



**Executive Board of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme
First session of 2020**

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions
adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session**

**Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions
adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session**

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the status of implementation of four of the five resolutions and the decision adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session, namely:

- (a) Resolution 1/2 on the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements;
- (b) Resolution 1/3 on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (c) Resolution 1/4 on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements;
- (d) Resolution 1/5 on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements;
- (e) Decision 1/3 on arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of UN-Habitat.

II. Resolution 1/2 on United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements

2. An expert group meeting was held in Guadalajara, Mexico from 5 to 7 December 2019, with the participation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). At the meeting, the representatives of Mexico and South Africa, the two lead demonstration countries in the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements, discussed with other international experts in the Global Network on Safer Cities the review of current policies in Guadalajara and in Durban, South Africa, with a view to aligning them with the principles and approaches defined in the guidelines. The representative of Canada drew attention to best practices from Toronto, the University of Ottawa and the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention. Mexico and South Africa are exploring the possibility of

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signing funding agreements with the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme in 2020 to implement national- and local-level interventions over the coming three years.

3. A neighbourhood safety handbook will be developed as a first operational manual for the implementation of the guidelines and will be presented at the tenth session of the World Urban Forum during Safer Cities Programme events.

4. It is expected that the Safer Cities Programme will produce a concept note on the review process of the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements and the effective implementation of the Safer Cities Programme in advance of the tenth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in February 2020, for submission to the Executive Board at its second session of 2020.

5. Joint projects are also being explored with UNODC on urban safety governance, with UNICEF on safe and child-friendly cities, and with the United Nations trust fund for human security on “Human security: a multi-dimensional approach to urban safety”.

III. Resolution 1/3 on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6. UN-Habitat contacted various capacity-building partners, such as universities, national and international training institutions, research centres and key United Nations partners, including the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNESCO and UNEP, as well as members of the University Network Initiative, and received detailed comments and recommendations for consideration and possible integration in the draft capacity-building strategy.

7. Following the completion of an online in-house survey launched on 3 August 2019, the secretariat undertook internal meetings with all the branches and units of UN-Habitat to assess the extent to which each of them develops and carries out capacity-building activities, the ways in which those activities are delivered and the suggestions the units and branches would make in terms of the draft capacity-building strategy.

8. The draft capacity-building strategy, which has been prepared by UN-Habitat, has two pillars, one of which is focused on the institutional and organizational set-up for efficient and coordinated delivery while the other pillar relates to broad-based partnerships.

IV. Resolution 1/4 on achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements

9. Project reviews were undertaken through Project Advisory Group meetings to ensure that gender and other cross-cutting issues are well addressed in all UN-Habitat work. Nine projects and two concept notes were reviewed during November and December 2019.

10. Consultations are ongoing between the secretariat and various branches of UN-Habitat to ensure that gender considerations are prioritized in programme-wide planning and in UN-Habitat publications in accordance with the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

11. UN-Habitat continues to undertake various internal capacity-building activities to promote gender equality within the organization. For the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, which runs every year from 25 November to 10 December, UN-Habitat staff engaged in related activities, including the screening of relevant films and a self-defence class relevant to the theme of the 16 days of activism in 2019, namely “Orange the world: generation equality stands against rape”.

V. Resolution 1/5 on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements

12. The following tools have been developed and are in use: training manual on urban-rural linkages, the urban-rural linkages challenge identification assessment, the urban-rural capacity assessment, the urban-rural stakeholder participation assessment and the policy review assessment. These assessments tools present indicators to provide practical means for communities and other actors to build sound, evidence-based policies that enhance the welfare of people living in urban and

rural areas. The tools are being piloted in selected African countries to identify gaps and provide guidance for Member States, policymakers and communities in formulating policies and strategies to address urban and rural inequalities.

13. Responding to growing interest from various partners in the mainstreaming of urban-rural linkages in different areas of work, UN-Habitat developed thematic guides to address the nexus of urban-rural linkages and biodiversity, climate change, and migration. The thematic guides provide guidance with a view to improving decision-making and policy formulation for the simultaneous development of urban and rural areas.

14. UN-Habitat documented inspiring cases in which urban-rural linkages have been enhanced. The cases are being disseminated and made available in online repositories. The showcasing of case studies is complemented by the publication of the first and second compendiums of case studies on urban-rural linkages.

VI. Decision 1/3 on arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of UN-Habitat

15. At the resumed first session of the Executive Board, held on 19 and 20 November 2019, the Board decided, in its decision 2019/3, to establish an ad hoc working group on the development of a draft stakeholder engagement policy. A meeting to launch the work of all the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board at its resumed first session was held on 16 December 2019, at which it was agreed that Costa Rica would chair the ad hoc working group on the development of a draft stakeholder engagement policy. The Bureau of the Executive Board further recommended that the first meeting of the ad hoc working group be held on 26 February 2020.
