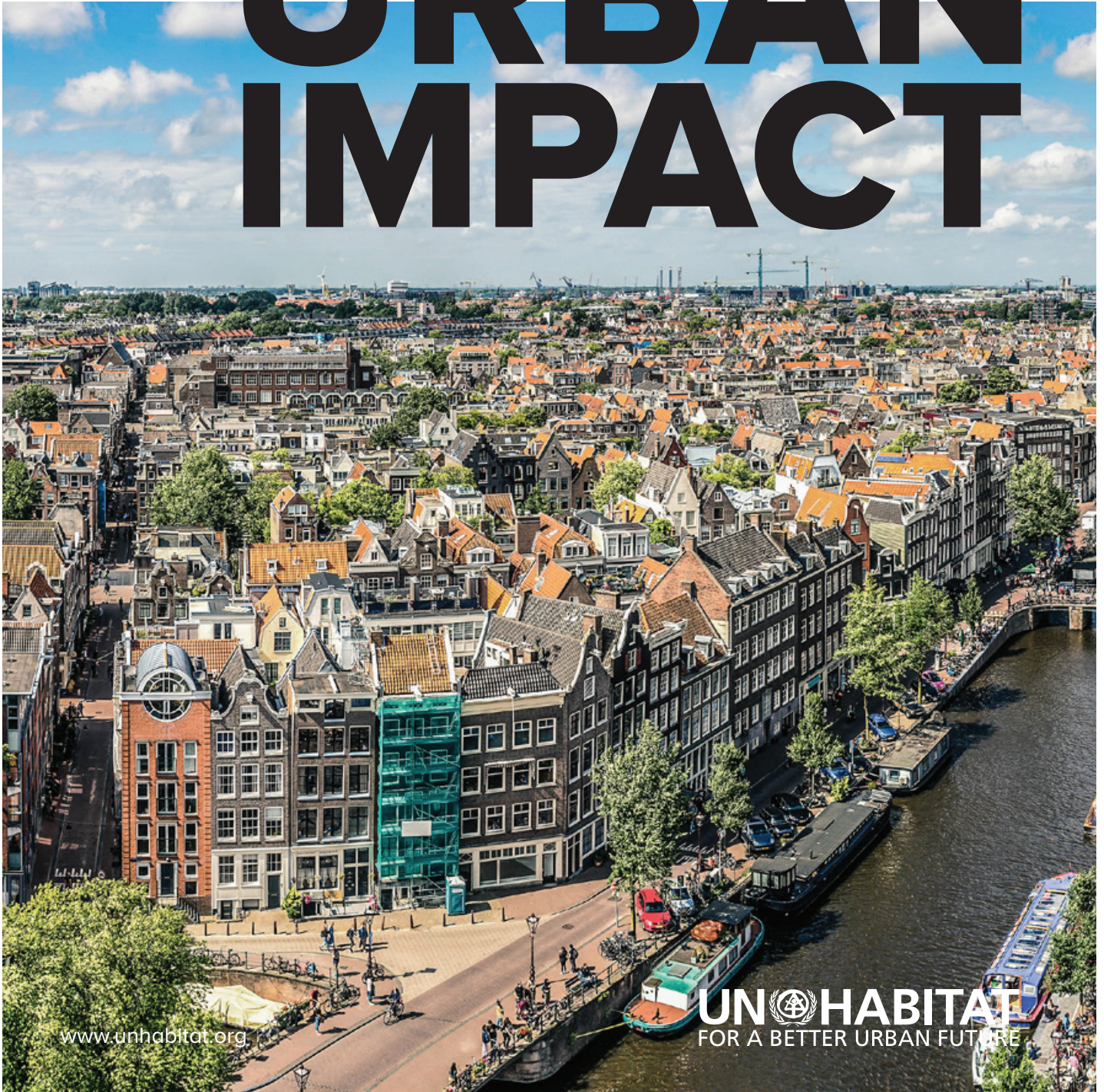ISSUE 08/FOURTH QUARTER 2019

URBAN IMPACT

UN@HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Sustainable urban development can have a positive catalytic impact on overall development, transforming cities and communities around the world by improving living conditions for those furthest behind.

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023 sets out a clear pathway to a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world by focusing on reducing spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum, enhancing shared prosperity of cities and regions, strengthening climate action and improving urban environments, and establishing mechanisms for effective urban crisis prevention and response.

The plan emphasizes the need to transition from outputs and processes to outcomes and impacts. This will enable UN-Habitat to contribute more effectively to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement. It will facilitate collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, actors and communities and leverage social and cultural change, environmental protection and economic growth to drive the sustainable urbanization agenda with a renewed focus on impact.

Cities that are well-planned and governed contribute significantly to addressing global challenges including poverty, social exclusion and spatial inequality, shared prosperity, climate change and environmental protection. UN-Habitat has developed Five Global Flagship Programmes as vehicles for a coherent, impact-oriented and integrated implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

By building partner coalitions around issues of common interest the *Inclusive, vibrant neighbourhoods and communities* programme aims to transform socially, economically and environmentally deprived areas and strategic locations of the city into connected, dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighborhoods. *People-focused Smart Cities* from the ground-up is a programme to support cities to ensure that the urban digital transformation works for the benefits of all, driving sustainability, inclusivity, prosperity and the realization of human rights in cities and human settlements.

Through the *Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor,* UN-Habitat will mobilize large scale investments in urban climate change adaptation and resilience-building in the most vulnerable global hotspots, while *Migrant-inclusive Cities and Communities* will support local and national authorities to create inclusive urban environments for all people. Finally, the *SDG Cities - advancing the implementation and localization of SDGs in cities* is designed to enhance the capacity of cities to use data effectively to propel achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Changing for increased impact - UN-Habitat's five Flagship Programmes.

In May 2019, the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly approved UN-Habitat's strategic plan for the period 2020-2023. The Plan strengthens UN-Habitat's commitment and contribution to the implementation of global agendas, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement. In addition, it moves the strategic focus of the organization from outputs and processes to outcomes and impacts.

The Strategic Plan creates a strong narrative of change, clearly setting out the relationship between sustainable urbanization and the broader overall notion of sustainable development.

The Plan stresses that well-planned and well-governed cities are the future, as they are both the place and the means to address issues related to poverty, social exclusion and spatial inequality, shared prosperity, climate and the environment, and various forms of crisis. Sustainable urban development can have a positive catalytic impact on development and deliver improved living conditions for those furthest behind.

Well-planned urbanization resulting in effective cities and towns can help to drive the sustainable development agenda across social and cultural change, environmental protection and economic growth. In addition, sustainable urban transformation presents an opportunity to work with all types of actors and communities, particularly those traditionally excluded from such processes. But we must act now.

Flagship programmes - From Outputs to Impacts

In implementing the strategic plan 2020-2023, UN-Habitat will need to continue the repositioning of its strategic and programmatic focus by moving from processes and outputs to outcomes and impacts. As a result, UN-Habitat is moving away from a project-based approach (currently implementing more than 300 projects around the world, which are not necessarily connected and whose outcomes are not clear) to a programme-based approach.

Global flagship programmes are the umbrella frameworks and vehicles that will drive the coherent, impact-focused and integrated implementation of the strategic plan 2020-2023. They also serve as platforms for bringing together coalitions of partners around issues of common interest to support the implantation of the SDGs, including in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (formerly known as UNDAF).

Internally, UN-Habitat is developing (i) a robust programme implementation manual, with state-of-the-art procedures, workflows and capacity building; (ii) a monitoring and evaluation system, including an online interactive platform accessible to all partners. In addition, UN-Habitat will establish multi-partner trust-funds, which will constitute the financing vehicles of the flagship programmes.

Focus on Innovation and Sustainabiltity

While providing a strong and needs based combination of innovative normative approaches and sustainable operational solutions, the Global flagship programmes are beneficial in several aspects. They reduce fragmentation and allow for a better connection between normative and operational elements of UN-Habitat's work.

They increase the predictability of funding and enhance the flexibility to implement the priorities defined by the strategic plan 2020-2023. They establish long-term partnerships with communities, national governments, partner organizations and donors and strengthen UN-Habitat's visibility and global positioning. Finally, they enhance the horizontal and vertical integration of sustainable urbanization concerns and improve accountability.

UN-Habitat is developing 5 global flagship programmes, which are aligned with the domains of change of its strategic plan 2020-2023:

1. *Inclusive, vibrant neighbourhoods and communities* which aims to transform socially, economically, environmentally deprived areas and strategic locations of the city into connected, dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighborhoods;

2. *People-focused Smart Cities* from the ground-up, whose objective is to make the urban digital transformation work for the benefits of all, driving sustainability, inclusivity and prosperity and the realization of human rights in cities and human settlements;

3. *Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor* which aims to mobilize and coordinate large scale investments for urban adaptation and resilience-building into the global hotspots of vulnerability, and to solidify a new way of working together between a coalition of international to local development partners;

4. *Migrant-inclusive Cities and Communities* which aims to support local and national authorities to create inclusive urban environments for all people; and

5. *SDG Cities - advancing the implementation and localization of SDGs in cities* whose objective is to realize the potential of cities to drive the achievement of the SDGs.

UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2023 builds upon the Programme's positive record in i) applying a Human Rights based approach to its work, ii) advancing the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to shelter, and iii) recognizing the gender specific and poverty and age-related dimensions of sustainable urban development.

Broadening Social Inclusion

The new social inclusion approach will continue previous initiatives but broaden the range of social inclusion priority groups to provide more consideration of the needs of those with disabilities and the relative poor, the latter as an extension to UN-Habitat's traditional focus on the absolute poor.

It will also deepen the consideration of impact on all social inclusion priority groups in UN-Habitat's project work to provide consistent and comparable baselines and benchmarks for project implementation and outcomes. This is accompanied by a systematic approach to the advancement of fundamental Human Rights across all subprogrammes and projects.

At the subprogramme level, this starts with a simple matrix of commonly affected Human Rights and their relationships to social inclusion priority groups that can be used to establish

baselines and to develop implementation and outcome assessments.

At the project level, a framework for connecting social inclusion priority groups, Human Rights and local and national governance structures has been developed. This new social inclusion approach is designed to be implemented by all UN-Habitat project managers and to only require more than minimal specialized support in particularly complex projects.

As resources allow, it is proposed to introduce staff induction and refresher training, to strengthen project monitoring and closure assessments, and to develop normative analysis and conclusions across related projects.

The successful implementation of these flagship programmes will require the identification of "champion" cities and countries to lead the way in the roll-out of activities across countries and regions in order to achieve global impact. To ensure that no one and no place is left behind, implementation will cooperate with partners across the UN-system, communities, local and national governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to implement the flagship programmes.

Inclusive, vibrant neighbourhoods and communities

Levels of spatial inequality are higher today than they were two decades ago in 75 percent of the world's cities. This means that today, access to basic urban services, public spaces, affordable housing and livelihood opportunities are less equitably distributed within these cities than they were twenty years ago. Fragmentation of urban space frequently manifests in segregation and a concentration of poverty and multiple deprivations in certain pockets of the city. These sites of socio-economic and spatial exclusion have higher levels of poverty, unemployment, crime, delinquency and exposure to environmental hazards than other parts of the city. They host a significant proportion of the world's population.

In addition to one billion people living in informal settlements globally, 600 million more do not have adequate housing, and nearly 80 percent of all urban residents do not have convenient access to open public spaces[1]. With many cities around the world experiencing urban decay, spatial inequality is a growing global concern.

Neglected historical sites in inner cities, dilapidated public housing in mono-functional residential zones, declining or abandoned industrial zones,[2] and unplanned peri-urban neighbourhoods are features of many cities across the world today.

Residents of these neglected and dysfunctional neighbourhoods are excluded from the benefits of sustainable urbanisation. They typically walk or rely on public transport to meet their mobility needs. Where public spaces and public transport services are inadequate or under-developed they have limited access to socio-economic opportunities, health care and leisure.

Connecting these neighbourhoods to livelihood opportunities, urban infrastructure and urban basic services is essential to fight exclusion and improve the social integration, dynamism, and economic vibrancy of cities.

1 UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019, p. 45 (Based on 2018 data from 220 cities in 77 countries)

2 A mono-functional resident zone refers to a settlement where there is only one main industry/function.

Reducing spatial inequalities, improving quality of life

As pointed out by the New Urban Agenda, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, sustainable urbanisation will help to reduce inequalities and realising SDGs such as ending poverty (SDG 1), promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), achieving gender equality (SDG 5), ensuring healthy lives and well-being of people (SDG 3) as well as building sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).[3]

Urban regeneration is the use of various physical and socio-economic interventions to restore, integrate, redevelop and revive parts of the city, connecting their transformation to overall city development. As a tool, urban regeneration reduces spatial inequalities and improves quality of life in targeted areas of cities by transforming socially, economically and environmentally dilapidated urban neighbourhoods into dynamic, diverse and vibrant communities that cultivate, nurture and value their natural and built heritage. Urban regeneration incubates economic, social and environmental benefits for the wider city.

Cities which do not embrace inclusive urban regeneration are ultimately confronted with the challenges posed by gentrification[4], deepening socio-economic and spatial inequalities, and the destruction of valuable cultural heritage, often in the name of modernization.

> *UN-Habitat has extensive experience and expertise in spatial planning, developing legal and governance frameworks, and implementing participatory methodologies to improve access to affordable housing, basic infrastructure and services, quality public spaces and the recognition of a continuum of land rights — all of which are key components in urban regeneration.*

This flagship programme promotes the transformation of socially, economically, and environmentally deprived areas of cities into connected, dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods by improving the quality of life and reducing socio-economic and spatial inequalities within cities, leaving no one and no place behind.

UN-Habitat's portfolio of urban regeneration projects ranges from densification and revitalisation of central districts in Mexico City to heritage preservation in in the historic city of Basra in Iraq. In Nairobi, Kenya, the adoption of inclusive urban regeneration processes has reduced spatial inequality and built a vibrant community in the neighbourhood of Dandora.

Transforming Dandora through community-led neighbourhood regeneration

In the 1970s, Dandora was a World Bank developed middle-class residential site and service scheme. Today, it is a planned low-income neighborhood with a population of 141,885 and the location of the largest dumpsite in Nairobi. Over the years, the rapidly growing population, neglected infrastructure and poor management have seen Dandora gradually declining into a crowded slum with the rise of informal settlements and streets overflowing with garbage. Rising crime rates further stigmatised the neighbourhood. The challenge was to reclaim public streets so that residents could feel safer and use public spaces that were available but not easily accessible.

3 UN-Habitat, 2017, New Urban Agenda, paragraph 5.

4 Gentrification is a process of changing the character of a neighbourhood through the influx of more affluent residents and businesses.

In 2015, UN-Habitat partnered with the Nairobi City County Government, the Dandora Transformation League and Making Cities Together Coalition to upgrade a model street in Dandora as a way of showcasing the process of co-creating public spaces. The project brought together over 500 stakeholders who agreed on a common vision for the neighbourhood.

Initiatives undertaken collectively with residents of Dandora included cleaning up and landscaping open spaces, clearing storm drainages, painting building facades and organizing residents to manage their own security. Trees were planted, 800m of roadway paved, waste bins installed, and gateways constructed. The result was a model street project with potential to accelerate positive socio-spatial transformation of the area through replication. The partnership rebranded the neighbourhood as a cohesive, safe and green haven.

The neighbourhood was revitalised by the community's decision to take charge of the quality of their open public spaces and is a model of regeneration for the city. The initiative has been the catalyst for city-wide neighbourhood competitions for similar place-making initiatives.

"

"Sometimes back, M-pesa and other businesses that make a fair amount of money would be closed by 7.00 pm due to fear of attacks. Today however, these and many other small businesses operate until 11 o'clock in the night."

Charles Gachanga, a local champion and the CEO of Dandora Transformation League

Outcomes of the Dandora community-led neighbourhood regeneration initiative include improved safety and security, stronger social cohesion, better recreation facilities for children, and better livelihood opportunities. Environmental health in the neighbourhood has improved with better drainage and social capital has been generated with support for culture and the arts. The initiative has also resulted in improved governance and better relationships between the youth and local authorities, enhancing overall quality of life for all.

People-focused Smart Cities

In 2018, the proportion of the world's population living in cities reached 50 percent, marking a key milestone in urbanization. This figure is projected to reach 70 percent by 2050. In tandem with this, cities are becoming more digital in response to rapid technological changes. More than 50 percent of the world's population now has access to the internet. Our world is rapidly becoming both urban and digital.

Urban managers have faster access to more information as a result of big data, the internet of things and sensor networks, enabling them to make informed decisions and better strategic choices. Digital platforms are facilitating dialogue between citizens and decision-makers, satellite imagery and drones are revolutionizing urban planning processes, and the sharing economy is creating new job opportunities and unleashing innovation in business.

Smart Cities, digitization and technology

The well-managed application of these technologies can contribute to sustainable development in many ways. It can reduce carbon emissions from transport, promote the protection of human rights in cities, ensure adequate access to public services for marginalized communities, and improve access to information for people with disabilities. Technology can also facilitate greater engagement with young people.

> *The New Urban Agenda calls for adoption of a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies.*

The World Bank 2016 World Development Report; *Digital Dividends* shows that while digitalization has brought about many positive results, these results are spread highly unevenly. Only about 15 per cent of the world's population can afford broadband internet, and nearly 2 billion people do not own mobile telephones. Various aspects of urban life such as access to public services and the labour market become increasingly dependent on access to digital technology. Consequently, the need to redress the digital divide to reduce urban inequalities is becoming more critical.

While 50 per cent of city residents have access to the internet, the other half do not. The digital divide within countries is nearly as high as between countries, with the poor, women and older people being the most disadvantaged.

Placing people at the centre of Smart Cities

Digital technologies have the potential to improve urban sustainability and the quality of life for urban residents. However, they must be carefully harnessed and deployed. They must be managed with transparency, public oversight and accountability to ensure that concerns about privacy, consent, surveillance, data ownership and security are adequately addressed. Active participation of municipal, regional, and national governments is imperative in ensuring that Smart Cities place people at the centre.

By using technology to solve challenges faced by urban communities, the Smart City can improve living conditions for all. While these are principles that governments are designated to uphold, they often lack the capacity to do so. Many national governments are overwhelmed by the complexity of data protection policies and their oversight role. Sub-national governments grapple with inadequate in-house capacity to develop Smart City projects that promote sustainable and inclusive urban development and to effectively engage with the private sector to mobilize investments in such.

Through this flagship programme, UN-Habitat aims at making the digital transformation work for the benefit of all, driving sustainability, inclusivity, prosperity and the protection of human rights in cities and human settlements. In collaboration with partners and through a wide range of normative and operational activities at various levels, the programme can capacitate local authorities to link the development of Smart Cities to the implementation of the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Critically, sustainability in cities will not be primarily about tech-filled buildings, cars and tools, but people, communities, mixed walkable neighbourhoods and interconnectivity.

UN-Habitat is already doing much of this work. The efforts to develop the Rwanda Smart Cities Masterplan showed that technology investments have the potential to help a least developed country to transition from an agrarian economy to a knowledge society. Our work with challenge prizes, accelerator programmes, start-ups and youth in Kenya shows that it is possible to take a bottom-up approach to innovation in cities. The Cities for Digital Rights Coalition shows what is possible when local governments come together to ensure that human rights take the centre stage in the digital economy.

Using technology to promote inclusiveness

An example that shows the potential of the use of technologies for bottom-up, inclusive urban development is UN-Habitat's longstanding Block by Block programme. In collaboration with Mojang Studios, an innovative approach to public participation, collaboration and crowdsourcing of urban design was developed using Minecraft. Minecraft, one of the world's most popular video games, is best viewed as a form of 'digital Lego' in which players create structures, buildings and public spaces in a 3-D digital world.

UN-Habitat and its partners have engaged more than 25,000 people in participatory processes, improving the quality of life for 1.5 million people by regenerating public spaces in nearly 100 projects in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. A key strength of Minecraft is that it is easy to learn, enabling the young, old, educated or not educated, and those with no previous digital skills to participate in designing their cities.

A simple 3-D design tool such as Minecraft makes it possible to close the digital divide and the skills gap, facilitating a more equal dialogue between experts and city residents by providing them with a visual language. It improves appreciation of different perspectives and builds social capital by fostering trust and inclusive thinking. Designing public space by using Minecraft is an opportunity to engage a wide range of stakeholders and interests in technology-enabled exchange of knowledge, experiences and perspectives.

Vulnerable girls use Minecraft to improve safety

In Kim Chung, a marginalized district of Hanoi, local girls walk long distances through a dangerous neighbourhood to reach their school. The Block-by-Block programme engaged the girls in redesigning the public spaces in their neighbourhood to make their daily commute safer. First, the girls assessed safety in the area by identifying common problems including inadequate street lighting, accumulating piles of waste, and unsafe road crossings. One particularly unsafe area was a tunnel under a five-lane highway where the girls could not be seen or heard if something went wrong.

> "I hate the tunnel and never like to walk through it by myself, but I have to do it at least twice a day when I go to school. We have lots of ideas how to make it nicer so that people will learn to treat it better and then it can be a safer place for everyone."
>
> *Nguyen Ngoc Anh – A 15-year old Hanoi resident.*

Using Minecraft, forty-five girls worked in teams to redesign the neighbourhood around their school into a safer, more functional neighbourhood by incorporating a series of physical improvements. Their designs included the installation of unbreakable street lights on walkways, the construction of public toilets, improved signage, and the provision of waste disposal facilities.

To improve their safety and create social space for themselves, they proposed women-only coffee shops and shelters, as well as security fencing and lighting in and around the tunnel. Their suggestions were taken up by local authorities and have been incorporated in plans for future urban regeneration.

The project provided local policy makers with practical ways of improving the Kim Chung neighbourhood and empowered the girls who realized that their views matter and can be a catalyst for change.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE
OF THE URBAN POOR

Building climate resilience for close to one billion urban residents of informal settlements is one of the greatest challenges in climate change adaptation. More and more cities experience extreme weather events related to climate change. Floods, heatwaves, droughts, landslides, storms, coastal erosion and inundation, and sea surges occur with greater frequency and severity than ever before, undermining progress being made by cities towards sustainable development.

The New Urban Agenda also points out that urban areas, particularly in developing countries, can often make their inhabitants more vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Cities, given their demographic trends and their role in the global economy, are critical to the mitigation and adaptation efforts related to climate change.[5]

A special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty highlights the concentration of risks in informal settlements. The impact of climate disasters is worst among the urban poor.

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5 *New Urban Agenda, paragraph 63-64.*

The poor are most vulnerable

The increased vulnerability of the urban poor to climate change is related to the physical location of informal settlements, many of which are on fragile sites such as steep slopes, coastlines or floodplains; low capacity to deal with the impacts of climate change due to high levels of poverty and illiteracy; and the political and institutional marginalization of these communities stemming from non-recognition of informal settlements as part of the larger city fabric. This often results in their exclusion from the planning process, depriving them of access to meaningful risk-reducing services and infrastructure. Only a tiny fraction of investments in climate resilience reaches the urban poor.

A flagship programme dedicated to Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor will mobilize and coordinate large scale investments for urban adaptation and resilience-building into the global hotspots of vulnerability and solidify a new way of working together in a coalition of international and local development partners, climate finance institutions, planning and infrastructure firms, non-government actors, scientists and climate experts. It does not only directly contribute to SDG 13 Climate Action, but also has strong contribution to the efforts of ending poverty (SDG 1) and reducing inequality (SDG 10).

The flagship programme addresses two paradoxes — that only 5 percent of climate finance is going into Adaption [6] and that only around 10 percent of investments by the Climate Fund reach the local level [7]. Effectively redressing these two paradoxes will have transformative outcomes, building climate resilience of the urban poor and marginalized settlements, and securing sustainable development for partner cities and nations alike. Building climate resilience in informal settlements in close collaboration with local communities will also boost the adaptive capacity of residents and stimulate progress towards achieving other SDGs.

Building resilience requires a multi-pronged approach which addresses physical, social, economic and political conditions and participatory processes are crucial to ensuring that local knowledge and perceptions are taken into consideration. Interventions by UN-Habitat are well-targeted and feasible as they are rooted in detailed, in-depth and nuanced understanding of the physical conditions, demographics and differentiated vulnerability of potential beneficiaries.

Building climate resilience in Fiji

UN-Habitat is working with national government and local authorities to coordinate urban climate change adaptation and resilience-building in informal settlements in Fiji, a hotspot of climate change vulnerability. The initiative includes awareness raising campaigns among vulnerable communities about the effects of climate change. Because of its mountainous terrain most towns and cities in Fiji are located along the coast where many informal settlements are exposed to the increasing threat of climate change. Improving climate resilience in these localities is crucial for Fiji to achieve sustainable urban development.

> *Building resilience requires a multi-pronged approach which addresses physical, social, economic and political conditions and participatory processes are crucial to ensuring that local knowledge and perceptions are taken into consideration.*

Fiji is the second country where UN-Habitat is implementing the *Supporting The Most Vulnerable Communities in Building Adaptive Capacity Against Climate Change and Disaster Risks Project.* The four-year project with a budget of USD 4.2 million is being implemented in 16 informal settlements located in Fiji's four main urban areas - Lautoka, Sigatoka, Nadi and Lami.

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6 UN-Habitat, Cities Prosperity Index, 2018.

7 International Institute for Environment and Development, 2017.

The Ministry of Housing and Community Development, the Ministry of Local Government, and the Climate Change Unit of the Government of Fiji are implementation partners in the project which is supported by the Adaptation Fund.

Physical works required in vulnerable settlements are identified through a vulnerability assessment and action planning process which uses a mix of community level consultations and household surveys to ensure that the project is participatory. Over 1200 households in all the 16 informal settlements were surveyed. The surveys are not only critical for gathering information, but by involving people in open, in-depth dialogue on climate change and related risks, they also have the positive effect of raising community awareness about the project.

> "People were very surprised to realize through their answers that climate change is not an abstract concept or someone else's business. That climate change is a very real matter that has been affecting them for the last few years without them understanding what was causing the worsening of the situation."
>
> *Nikotimo Rabonu - A facilitator from Wailekutu Settlement in Lami Town*

To ensure that consultations were grounded in the objective reality of affected communities, the dialogues were facilitated by community members. Genuine, community-driven consultations yielded a two-fold impact by improving resilience through awareness raising and capacity building and ensuring that infrastructure constructed by the project meet the needs of as many vulnerable people as possible.

Migrant-inclusive Cities and Communities

Migrants are not a homogenous group and include people from diverse backgrounds with different legal statuses. These statuses that determine their rights encompass migrant worker, refugee, asylum seeker, internally displaced person, stateless person or undocumented migrant. While some people move voluntarily in search of better livelihoods opportunities, for many others, migration is often a necessity as the only means to survive conflict or protect their families.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "wars, violence and persecution have driven record numbers of people from their homes worldwide." [8] Climate conditions also force people to move seasonally or in response to severe droughts, flooding or other natural disasters. Globally, more than a billion people are migrants. While many of them migrate in a regular way, there is a growing trend of irregular migration and forced displacement. This leaves many migrants vulnerable and shapes public discourse on migration negatively.

Women migrants face greater discrimination and are more vulnerable than men to mistreatment in all phases of the migration cycle, particularly "on the move." Unaccompanied children and young people also face unique challenges as their education is often interrupted when they are forcibly displaced. Similarly, ethnic or racial minorities often suffer disproportionate discrimination and exclusion.

The New Urban Agenda has stated our commitments to "ensure full respect for the human rights of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, regardless of their migration status, and support their host cities in the spirit of international cooperation."[9]

Cities are major destinations for migrants and rural to urban migration is among the main drivers of urbanization. In cities, migrants hope to find opportunities to improve their livelihoods, greater safety, and better access to basic services. In 2015, 60 percent of the world's 14.4 million refugees and 80 per cent of 38 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) lived in urban areas.[10]

8 https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/stories/2019/6/5d08b6614/global-forced-displacement-tops-70-million.html
9 The New Urban Agenda, paragraph 28.
10 UN-Habitat, IOM (2015) Habitat III – Issue Paper II: Migrants and Refugees in Urban Areas; https://www.unhcr.org/innovation/the-power-of-cities/

Migrants introduce fresh ideas, skills, resources and perspectives that enrich the economic,[11] social and cultural fabric of cities. Migrants pay taxes and create jobs by investing in businesses.[12] It is estimated that they spend approximately 85 percent of their incomes in hosting communities.[13] Migration into small towns and secondary cities can boost productivity, enhance local economic development, and strengthen urban-rural economic and social linkages. Migration also contributes positively to the economies of the migrants' places of origin, with an estimated USD 450 billion flowing into countries of origin in 2017.[14]

Large-scale movements of migrants into cities (or rural areas) can, however, create tension when host populations perceive increased competition for basic services, jobs, land and housing, or where social exclusion and inequality are on the rise.

Initiatives aimed at creating inclusive cities must take into account the living conditions and livelihood opportunities of all inhabitants of a city. Tensions between host communities and new arrivals can be reduced by pursuing an area-based approach which recognizes the rights linked to specific legal (migration) statuses.

Creating Inclusive Urban Environments

This flagship programme supports local and national authorities to create inclusive and non-discriminatory urban environments for all people. Well-planned and managed urban migration can have a positive impact on the social, cultural and economic development of cities and communities when non-discriminatory policies and systems are in place that protect rights to adequate standards of living for all urban dwellers.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlight the linkage between migration and urbanization. SDG 11 and its emphasis on making cities inclusive is today closely linked to SDG 10.7, which aims to ensure migration is safe, orderly and responsible. The New Urban Agenda, which guides the achievement of the urban SDGs, promotes frameworks that enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities and "pluralistic societies, where the needs of all inhabitants are met, recognizing the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations."[15]

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11 https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/infographics
12 UNCTAD, 2018: Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees, p. 10
13 https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/infographics
14 https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/infographics
15 UN-Habitat, 2017, New Urban Agenda, paragraph 13b.

UN-Habitat in Iraq

Following the fall of Saddam Hussein, inter-ethnic tensions led to the 2006 Samara Shrine bombing which resulted in the internal displacement of 1.1 million Iraqis, most of whom found shelter in rented accommodation, facing the burden of disproportionately high rents. Some found shelter with host families while others lived in tents or makeshift shelters erected on land owned by host families' or on public land. After 2014, the emergence of the "Islamic State" compounded the situation further, forcing some 3 million Iraqis to become IDPs. In some major cities of Iraq, the number of IDPs exceeded the host population, placing a severe burden on inadequate public services and infrastructure.

Many families were vulnerable to forceful eviction without alternative accommodation. Women and adolescent girls were the most vulnerable due to the lack of privacy as many makeshift dwellings did not have lockable doors. Without adequate access to basic services, these women and girls also faced challenges related to hygiene, menstruation and the observance of cultural norms of modesty, which were difficult to deal with given the dire conditions in the shelters. Sexual harassment and verbal abuse of women and girls became so severe and commonplace that many of them withdrew from public view, further worsening their social isolation.

The overarching goal of the *Rehabilitation and Regularization of Informal Settlements and IDP Communities in Iraq* project is to provide internally displaced people with adequate shelter, improve their overall living conditions, and support them to become self-reliant. It focuses on promoting social cohesion as a means of improving the capacity of cities to accommodate growing populations, improve living conditions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and reduce tensions between host communities and IDPs.

The project supports local and national institutions to implement long term shelter solutions for IDPs and returnees. The initial pilot project provided 900 internally displaced families with secure land tenure and improved their living environment through government-financed settlement upgrading.

Governorate staff have undergone training in project planning and implementation the process of pilot implementation enabling city–wide replication of the initiative. Access to clean water and waste collection services has been improved in informal settlements in Mosul, Ramadi, and Basra, partly by engaging unemployed members of local communities. The project has reduced tensions between internally displaced migrants and host communities.

The initiative has grown into a comprehensive national programme anchored on four critical pillars – the legal, institutional, financial and technical pillars. The legal pillar focused on intensive revision of relevant regulations to enable implementation of the required technical interventions, while the institutional pillar has been the platform for building national and local capacities to undertake surveys, engage communities in participatory planning processes, integrate informal settlements into city master plans, and implement measures to improve tenure security and access to basic services and livelihoods for IDPs.

The technical pillar undertook community-led upgrading and resettlement projects and developed guidelines and tools for interventions in informal settlement/IDP areas. The last pillar assessed available financial mechanisms and developed a roadmap to attract private sector financing for urban upgrading.

SDG Cities - advancing the implementation and localization of SDGs in cities

By 2050 two-thirds of humanity will reside in cities, making urbanization one of the most significant global trends of the twenty-first century. When managed in a sustainable and inclusive manner, urbanization is not only a demographic or spatial phenomenon but can be a force to help governments overcome global challenges including poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, climate change and conflict.

Ideally, the phases of sustainable urbanization should connect data organically to knowledge, policy formulation and action plans, leading to properly funded urban integrated projects. In many cities, however, these phases are inadequately connected or non-existent. Ineffective systems of urban governance impede the achievement of the urban dimensions of the SDGs, such as limited capacities in urban planning and inadequate local resources and funding. Poor or non-existent mechanisms for measuring results and impacts and taking corrective action are further barriers. To achieve tangible multi-dimensional and measurable impact, evidence-based policies and strategies must be translated into sustainably financed urban integrated projects. That are efficiently and effectively implemented.

City data, which is key to accelerating sustainable transformation of cities, frequently lacks detail, is poorly documented, and not harmonized. In many cases, data on critical issues relating to urban growth and development is simply not available. This has a negative impact on the quality of decision making.

Although considerable progress has been made in recent years, a significant number of city residents are still not being counted, and important aspects of their lives as well as conditions they live in are still not being measured. For many, this leads to the denial of fundamental rights. For city authorities, it increases the likelihood of not taking full advantage of the transformative potential offered by urbanization.

A Flagship Programme on SDG Cities

The objective of this flagship programme is to realize the potential of cities to drive the achievement of the SDGs. The New Urban Agenda underscores the potential of cities to be massive agents of positive change. If cities are well-planned, built and governed, they can be catalysts for inclusion and powerhouses of equitable economic growth. Sustainable cities and human settlements are key drivers of sustainable development.

Four major outcomes are targeted by the programme. It strengthens the capacity of cities to produce reliable comparable evidence that helps them to identify the strategic actions necessary to accelerate achievement of the SDGs in urban areas; It reinforces the interconnectivity between knowledge, policies, planning, financing and implementation to achieve impact; it triggers strategic urban investments that support achievement of the SDGs; and it establishes local and national performance monitoring and certification standards for projects, processes and initiatives that guide cities in implementation of initiatives that support the achievement of the SDGs. The programme places cities at the heart of UN system wide efforts to support local implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

UN-Habitat developed the City Prosperity Index (CPI) in 2012 to monitor urban sustainability and prosperity. The index enables mayors and other decision-makers to know how their cities feature in comparison with other cities. With the benefit of internationally validated data and indices on the preparation of plans and policies, adoption of best practices, and monitoring of results and the impact of policies, city authorities can make more sustainable decisions.

The CPI has been implemented in more than 400 cities across the world. In cases where interventions have been completed or are well advanced, the impact has been mostly at the institutional level. National governments and city authorities are strengthening their policy making and implementation capacities and creating enabling conditions for the implementation of transformative solutions.

> **Based on CPI analysis Zapopan has developed a policy which addresses its urban sprawl, low population density and environmental degradation and is using institutional budgetary resources to implement strategic interventions.**

Better data for better policies – Implementing the CPI in Mexican Municipalities

The implementation of the City Prosperity Index (CPI) in the Mexican municipality of Zapopan in 2015 demonstrates how UN-Habitat's approach to consolidation of urban data collection and analysis has improved evidence-based policy-making and enabled the city to tackle major urban challenges effectively.

Rapid population growth and territorial expansion has eaten into agricultural land and natural reserves with negative impacts on the quality of life and productivity in the municipality of Zapopan. The data generated through the CPI was used to design five transformative urban planning interventions in Zapopan in 2016. The interventions were adopted through innovative participatory processes involving different sectoral departments of the municipality and a wide range of stakeholders, thereby ensuring political and administrative continuity.

Based on CPI analysis, Zapopan has developed a policy which addresses its urban sprawl, low population density and environmental degradation and is using institutional budgetary resources to implement strategic interventions. The city currently develops high impact initiatives and mobilizes additional resources from the private sector and international development partners. UN-Habitat will also use the CPI to measure the impact of the interventions on achievement of the SDGs.

Similarly, following the CPI implementation in Merida, south-eastern Mexico, a value chain of identifying policy and strategic action, led to the identification of five transformative initiatives, that strengthened the city's SDG performance in social, economic and environmental dimensions. These are being implemented through blended sources of finance, through endogenous resources, World Bank, and private finance. UN-Habitat will also use the CPI to measure the SDG impacts of these interventions.

Zapopan and Merida's successful use of CPI led to the scale-up of CPI in 305 cities in Mexico. At the national scale, IINFONAVIT, the largest mortgage lender in Latin America, has supported the calculation of the CPI. This Data has enabled the preparation of more than 100 evidence-based city plans, a clear institutional impact in which data and metrics have served as support to substantiate the elaboration of urban plans and regulatory reforms. In addition, cities that previously lacked the capacity to produce evidence-based urban policy interventions are now empowered to use data and information to tackle urban challenges.

Global celebrations for Urban October

This year's Urban October, which runs from World Habitat Day on the first Monday of the month to World Cities Day on 31 October, featured a dynamic range of events raising awareness about sustainable urbanization.

The World Habitat Day 2019 theme of *Frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth* was noisily illustrated at the Global Observance in Mexico City by a children's orchestra playing instruments made from buckets and plastic bottles.

Dignitaries, experts, academics and young people packed the Anthropology Museum auditorium to hear UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, warning that the world's waste management challenges require urgent action.

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif with participants at the Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2019 in Mexico City, Mexico UNHabitat/Hector Bayona-Acosta

Mexico's Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Martha Delgado, President of the first UN-Habitat Assembly, said that the Government was committed to making urbanization an ally of sustainable development.

The Government of Cameroon, with UN-Habitat's support, designated a Habitat Week on waste. Activities included a clean up competition in Yaoundé for roads, drainage ditches and rivers.

"I hope that this campaign lasts long so that we can improve our environment,"

Local resident, Wilfred Zebaze.

"We will prepare a roadmap for a national programme on sustainable waste management, not only to manage waste, but to transform it to wealth,"

Celestine Ketcha Courtes, Cameroon's Minister of Housing and Urban Development.

Kenya celebrated World Habitat Day in Nakuru County at a factory turning human waste and sludge into cooking fuel briquettes.

The Chief Guest, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, James Macharia

called on counties to embrace innovative technologies. The Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat, Ambassador Njambi Kinyungu, said forward thinking on waste can positively impact sustainable livelihoods. The dignitaries planted trees at a landfill which is being turned into a park.

The Ecocity World Summit in Vancouver, Canada on World Habitat Day, reflected on the city's history of supporting UN-Habitat, as host of the Agency's founding conference, Habitat 1 in 1976 and the Third Session of the World Urban Forum in 2006.

In Bangkok, Thailand, the Four Regions Slum Network mobilized hundreds of representatives from informal settlements calling for action on homelessness and land rights.

Meanwhile in **Spain,** mayors and city representatives discussed waste management at an event co-organized by UN-Habitat and the International Solid Waste Association at the Association's World Congress. The Mayor of Nova Odessa, São Paulo, Benjamin Bill Vieira da Souza spoke of growing up on a dumpsite, picking waste and surviving on food waste.

At the end of October, this year's World Cities Day theme was *Changing the world: Innovations and a better life for future generations* with the Global Observance being held for the first time in Russia and attracting over 650 participants from a record number of countries.

At the opening in of the Global Observance in **Ekaterinburg,** UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, said innovation was often born in cities.

"Imaginative ideas allow us to be more efficient and effective in the way we manage our resources, we move people and goods, deliver our services and construct our infrastructure and buildings," she said.

Russia's Minister of Construction, Housing and Utilities, Vladimir Yakushev called for people to unite their efforts and creativity to transform cities while the Mayor of Ekaterinburg, Aleksandr Vysokinskiy, said

"technology is a tool not a target, and the future of a city depends on its population."

China's Vice Minister of Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MoHURD), Jiang Wanrong, said that good city planning and the interests of people should be the top priority to make cities inclusive.

The 2019 edition of the Shanghai Manual was launched and there were live links to celebrations in Spain, Moscow region and UNESCO's Paris Headquarters.

UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme led the annual Fiesta de la Ciencia (Science Festival) in Barcelona with activities organized by over 150 organizations on different scientific and technological areas for children.

The 2019 China Observance of World Cities Day was held in Tangshan City, the first Chinese city to win the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour. It was co-organized by MoHURD, the Government of Hebei Province and UN-Habitat. More than 400 participants from over 30 Chinese cities and provinces and around 20 countries took part.

The Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Mr. Victor Kisob spoke about China's work on improving people's livelihoods. The Vice Minister of MoHURD, Ni Hong, said innovation was an important solution to the challenges of urbanization.

UN-Habitat's Deputy Executive Director also made opening remarks at the 2019 Global Cities Forum and World Cities Day Shanghai Observance.

In Islamabad, Pakistan, Federal Minister and Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam, spoke at the event where Argentina Park was declared a Model Park.

Shortly after Cuba's capital Havana turned 500 years old, the city marked World Cities Day in an event organized by the Institute of Physical Planning and the National Union of Architects and Construction Engineers of Cuba.

At the UN-Habitat booth at the Global Observance of World Cities Day in Ekaterinburg, Russia, the city Mayor Aleksandr Vysokinskiy and UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif look at traditional Russian dolls representing various Sustainable Development Goal © UN-Habitat/Georgy Sapozhnikov

In Toronto, Canada, UN-Habitat, international city leaders and the Urban Economy Forum Association hosted the inaugural Urban Economy Forum, the first global platform on urban economy and finance, with participants from over 20 countries.

The Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau's statement said the **"event brings together community leaders and financial stakeholders to discuss ways in which to build a sustainable urban economy."**

The second day was opened by Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario who formerly headed UN-Habitat.

World Cities Day was celebrated with three events in Nairobi, Kenya. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance organized more than 20 youth-led organizations for a Dialogue on Supporting youth to develop innovative solutions to the Urban Challenges.

Another event focused on inclusive urban mobility, while the third at Nairobi University was on sustainable planning for social change in informal settlements.

UN-Habitat and the Municipal Council, launched Kuwait's first national cam-paign for greening open spaces which aims to plant 100,000 trees to create a green belt protecting cities from dust storms, desertification, and sand en-croachment.

Tunisia celebrated World Cities Day and the Arab and World Habitat Day with a one day seminar on Urban Planning and Housing opened by the Minister of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Planning.

The rest of Urban October included a huge variety of exciting events which included some of the following.

UN-Habitat Ethiopia with the Urban Center, the Association of Ethiopian Architects and the Ethiopia Urban Planners Association organized a weekly Urban Dialogue and a radio debate on various themes and two Urban Cinema sessions were held.

The second year of the Urban Circuit (Circuito Urbano in Portuguese), created by UN-Habitat included 154 events in 61 cities and 23 states looking at how innovation can enhance urban services and policies.

In the USA, UN-Habitat was involved in or promoted 30 events celebrating Urban October, which included panel discussions, exhibitions, film festivals, a tour of New York City's subway and an Urban Ecology Boat Tour. UN-Habitat co-led the Global Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Neighborhoods (Chicago) and helped organize an exhibition from the 'Resilient Homes Design Challenge' at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

UN-Habitat held the 10th Environmental Technology Expert Group Meeting on *"Plastic Waste and Marine waste "* in Fukuoka Japan while in Thailand UN-Habitat joined celebrations with the National Housing Authority, under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government.

Two Urban Conversations Over Coffee (Kapihan at Usapang Urban) dialogues on urban issues were held in the Philippines. And an online campaign called the Mayors' Urban Challenge was launched tasking Philippine mayors to capture on video a sustainable urban practice or initiative.

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World Urban Forum

**8 - 13
FEBRUARY
2020**
Abu Dhabi, UAE

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The Tenth session of the
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Cities of Opportunities:
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The World Urban Forum
Defining cities of the future

Why a Forum on cities?

The World Urban Forum is a non-legislative technical stakeholders forum convened by UN-Habitat every two years and was established by the United Nations in 2001 to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on cities and communities around the world.

By 2050, 70 percent of the world's population will be urban, making cities critical vehicles for achieving a sustainable future for the world. As their populations grow, cities will need to be inclusive, functional and efficient to meet increasing demand for public services and infrastructure. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable* emphasizes the importance of well-planned and managed cities.

The World Urban Forum is a global platform to discuss and decide on the future of citites. The main objectives of the Forum are to:

1. Raise awareness about sustainable urbanization among stakeholders, partner constituencies and the general public.

2. Improve collective knowledge of sustainable urban development through open and inclusive debates, sharing of lessons learned, and exchange of best practices.
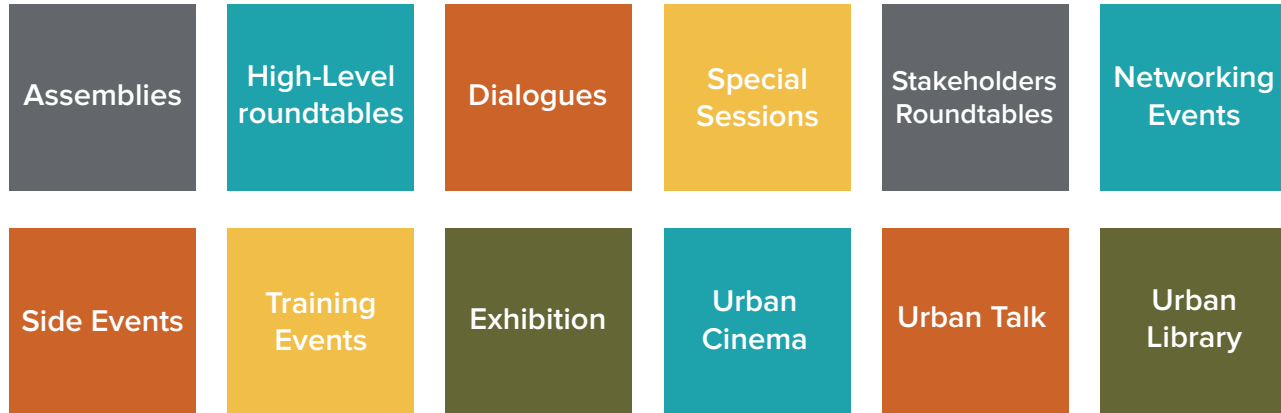
3. Increase coordination and cooperation between different stakeholders and constituencies for the advancement and implementation of sustainable urbanization.

An inclusive and diversified approach

Inaugurated in 2002 in Nairobi, the Forum was subsequently hosted by Barcelona (2004), Vancouver (2006), Nanjing (2008), Rio de Janeiro (2010), Naples (2012), Medellin (2014) and Kuala Lumpur (2018). Growing interest in the Forum has seen participation growing from 1,000 attendees in WUF1 to over 23,000 in WUF9.

Hundreds of events are held in a wide array of formats, allowing for key topics to be presented and discussed constructively. The Forum has become an innovative, inclusive and participatory event with a good regional, gender and age balance. Speakers are drawn from diverse backgrounds including academia, governments, NGOs, the private sector and marginalized groups.

WUF Events

Assemblies	High-Level roundtables	Dialogues	Special Sessions	Stakeholders Roundtables	Networking Events
Side Events	Training Events	Exhibition	Urban Cinema	Urban Talk	Urban Library

Crafting solutions to global urbanization challenges together

The World Urban Forum is the premier platform for discussing implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. It has aided the achievement of important milestones in the field of sustainable urban development, with the most recent sessions of the Forum witnessing a renewed commitment to promoting sustainable urbanization by world leaders, decision makers and experts in urbanization.

In 2014, the WUF7 Medellin Declaration highlighted the need to promote a New Urban Agenda. A new paradigm was necessary to address the gap in legal and planning frameworks required for well-planned and inclusive growth of prosperous and sustainable cities. Many cities are faced with challenges of meeting growing demand for energy, the alarming and dangerous effects of climate change, the negative impact of inequality and exclusion, and the exponential growth on unemployment among the youth. The New Urban Agenda launched in 2016 at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador was an offshoot of the Medellin Declaration.

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 was the outcome of WUF9 following inclusive multi-stakeholder discussions between national, subnational and local governments, parliamentarians, civil society, older persons, women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, grassroots groups, indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector, foundations and philanthropies, international and regional organizations, academia and sector professionals.

The declaration aims to accelerate achievement of the SDGs and implementation of the New Urban Agenda by localizing and scaling-up initiatives that operationalize the concept of cities for all, ensuring that all city residents live and are productive in safe, prosperous, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, thereby fostering prosperity and enhancing quality of life for all.

The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 10) will be held from 8-13 February 2020 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This will be the first time that an Arab country will host the Forum.

WUF10 will be convened by UN-Habitat in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities, the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, General Secretariat of the Executive Council, and the ultra-modern Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

Thousands of participants are expected to attend and take part in discussions on the theme Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation. For more information and to register for the Forum visit the World Urban Forum website *https://wuf.unhabitat.org/.*

WUF 2
2004
Cities: Crossroads of cultures, inclusiveness and integration?

Attendance: **Over 4,300**

Vancouver,
Canada

Barcelon
Spain

Na
Ita

WUF 3
2006
Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action

Attendance: **Over 10,400**

WUF 7
2014
Urban equity in development - cities for life

Attendance: **Over 22,000**

Medellin,
Colombia

WUF 1
2002
Sustainable Urbanizatio

Attendance: **Almost 1,200**

WUF 5
2010
The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide

Attendance: **Almost 13,800**

Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil

From **WUF 1** to **WUF 10**

Note:
In 2016, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development was held in lieu of the Eighth Session of the World Urban Forum.

WUF 6
2012

The Urban Future

Attendance: **Over 8,200**

WORLD URBAN FORUM 6
NAPLES, ITALY 1-7 SEPTEMBER 2012

WUF 10
2020

*Cities of Opportunities -
Connecting Culture and Innovation*

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المنتدى الحضري العالمي
World Urban Forum
Abu Dhabi, UAE 8-13 February 2020

Nanjing,
China

WUF 4
2008

*Harmonious Urbanization:
The Challenge of Balanced
Territorial Development*

Attendance: **Almost 8,000**

World Urban Forum 4
第四届世界城市论坛
03-06 November 2008 Nanjing, China

Abu Dhabi,
UAE

Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

Nairobi,
Kenya

WUF 9
2018

Cities 2030, Cities for All

Attendance: **Over 23,000**

WORLD URBAN FORUM
WUF9
KUALA LUMPUR · 7-13 FEB 2018

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