment Tool, with the potential to integrate UN-Habitat's sectoral tools such as Waste Wise Cities tool, Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning, Citywide Implementation of Sanitation Systems, and Global Water Operator Partnerships' Alliance, and the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund in order to support more scaled, targeted and integrated planning efforts by cities of all size and in all contexts. It can also provide the opportunity of creating and interface for financial institutions which could be connected to the Cities Investment Facility (CIF).

The Resolution requests UN-Habitat to create a platform with technical resources, tools and solutions for integrated urban planning and infrastructure, for possible adoption, replication or adaptation in different contexts. This could be an expansion of Our City Plans in collaboration with the Urban Basic Services Section and a specific focus on infrastructure planning and project preparation. Our City Plans, a digital platform for integrated and participatory territorial and urban planning, containing data-based knowledge, good practices, access to technical assistance and capacity development tools. Our City Plans expansion will provide a platform for the integration of planning and infrastructure methodologies, tools, and platforms, existing and new partnerships such as GWOPA, Waste Wise Cities. In addition, it could also expand in terms of target audience from city level to sub-national and national level.

Fundraising strategy and key opportunities

The overall budget for the resolution implementation has been estimated at USD 2.285M, with USD 854K for the platform, USD 181K for the financial information mobilization, and USD 1.208M for technical assistance and establishment of Labs etc.

The resolution will mainly target extrabudgetary funding for implementation with different funding opportunities to be identified for each of the 3 main elements:

The platform requires considerable upfront investment while capacity building and the establishment of Labs can be based on demand, within projects frame and ad-hoc resource identification. The mobilization of financial institutions can be conducted as part of existing efforts.

At present the strategy for resource mobilization includes:

1. Starting the engagement with various organisations/donors for support – including the African Development Bank and tapping into their Municipal Development Funds (in collaboration with ROAF), through a concept note and workplan.
2. Seeking support though inputs provided in SIDA proposal for 2024-25 with a view to support some work related to the resolution and in particular the expansion of Our City Plan and the development of capacity building.
3. Requesting Member States for the direct support of the resolution through cash or in-kind contribution, including seconded personnel.
4. Identifying additional avenues, while some initial activities can be funded through existing projects, in particular those related to undertaking joint technical assistance missions.
5. Identifying champions among the Africa Group and other potential partners in other countries.

Resolution	Post Requirements	Non-Post Requirements	Total Requirements	Existing Resources	Total Requirements less Existing Resources
Total	\$648,321	\$1,636,656	\$2,284,977	\$-	\$2,284,977
OP1	\$182,650	\$671,860	\$854,510	\$-	\$854,510
OP5	\$115,767	\$65,575	\$181,341	\$-	\$181,341
OP6	\$311,300	\$897,231	\$1,208,531	\$-	\$1,208,531
OP8	\$38,604	\$1,991	\$40,595	\$-	\$40,595

Challenges or gaps foreseen in the implementation of the Resolution

1. Funding for the resolution implementation not readily available – RB, core/foundation opportunity at the moment not clarified (not included in the Scalability Model for the time being)
2. Need to define a geographical scope either focused on LDCs and/or on intermediate cities which may assist in the initial set up of the implementation (scale, type of cities, Regional focus: Africa, LDCs, Global South, Global)
3. Further discussion may be relevant on whether to put this forward as LDCs/SIDS approach (linked to the Doha Plan for instance).

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

The resolution is open-ended. A PBI revision based on the final version of the resolution has been developed.

A Work Plan for implementation still needs to be developed– building on ongoing activities, networks and tools (Urban Lab, Our City Plan Platform, Sectoral networks) and initiatives (GWOPA, SLOCAT, Africa Clean Cities Platform). It shall include the following:

Platform:

1. Assessment of the feasibility to include the resolution requirements in the Our City Plan Platform. We have conducted a pre-assessment of the use of the Our City Plan Platform to expand/offer the solutions requested by the resolution –a quick assessment of all Platforms inhouse was also done as requested by Member States during the discussion on the resolution.
2. Incremental integration (starting with urban mobility) in the OCP Platform

Financial Institutions

4. Outreach and connection across other initiatives in-house, such as the Cities Investment Facility (private sector, etc).

Capacity Building and Creation of Labs

5. This represent an expansion and strengthening of existing activities based on country specific demand.
6. In order to (1) enhance technical assistance within the integrated approach proposed by the resolution, joint missions to existing projects will be organised to start developing joint understanding.
7. In order to (2) start to establish the operational mechanisms envisaged by the resolution at country level (Labs, Centre of Excellence, Development Agencies) it is needed to build on the ongoing work, and country demand (Guinea Conakry, Morocco, Kenya)

In addition:

8. Preparation of a request to Member States in response to OP3 building on IG-UTP questionnaire in particular.

Focal point and contact

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

Relevant Subprogramme(s)	Budget Category	Total Resources	Existing Resources	Net total
Recurrent Resource Requirements (Annual)				
SP1 (40%), SP2 (20%), SP3 (20%) and SP4 (20%)	Post Costs	648,321	-	648,321
	Non-Post Costs	1,251,256	-	1,251,256
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	370,000	-	370,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	726,000	-	726,000
	<i>Travel</i>	123,800	-	123,800
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	31,456	-	31,456
	Subtotal, Recurring Resource Requirements	1,899,577	-	1,899,577
One-Time Resource Requirements				
SP1 (40%), SP2 (20%), SP3 (20%) and SP4 (20%)	Post Costs	-	-	-
	Non-Post Costs	385,400	-	385,400
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	335,000	-	335,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	50,400	-	50,400
	<i>Travel</i>	-	-	-
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	-	-	-
	Subtotal, One-Time Resource Requirements	385,400	-	385,400
Grand Total		2,284,977	-	2,284,977