

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Agenda item 6

Review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Promoting effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda

Submitted by the African Group

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), entitled “New Urban Agenda,” adopted by Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives at Habitat III, held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, the adoption of which the United Nations General Assembly welcomed in its resolution 71/235 and endorsed in its resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016,

Recognizing the New Urban Agenda as reaffirming a global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step in realizing sustainable development, in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors,

Recognizing also the linkages between sustainable urbanization and, inter alia, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change,

Reaffirming the commitments on means of implementation included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recognizing the role of national, subnational and local Governments and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda throughout the process including policymaking, planning, design, implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, as well as the financing and timely delivery of services,

Aware that the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires enabling policy frameworks at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels and effective means of implementation including finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and mutually beneficial partnerships,

Recalling the role and expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), within its mandate, as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including providing support in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

Acknowledging that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner,

Taking note of the need of the work of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the development and implementation of its strategic plan,

Taking note also of the strategic plan for 2014–2019, lessons so far learned from its implementation and its amendments,

Taking note further of the request made to the Secretary-General, in the light of the New Urban Agenda and with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat, to submit to the General Assembly during its seventy-first session an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat, the result of which is to be a report containing recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat,

Emphasizing the need for all member States and all stakeholders to fully operationalize the Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda in an integrated, holistic and timely manner, taking into account different national realities, capacities and development levels and the importance of coordination synergies in achieving the objectives of the Agenda and urbanization components of other relevant global instruments,

Emphasizing also that well designed, planned and managed cities and other human settlements are important for improving the living conditions of all inhabitants especially the poor and those in vulnerable situations including older persons and persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming Governing Council resolution 23/1 of 15 April 2011 and resolution 24/4 of 19 April 2013, that support the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat, as well as the need for the gender responsive approaches recognized in the New Urban Agenda,

1. *Encourages* all member States as well as other voluntary donors to provide adequate and predictable resources;
2. *Urges* the Executive Director to ensure the efficient and accountable management of resources in fulfilment of the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the delivery of the appropriate technical support to member States for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
3. *Also urges* the Executive Director to intensify efforts to broaden the donor base of UN-Habitat for voluntary contributions, including from non-traditional donor countries, the private sector, foundations and individuals, in accordance to the United Nations financial regulations and rules;
4. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in accordance with the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including supporting the implementation and review of the New Urban Agenda, to collaborate with other United Nations programmes and entities, member States, local authorities and relevant stakeholders, as well as through the mobilization of experts, to contribute to a United Nations system wide strategy and continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the related dimensions of the sustainable development goals, as well as to further develop the action framework for implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close consultation with member States, local authorities and stakeholders;
5. *Requires* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to report, on a six-monthly basis, to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the Programme's collaboration with other United Nations entities and stakeholders as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the implementation and review of the New Urban Agenda;

6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to support member States, at their request and within the existing mandated activities of UN-Habitat, to develop integrated strategies and implementation mechanisms for sustainable urban development at the national, regional and local levels by, among others, promoting good spatial planning, effective regulation and feasible financial tools;

7. *Encourages* member States, at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, to share best practices regarding the early implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

8. *Requests* the timely submission by the Secretary-General of the independent assessment report containing recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat for consideration by the Governing Council and by the General Assembly;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, pursuant to the relevant paragraphs of the New Urban Agenda, to coordinate a follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda in collaboration with other United Nations system entities and to prepare and submit four-yearly reports thereon in a timely fashion for consideration and appropriate action;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with other United Nations system entities, in consultation with member States, and taking into account the recommendations of the report of the independent assessment and the views of relevant stakeholders, a proposal for a unified global monitoring framework that will facilitate the tracking of progress towards achieving the goals of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the sustainable development goals, in a systematic manner;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Director to coordinate the preparation of the four-yearly report pursuant to paragraph 168 of the New Urban Agenda;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to work in close consultation with member States in all its work under the New Urban Agenda in their countries in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to allocate of funds, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to support prior and continuing commitments to the effective and efficient implementation of gender mainstreaming to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls using existing structures, such as the Advisory Group on Gender Issues, women's networks and other related organizations, and calls upon member States to include the participation of girls and women of all ages in local, national and international structures in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

14. *Calls upon* member States to take into account youth expertise in the local, national, regional and international implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, to involve youth in decision-making at the international, national and subnational levels, to recognize the Youth Advisory Board, established in accordance with Governing Council resolution 19/13 of 9 May 2003 and resolution 23/7 of 15 April 2013, and to reaffirm its role in advising UN-Habitat on issues concerning youth in the context of the New Urban Agenda;

15. *Encourages* Governments to implement policies and plans focused on youth in areas such as community service, voluntarism, skills development, creation of decent jobs and employment, livelihoods, development and creation of entrepreneurship, particularly for the poor and those in vulnerable situations and those in conflict and post-conflict situations;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to call on cities in the light of the New Urban Agenda's commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic, to accelerate an HIV multisectoral response as part of their urban development plans, leaving no one behind, in order for cities to contribute to national and global success in ending the AIDS epidemic as a public threat by 2030, as part of the sustainable development agenda;

A. Promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing

17. *Encourages* member States to undertake, where appropriate, further housing sector reforms and the formulation of sustainable and integrated policies for safe and affordable housing, legislation and strategies that promote the progressive realization of the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing, and which aim to improve access to adequate, safe, sustainable and affordable housing and thereby improve the lives of millions of urban dwellers, including through slum upgrading as described in the New Urban Agenda;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to engage all relevant actors regarding opportunities to address the current challenges related to sustainable urbanization, with a particular emphasis on sustainable, adequate, safe and affordable housing as well as high quality and sustainable buildings and construction;

B. Integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization

19. *Encourages* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to help member States, at their request and within mandated activities, to develop and review their national urban policies, including the content and process of urban and territorial planning, considering the principles of the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*, as well as developing new innovative tools in collaboration with local authorities and other relevant actors;

20. *Also encourages* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to develop further the Urban Planning and Design Lab as an integrative facility, as one of the tools to provide support to member States in the implementation of the relevant elements of the New Urban Agenda;

C. Synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization

21. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to collaborate with member States and all relevant stakeholders in promoting an integrated approach to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by all levels of government through building synergies across sectors taking into account the specific expertise and resources of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, civil society, the private sector and academia, working together towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and within the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

22. *Welcomes* the initiatives of UN-Habitat to collaborate with relevant United Nations entities¹ and the World Bank Group on a Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development;

23. *Encourages* the Executive Director, for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to provide support to member States, subnational and local authorities, as appropriate, to further pursue access to funds including the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development, Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds to support action-oriented policies and programmes at all levels;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.

¹ Including, at present, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the United Nations Global Compact.