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Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution [73/239](#), provides an update on the implementation of the resolution and an overview of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ([A/73/307](#)).

The Secretary-General summarizes the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat at the global, regional, national and subnational levels; presents a thematic and regional overview of the Programme's four subprogrammes and cross-cutting issues; and provides an update on the implementation of the new governance structure, including the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the Executive Board of UN-Habitat pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/239](#).

* [A/75/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution [73/239](#), provides an update on the implementation of that resolution and an overview of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ([A/73/307](#)).

2. Under the leadership of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, the Programme implemented the core elements of resolution [73/239](#), successfully servicing the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, three sessions of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, eight sessions of the Bureau of the Board and one session of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat. In 2020, it began to implement the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, ensuring the alignment of its core mandate with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting sustainable urban development to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, create prosperity, advance climate action and prevent and support recovery from urban crises. UN-Habitat contributed to the reform of the United Nations development system, working with the Development Coordination Office to help resident coordinators to promote sustainable urbanization and localize the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Habitat also established a transparent system of financial reporting and implemented temporary austerity measures to eliminate its deficit. The introduction of a change management process and a restructuring exercise resulted in the launch in 2020 of a new organizational structure.

II. New governance structure and work of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board and the Committee of Permanent Representatives

A. Background on the new governance structure

3. On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly, in its resolution [73/239](#), decided to dissolve the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and replace it with the United Nations Habitat Assembly, which would have universal membership. In the resolution, the Assembly also welcomed the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat pursuant to Assembly resolution [72/226](#), and endorsed its findings and recommendations on changing the governance structure of UN-Habitat. The resolution also provided that the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly would be held in May 2019, building on the preparations already carried out for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council. It further provided that, in 2019, the Executive Board, after the election of its members by the UN-Habitat Assembly, would meet for its first session in Nairobi for three days. It requested the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat to prepare draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be completed by April or May 2019, with a view to their adoption at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

B. United Nations Habitat Assembly

4. During the reporting period, representatives of 124 Member States attended the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, held in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019,

including four Heads of State and several ministers. The Assembly elected Mexico as President; Germany, Ghana and Poland as Vice-Presidents; and China as Rapporteur. It also elected 36 of its members to serve on the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, endorsed the rules of procedure of the Board and elected members to serve on the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Furthermore, the Assembly adopted the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 (resolution 1.1) and thematic resolutions on the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements (resolution 1/2); enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda (resolution 1/3); achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements (resolution 1/4); and enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements (resolution 1/5).

5. The UN-Habitat Assembly also adopted a ministerial declaration entitled “Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities: accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” (HSP/HA.1/HLS.1) and decisions on the rules of procedure of the Assembly (HSP/HA.1/HLS.2), on the rules of procedure of the Executive Board (HSP/HA.1/HLS.3) and on arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of UN-Habitat (decision 1/3).

C. Executive Board

6 The Executive Board of UN-Habitat held its inaugural meeting in Nairobi on 30 May 2019, on the margins of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. It adopted its rules of procedure and elected its first Bureau, composed of the United States of America as Chair; Argentina, China and the Russian Federation as Vice-Chairs; and Malawi as Rapporteur. The Board resumed its first session on 19 and 20 November 2019 in Nairobi. It adopted the work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2020 and established ad hoc working groups on working methods; programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters; and stakeholder engagement policy. The Board adopted five decisions to ensure follow-up on mandates forwarded to the Board by the Assembly, as well as its own mandates, concerning: the implementation of the strategic plans for the periods 2014–2019 and 2020–2023, and approval of the work programme and budget for 2020 (decision 2019/1); financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN-Habitat (decision 2019/2); the implementation of normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including the resolutions and decisions of the Assembly (decision 2019/3); the workplan of the Board for 2020 (decision 2019/4); and methods of work of the Board (decision 2019/5).

7. To date, the Bureau has met six times in 2020 in preparation for the 2020 sessions of the Executive Board, which have been delayed as a result of the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. On 29 June 2020, the Board held its first session of 2020 online, at which participants discussed financial, budgetary and administrative matters, the work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2020 and the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly, among other items. The Board suspended that session and resumed it on 30 July, whereupon members of the new Bureau were elected by acclamation for the period 2020/21.

D. Committee of Permanent Representatives

8. The Committee of Permanent Representatives, which previously served as the intersessional body of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, held its seventieth,

seventy-first and seventy-second meetings on 20 September 2018, 6 December 2018 and 10 April 2019, respectively. During the reporting period, the Committee monitored the implementation of Council resolutions and of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and reviewed the 2018 annual progress report on the implementation of the strategic plan. In line with General Assembly resolution [73/239](#), the Committee made preparations for the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including by preparing the draft rules of procedure of the Assembly and of the Executive Board and several draft resolutions and decisions for consideration by the Assembly. The Committee also reviewed the draft UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 for further consideration by the Assembly. Following their election by the Assembly, members of the Bureau of the Committee met on 1 October 2019 to begin preparations for the high-level meeting of the Committee to review progress on the implementation of the strategic plan, to be held in June 2021.

III. Update on financial developments

9. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat improved conditions, in order to attract funding. Building on the governance reforms, the Executive Director instituted austerity measures, introduced transparency in financial reporting, commissioned independent audits and secured transition funding from donors from Norway and Sweden. The measures enabled UN-Habitat to conclude 600 projects that were outstanding from 2015, clear its deficit of \$5.5 million and begin to regain the trust of Member States. UN-Habitat also carried out a change process and introduced a new organizational structure to implement the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023. Working with the United Nations system, it strengthened its role as focal point for system-wide coordination of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and for delivery of the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Executive Director reached out to Governments from multiple regions to request support for UN-Habitat. That initiative remains a work in progress, as Governments have been slow to get back to UN-Habitat. While the measures have not enabled the Programme to meet its income requirements yet, they have led to improvements in the conditions needed to attract new funding.

10. Demand for UN-Habitat support for country programmes and for its normative services and products remained strong. In 2019, the income of the special purpose account of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, net of donor refunds, was \$26.9 million, while net income for regional and country programmes (technical cooperation) was \$113.5 million. Expenditure for the special purpose account stood at \$39.0 million, while expenditure for regional and country programmes (technical cooperation) stood at \$115.3 million. As of July 2020, net contributions for earmarked programmes stood at \$65.2 million, indicating that there was continuing demand for UN-Habitat assistance in urban programmes.

11. Although, in 2019, voluntary non-earmarked contributions increased by more than 40 per cent, from \$3.7 million to \$5.2 million, and five new government partners made voluntary non-earmarked contributions to the general purpose account of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, a significant shortage in that area persists. The amount of \$5.2 million did not cover all operating expenses of the Foundation's non-earmarked fund, and two government partners, one of which was new, provided 63.1 per cent of the income. The Executive Board, in a decision on 29 June 2020, established a ceiling of \$10.0 million for the Foundation's non-earmarked contributions, which is 47.1 per cent less than the 2020 authorized amount of \$18.9 million. Contributions received up until July 2020, from 10 government partners, stood at \$1.2 million, which represents 6.3 per cent of the authorized amount of \$18.9 million. UN-Habitat projected that, in 2020, some \$4.9 million in voluntary

non-earmarked contributions would be received, which would represent 25.9 per cent of the 2020 approved budget and 94.2 per cent of the 2019 income.

IV. Activities at the global level

A. Achievements of global programmes

12. During the reporting period, the transformative tools and knowledge products of UN-Habitat strengthened the capacity of Member States to make progress on sustainable urbanization and set international standards and practices for the global community.

13. The guidance note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations and land and conflict, which was endorsed by the Executive Committee established by the Secretary-General and developed by UN-Habitat and the Peacebuilding Support Office, in collaboration with United Nations agencies in the fields of development, humanitarian and peacekeeping affairs, helped to strengthen the approach to land conflict.

14. The UN-Habitat Global Urban Law database (UrbanLex) allowed 24,000 users to have access to and undertake comparative analysis of urban laws. National urban policy was approved as indicator 11.a.1 of target 11.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals at the tenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. In 2019, UN-Habitat introduced two guidance documents, *How to Formulate a National Urban Policy: a Practical Guide* and *National Urban Policy: a Guiding Framework*, to support Member States in their development and implementation of national urban policies.

15. UN-Habitat issued the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*, the primary global reference in that field. UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 1/5 on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements accelerated Member States' efforts to scale up their activities. UN-Habitat also issued the *Participatory Incremental Planning Toolbox: a Toolbox to Support Local Governments in Developing Countries to Implement the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals* to provide guidance for planning in contexts of constrained capacity. The new Sustainable Development Goal project assessment tool enabled cities to assess their planning instruments in relation to sustainable planning principles. UN-Habitat also developed tools to support local and national governments to scale up efforts to achieve target 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on making public spaces more safe, inclusive, accessible and green. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat took up a leadership role on the Board of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy to help to ensure the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda among the 10,000 member cities of the Covenant.

16. The Global Municipal Finance Database was launched by UN-Habitat to provide information for comparative analysis on municipal budgets and population data for 94 cities. UN-Habitat also completed the first version of the Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis tool, which helps local governments to diagnose problems in own-source revenue systems. In addition, 61 cities implemented urban youth development programmes related to public space, governance, livelihoods and peacebuilding.

17. In 2019, the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance strengthened the capacity of water utilities, to the benefit of over 1 million users. In addition, as of August 2020, 169 cities were part of the global Waste Wise Cities campaign for urgent action on solid waste management, with 109 cities having joined in 2019.

18. UN-Habitat developed tools to expand knowledge on the prevention of homelessness in accordance with the right to adequate housing and on housing

migrants within the framework of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project. It also developed the Sherpa mobile application to help stakeholders to assess housing designs that incorporate social, economic and environmental considerations. As of July 2020, 42 countries had conducted housing profiles to formulate evidence-based, inclusive housing policies.

19. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-Habitat is developing a policy guide entitled “Building back better through green and resilient basic services in a post-pandemic world”; *Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning: a Sourcebook*, launched with the World Health Organization (WHO); a webinar series on urban-rural linkages in the context of COVID-19; and policy statements on preventing evictions during the pandemic.

20. UN-Habitat has demonstrated through its global programmes that normative and operational work has a bigger impact when multi-stakeholder partnerships underpin tool development and project implementation, as well as that partnerships foster cross-sectoral learning, promote local ownership and foster new ideas. That was as true for the Global Land Tool Network and national urban policy programme as it was for the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, the Global Urban Observatory and the Global Public Space Programme.

21. To support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the localization of the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the monitoring of urban-related targets and indicators, UN-Habitat disseminated guidelines on data collection, analysis and monitoring. It supported 90 countries in the monitoring and disaggregation of urban data, including on gender indicators, to inform policymaking and ensure that no one was left behind. It also organized 18 workshops, attended in total by 1,000 participants, on improving ways to apply international recommendations linked to human settlement statistics at the local level.

22. UN-Habitat deployed an incremental approach to designing reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, building on the global monitoring framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and other efforts led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The approach involved the production of inclusive data platforms and the strengthening of partnerships with other entities of the United Nations system, with the aim of monitoring a representative sample of national cities so that progress could be reported at the national level with limited selection bias.

23. Through its Global Urban Observatory, UN-Habitat led inter-agency discussions on the development of an indicator framework aligned with the indicators of relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and in keeping with the guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat developed the urban observatory model for urban data collection and analysis in partnership with cities and provided Governments with guidance on establishing urban observatories. The resulting global network of urban observatories facilitates the collection and aggregation of data at the local level and the comparison of data at the national and regional levels. It contributes to the collection of data on COVID-19 in cities.

24. UN-Habitat also developed the City Prosperity Initiative, a global framework through which Member States monitor the urban components of the 2030 Agenda. UN-Habitat used the City Prosperity Initiative to monitor the performance of cities globally against a core set of indicators tracking, among other aspects, inclusiveness, infrastructure, environment, productivity, housing, water, sanitation, Internet access and civic participation in urban planning. In consultation with United Nations entities and partners, UN-Habitat strengthened the framework to ensure that it adequately captured women’s empowerment, youth participation and human rights.

B. Global advocacy

World Urban Forum

25. The World Urban Forum, established by the General Assembly in its resolutions [56/205](#) and [56/206](#) and convened by UN-Habitat every two years since 2002, is the world's premier conference on cities and sustainable urbanization. The tenth session of the Forum, focused on the theme "Cities of opportunities: connecting culture and innovation", was held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 13 February 2020. The Forum is a participatory and non-legislative United Nations conference. Some 13,000 participants from 169 countries attended in 2020, with over 1,000 representing 43 of the least developed countries.

26. The session provided participants with a platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration. Over 500 events were held, contributing to raising awareness about sustainable urbanization, generating collective knowledge, discussing innovative solutions and increasing multi-stakeholder cooperation. It was the first year in which the Forum had been hosted in the Arab world and proved to be a good opportunity to showcase the region's achievements as a global hub for innovation and cultural exchange since Abu Dhabi itself is home to over 190 nationalities.

27. The outcome of the Forum was the Abu Dhabi Declared Actions, a compendium of commitments prepared in consultation with stakeholders on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to accelerate progress in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11. UN-Habitat will present the final report on the session to its Executive Board in October 2020. Katowice, Poland, will host the eleventh session, in 2022.

National urban forums

28. Pursuant to paragraphs 41 and 92 of the New Urban Agenda, national urban forums are national-level, multi-stakeholder platforms for debating policy on sustainable urban development and promoting wide participation in decision-making processes. They ensure that there are coordinated national contributions to and effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda in order to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In 2018 and 2019, 20 countries, representing all the regions, organized national urban forums to monitor progress and make commitments to national urban development, while mobilizing solutions at the local level and engaging with partners to transform cities. The outcomes of the forums were presented at the tenth session of the World Urban Forum.

Urban Agenda Platform

29. In 2019, UN-Habitat developed the Urban Agenda Platform to enable Member States and local and non-State actors to monitor progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The online Platform consolidates data from the Quito Implementation Platform, designed for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III); the database of 5,000 best practices of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment; and the global best practices of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation and the Expo 2020 Dubai Global Best Practice Programme.

30. The Platform contains national reports on progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and on the realization of the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. It tracks commitments to act made at the World Urban Forum and at regional and national urban forums and enables the sharing of data and practices on urban aspects. In addition to facilitating reporting for the

quadrennial report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in 2022, it contributes to the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. It is designed to bridge the biennial session of the World Urban Forum and facilitate preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in 2023.

World Habitat Day and World Cities Day celebrations

31. UN-Habitat established the theme for World Habitat Day 2018 as “Municipal solid waste management”, with the emphasis on rethinking waste management and encouraging cities to join the Waste Wise Cities campaign. Kenya hosted the global observance of World Habitat Day 2018 on 1 October 2018 at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi. The President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour to five winners for their contributions to sustainable urbanization.

32. On World Habitat Day 2019, celebrated on 7 October 2019 on the theme “Frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth”, innovative ways in which new technologies could turn waste into a resource were highlighted. Participants discussed solutions for managing waste and social innovations to support sustainable development. The event was held at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City and included panel discussions on the circular economy, migration and the informal economy.

33. UN-Habitat established the theme for World Cities Day 2018 as “Building sustainable and resilient cities”, with the emphasis on reducing risk and preventing potential disasters. Liverpool, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, hosted the global observance of World Cities Day 2018 on 31 October 2018, with live link-ups to Glasgow, United Kingdom, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris. Pre-event workshops focused on economic, social and environmental aspects of resilience. The global observance of World Cities Day 2018 featured the launch of the 2018 annual report of the *Shanghai Manual*, a guide for sustainable urban development in the twenty-first century, and was attended by Chinese journalists. The celebrations in Liverpool also included an exhibition on China.

34. The theme of World Cities Day 2019, held on 31 October 2019, was “Changing the world: innovations and a better life for future generations”, with an emphasis on raising awareness of innovations to improve the lives of urban residents. Discussions highlighted digital innovation for the delivery of urban services, frontier technologies for inclusive planning and opportunities for renewable energy. The global observance of World Cities Day 2019 was hosted in the Russian Federation for the first time, with Ekaterinburg welcoming participants from 40 countries. There were live link-ups to celebrations in Bilbao, Spain, Istra, in the Moscow region, and Paris. Pre-event workshops included a session hosted by the youth ambassadors for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Russian Federation.

World Urban Campaign

35. The World Urban Campaign continued to engage UN-Habitat partners by conducting a new “Urban Thinkers Campus” series, attracting more than 12,000 individuals across the globe to participate in 51 events. Activities focused on the development of action plans for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Habitat also launched the Live Learning webinar series from May to July 2020 within the framework of the UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan. Over the course of 40 sessions, more than

2,000 participants made recommendations on urban planning, housing, urban services, employment and mobility.

C. Other partnership activities

36. In May 2019, UN-Habitat convened a global stakeholders forum ahead of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, enabling stakeholders to define their role in fostering innovation for sustainable cities and communities and to strengthen collaboration with UN-Habitat in implementing the New Urban Agenda. During the reporting period, the Executive Director also established an advisory group on stakeholder engagement to complement initiatives aimed at streamlining communication and collaboration among stakeholders.

37. UN-Habitat stakeholders organized constituent assemblies ahead of the tenth session of the World Urban Forum and contributed to thematic events during the session to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration for advancing the 2030 Agenda. At the session, UN-Habitat also launched the Cities Investment Platform in which over 1,000 private entities participated. The Platform has attracted more than 20 financial institutions since its launch.

38. UN-Habitat facilitated workshops to empower stakeholders to implement the New Urban Agenda in order to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, bringing together statistical officers, grass-roots organizations, professionals and representatives of academia. UN-Habitat also strengthened its cooperation with local authorities by working with United Cities and Local Governments and the regional commissions, as well as directly with cities to promote voluntary local reviews.

39. In January 2020, the UN-Habitat partnership strategy for the period 2020–2023 was submitted to Member States for their consideration. It includes guidance on establishing and leveraging partnerships, deepening strategic collaboration opportunities and creating platforms for developing partnerships and mobilizing resources to advance the work of UN-Habitat.

V. Outcomes at the regional, national and subnational levels in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

A. Cooperation with the regional commissions and regional collaboration mechanisms

40. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat deepened its cooperation with the five regional commissions, making use of collaboration mechanisms of the Organization's emerging regional architecture and aligning them with regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development. The commissions, as well as the regional representatives of United Nations entities, are crucial to reaching out to Member States and other urban stakeholders in each region, and thereby contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

41. UN-Habitat and ESCAP organized the seventh session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, which was held in Penang, Malaysia, in October 2019 and featured the launch of a report, *The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019: Transformative Pathways towards Sustainable Urban Development*. The session saw the launch of a technical support facility for cities and regional partners and of the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments. Another milestone was the

holding of the fifth Pacific Urban Forum in Fiji in July 2019, organized by UN-Habitat, ESCAP, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. Government partners at the Forum agreed to anchor the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for the Pacific region within the regional development architecture. UN-Habitat contributed to the issue-based coalition on human mobility and urbanization for the Asia-Pacific region, compiling rapid assessment surveys for the compendium on “COVID-19 in focus”, and supported the engagement of the United Nations system with mayors and community leaders in the region.

42. In 2018, UN-Habitat and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) convened regional workshops on indicators for land governance, informal settlement and human settlement. In 2019, they organized a regional dialogue on national urban policies with representatives of Jordan, Lebanon, the Sudan, Tunisia and the State of Palestine. In October 2019, UN-Habitat participated in the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development, at which it launched the report *Local Climate Action in the Arab Region: Lessons Learned and Way Forward*. Under the leadership of ESCWA, UN-Habitat contributed to the *Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020* and the *Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region 2019*. It also strengthened the capacity of local governments to implement and monitor COVID-19 economic response plans. UN-Habitat also served as an active member of the regional collaboration platform for the Arab region, leading, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the issue-based coalition on urbanization, to integrate sustainable urban development as an accelerator of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Habitat also participated in issue-based coalitions on gender, the environment and climate change, youth and migration, and is a member of the data working group that contributes to the regional knowledge hub.

43. In June 2018, UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) convened an African region ministerial meeting on the harmonized regional framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Kampala. At the tenth session of the World Urban Forum, they facilitated an African region ministerial meeting to plan for the 2020 Africa-France Summit on Sustainable Cities and Regions and revitalize the African Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development. In December 2018, UN-Habitat provided the African Union with technical backstopping for the eighth meeting of the Bureau of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, in Addis Ababa, and, in May 2020, prepared an action plan for that Committee. It also provided support for a technical meeting of the African Union steering committee on the model law on the values and principles of housing, sustainable human settlements and urban development, held in Bujumbura in April 2019. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-Habitat, ECA, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the African Development Bank, United Cities and Local Governments and Shelter Afrique developed an analytical report and webinar entitled “COVID-19 in African cities: impacts, responses and policies”, started the development of the African region report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and supported efforts by cities in Africa to prepare voluntary local reviews. UN-Habitat is an active member of the Africa region United Nations Sustainable Development Group and, in collaboration with WHO, contributes to the Africa region issue-based coalition on digitalization, technology and innovation.

44. UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) created a national profile on housing and land management in Belarus, evidence-based policies on sustainable housing and urban development in Europe and a methodology for collecting data on housing and urban development in Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. They promoted the Smart Sustainable Cities initiative for

the New Urban Agenda in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro and COVID-19 recovery plans for local governments in Kazakhstan. Working with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, UN-Habitat jointly hosted a round table focused on Sustainable Development Goal 11 and arranged the preparations for the Forum of Mayors 2020, scheduled for October 2020. UN-Habitat engaged with ECE and other United Nations entities in the regional collaboration platform, mainstreaming urbanization in the issue-based coalitions for the European region on climate change and the environment, data and monitoring, gender, migration and socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and linking regional knowledge hubs to the Urban Agenda Platform.

45. UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean developed a regional action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, organized the Cities Conference in Santiago and convened the Forum for Sustainable Urban Development. They also worked with Cities Alliance, the Inter-American Housing Union and Habitat for Humanity International to promote the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub. UN-Habitat championed the Smart LATAM Alliance with networks of municipalities to integrate the New Urban Agenda into the concept of “smart cities” to revitalize public goods. Working with the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat promoted urban policy instruments for recovery from the pandemic. It launched regional events with associations of local governments, such as the MERCOSUR Cities Network and the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Municipal Associations, to promote multidimensional analysis of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in cities. The International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UN-Habitat supported the Central American Integration System in its development of a plan for post-COVID-19 resilience. In addition, UN-Habitat supported issue-based coalitions on human mobility (migration and cities) and social protection (informal settlements) and established a regional urban platform as part of the Regional Knowledge Management Platform for the Sustainable Development Goals to promote the next generation of national urban policies.

B. Normative and operational work at the regional, national and subnational levels

46. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat promoted the concept of the continuum of land rights, which influenced national land policies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, Uganda and Zambia. The Global Land Tool Network reduced forced evictions and improved tenure security by working with slum dwellers, their representative organizations and local governments to enumerate 300,000 households in informal settlements in Kenya, Namibia, the Philippines and Uganda. The data obtained on settlement conditions enabled residents and local government officials to apply policy alternatives to forced eviction, introduce land tenure arrangements and design area-based development plans. Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Lesotho undertook similar urban legislation reform processes.

47. Through the Safer Cities Programme and the associated Global Network on Safer Cities, UN-Habitat collaborated with those responsible for urban management to build capacity in the prevention of urban crime and the enhancement of urban safety in Argentina, Chile, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa.

48. UN-Habitat provided technical assistance on urban-rural linkages to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, Colombia, Guinea, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda,

the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and the State of Palestine. The Global Future Cities Programme provided city-level planning support to Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam.

49. In Saudi Arabia, through the Future Saudi Cities Programme, UN-Habitat worked with 17 cities to design compact, inclusive and resilient urban centres. It partnered with municipalities in Afghanistan to create accurate tax records regarding *safayi* (a municipal service charge) through property surveys and manuals. The African Clean Cities Platform facilitated knowledge-sharing and promoted waste management among 65 participating cities in 35 African countries.

50. UN-Habitat partnered with Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to promote energy and resource efficiency in national housing policies, creating guidelines and providing technical support. The Programme supported Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine in the implementation of a framework to prevent forced evictions.

51. The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme received direct co-financing for the citywide upgrading of slums in cities of several partner countries, including Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Congo, the Gambia, Madagascar, Mali, the Niger, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and South Africa. Twenty countries revised policy and regulatory frameworks to promote integrated slum upgrading.

52. By the end of 2019, 30 cities had used the City Resilience Profiling Tool to strengthen resilience to multi-hazard impacts and climate change. UN-Habitat had supported recovery from natural disasters and protracted conflicts in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the State of Palestine. A spatially integrated approach was used by UN-Habitat to link various sectors, people and structures across the urban environment, in alignment with humanitarian efforts to incorporate sustainable development approaches.

53. In April 2019, following Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, UN-Habitat supported the humanitarian shelter cluster, advancing the policy on reconstruction in urban areas to ensure the provision of more durable shelter solutions than temporary shelter.

54. In 2018, UN-Habitat launched the Urban Resilience Hub, a platform for actors in the field of urban resilience. As a founding member of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, in 2019, UN-Habitat developed strategies for urban crisis reduction and recovery and, with the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service, produced guidelines on urban profiling for better responses to humanitarian crises. It also chaired the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience, working with the World Bank and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to support 4,000 cities, directing \$2 billion annually to resilient and sustainable urban growth.

55. In 2019, UN-Habitat began work on the 2020 edition of the *World Cities Report*, exploring the value of sustainable urbanization, in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments and ECA. An advisory board of 12 organizations reviewed a first draft of the report, which is scheduled to be launched on World Cities Day 2020.

56. UN-Habitat provided advisory services on national urban policies to Bangladesh, Kiribati, Myanmar, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. Drawing on that experience, it developed guidelines on mainstreaming climate change into national urban policies. UN-Habitat supported Angola, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Madagascar and Zambia in developing national urban policies and helped Member States to launch draft policies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Somalia. UN-Habitat contributed to the national spatial plans of Botswana and Rwanda, the

human settlements policy in Zimbabwe and the 10-year perspective plan of Ethiopia. It also facilitated national urban policies in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Sudan and Tunisia, ensuring multilevel governance for urban development.

57. Working through national planning processes and local governments, UN-Habitat supported efforts by Governments to implement the New Urban Agenda in Botswana, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya (nationally and in selected local councils), Mauritania, Somalia and Togo. It also supported Agenda implementation strategies in Cuba, including a national housing policy. In Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador, UN-Habitat promoted approaches to implement the Agenda at the subnational level in order to localize the Sustainable Development Goals.

58. UN-Habitat supported Member States in strengthening sustainable urbanization in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. The integrated approach of “build back better” resulted in the durable resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees. UN-Habitat achieved safer, cleaner and more inclusive cities, showing the transformative impact of partnerships with Government and local and non-State actors. It also supported the national Government and local governments in Afghanistan in preparing urban and housing policies, upgrading informal settlements and decentralizing public administration. In addition, it developed a data platform to provide support to the Government of Iraq in recovery activities in liberated areas. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UN-Habitat contributed to the municipal recovery action plan and provided durable solutions for cities to cope with the effects of protracted crisis. In Yemen, it responded to the shelter and sanitation needs of internally displaced people in Aden, Hudaydah and Sana'a.

C. Collaboration with the United Nations development system

59. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat facilitated efforts across the United Nations system to monitor and report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11. In addition, it coordinated system-wide support for Member States in implementing the New Urban Agenda to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It did so by harnessing the reforms of the United Nations development system at the global, regional and national levels and improving coordination across development, peace and humanitarian operations.

60. In 2019, UN-Habitat developed guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to improve system-wide collaboration and global reporting on sustainable urbanization, support Member States in reporting on progress with regard to implementation and preparing national voluntary reviews. To further those efforts, UN-Habitat worked with the Statistical Commission and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and established cooperation agreements on urban diagnostic tools with United Nations agencies, addressing themes such as children in urban settings with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), migration with the International Organization for Migration and local governance with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

61. In June 2018, during a meeting of the Senior Management Group, the Secretary-General determined that urbanization was a megatrend requiring a whole-of-system approach. In May 2019, following an inter-agency process of the High-level Committee on Programmes facilitated by UN-Habitat, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination endorsed the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development. The strategy elevates the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for sustainable development to eradicate poverty, reduce

inequality, create prosperity, advance climate action and build resilience. It encourages United Nations entities to fulfil the urban dimension of their mandates and work collectively to provide support to Member States with urban-related data, policy support, local government engagement and urban finance. The Chief Executives Board called upon United Nations entities to implement the strategy through existing inter-agency processes at the global, regional and national levels.

62. UN-Habitat worked through task teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to implement the system-wide strategy. UN-Habitat regional representatives leveraged issue-based coalitions and integrated ministerial forums on housing, urban development and city networks into the regional collaboration platforms. UN-Habitat worked with resident coordinators to provide urban data for use in common country analyses and to establish priority areas for United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. That helped to strengthen ongoing UN-Habitat projects and develop comprehensive urban programmes involving United Nations country teams. United Nations entities, commissions and resident coordinators promoted sustainable urbanization by contributing to the work of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the tenth session of the World Urban Forum, networking with local governments, businesses, communities and urban development ministries.

63. As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UN-Habitat supported the results group on humanitarian-development collaboration and the reference group on meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas. UNHCR and UN-Habitat have bridged humanitarian and urban development interventions such as a new settlement, Kalobeyei, in northern Kenya, that integrates refugees and local communities for inclusive human settlements development. In 2019, they used that precedent to guide integrated programming in refugee settlement communities in West Nile, Uganda, and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

64. UN-Habitat pursued programming in post-conflict reconstruction with the support of various entities of the United Nations system. UNESCO and UN-Habitat supported the use of neighbourhood profiling tools in Mosul, Iraq, to analyse damage to infrastructure and housing, in order to plan for the return of displaced residents. The resulting Mosul city profile enabled the Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations entities and development banks to restore 3,500 units of damaged housing and basic infrastructure.

65. Perhaps the best demonstration of system-wide coordination on urbanization is the United Nations response to COVID-19. UN-Habitat and WHO promoted health responses in informal settlements, applying planning tools for public health. UN-Habitat and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee developed guidelines on humanitarian measures taken in response to COVID-19 in slum areas. UN-Habitat led the workstream for resilient communities of the United Nations framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19. The UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan, implemented in 13 countries, is based on inter-agency cooperation and includes a joint interim technical note with UNICEF on water, sanitation and hygiene. Building on that momentum, in July 2020, the United Nations launched a policy brief by the Secretary-General on COVID-19 in an urban world.

D. Cross-cutting issues

66. The UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 included cross-cutting issues on gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment, human rights, climate change and youth issues. UN-Habitat checked programme interventions against markers for those issues. In the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, it elevated climate change to a full subprogramme and consolidated gender, youth and human

rights issues, and included older persons and persons with disabilities in the section on human rights and social inclusion.

Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women

67. UN-Habitat mainstreams gender in all normative and operational work. In practice, that involves the participation of women in consultative processes and governance, the selection of women as decision makers and development partners, and support for the employment of women at the local level.

68. UN-Habitat used to mainstream gender through the Projects Advisory Group, a peer advisory mechanism that reviews all project proposals, but it has been replaced by the Programme Review Committee. Since 2016, a gender equality marker has been applied to all projects, as mandated in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, leading to improvements in women's empowerment across the project portfolio. In addition, the differential needs of women and men are considered across different practice areas. For example, in 2018, UN-Habitat jointly launched the Flone Initiative on gender-sensitive transportation infrastructure for African cities, a toolkit that captures best practices with regard to gender and urban transportation.

69. UN-Habitat facilitated advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels, including at the World Urban Forum, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Commission on the Status of Women. Gender parity was achieved for the panel at the tenth session of the World Urban Forum. In May 2020, UN-Habitat convened an expert group meeting on gender-responsive cities with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Advisory Group on Gender Issues that resulted in the issuance of guidance on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for future programming.

Human rights

70. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat implemented a human rights-based approach to development throughout its programme portfolio, reviewing all projects presented to the Projects Advisory Group (subsequently the Programme Review Committee) against human rights criteria. In May 2020, it held an expert group meeting on inclusive cities from a human rights perspective, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Geneva Human Rights Platform. The meeting, which brought together human rights practitioners, resulted in the issuance of recommendations on strengthening the human rights dimension of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and applying human rights principles to the implementation the New Urban Agenda. In response to COVID-19, UN-Habitat advocated the protection of members of vulnerable urban communities, including those at risk of violent forced evictions, and the effective exercise of the right to adequate housing, in accordance with the right to an adequate standard of living.

Climate change

71. “Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor” is a crucial initiative related to climate change. Developed by the Governments of Kenya and Turkey and supported by the Secretariat of the United Nations and UN-Habitat, the initiative was a workstream of the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General. In September 2019, the President of Kenya launched the initiative with a coalition of 20 global partners to accelerate climate change adaptation. In 2020, UN-Habitat launched the flagship programme “RISE-UP: resilient settlements for the urban poor” in support of the initiative.

72. UN-Habitat supported the Comoros, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Pakistan and Viet Nam in mobilizing climate finance from the Adaptation Fund to build the resilience of vulnerable urban communities through investment in adaptation infrastructure. In 2020, UN-Habitat supported the development of urban low-emission strategies in Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Rwanda and South Africa to guide 30 cities to plan for climate-friendly development. UN-Habitat also worked with the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance to promote climate investment in human settlements and train 100 government staff from Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and the least developed countries of South-East Asia to introduce climate adaptation measures in cities.

73. In preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in 2021, UN-Habitat launched a planning tool on enhancing nationally determined contributions through urban climate action. The tool, which was developed with a coalition of partners,¹ guides Member States on how to be more ambitious in their national climate commitments, integrating human settlements into the preparation and implementation of nationally determined contributions.

Children and youth issues

74. In 2018, UN-Habitat published *Youth as Agents of Peace: Somalia*, the first joint country study conducted by the United Nations and the World Bank that has applied the principles of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015). The report drew on *Youth and the New Urban Agenda*, a report issued in 2016 to prioritize livelihoods, governance and public space, with a focus on young people from informal settlements and/or conflict countries, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people, and young women.

75. In 2019, UN-Habitat expanded the One Stop Youth Resource Centre Programme to include five additional cities in Somalia. The Programme, which was established in 2003, concerns the establishment of a network of safe and generative urban spaces in conflict cities in northern Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan, mobilizing 500,000 young people. In Somalia, it provides young men and women with construction, information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills to create viable livelihoods. During the pandemic, UN-Habitat repurposed the Programme to serve as a focus for youth-led COVID-19 emergency responses in informal settlements, through which over 70 handwashing and information stations were installed, resulting in an estimated 1.5 million more handwashes.

Older persons and persons with disabilities

76. As part of its strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, UN-Habitat established issues affecting persons with disabilities and older persons as a cross-cutting subject, engaging organizations to promote age-friendly and inclusive cities. UN-Habitat held a series of expert group meetings, jointly organized with OHCHR, the World Blind Union, World Enabled and the General Assembly of Partners, among others, to increase the importance of disability issues and facilitate the inclusion of older persons in urban planning processes. In 2020, UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of

¹ Partners included the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNEP, ARUP, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Coalition for Urban Transitions, the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, the Global Green Growth Institute, Go Green for Climate, the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission of Ethiopia, the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership, the University of Southern Denmark and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.

understanding with the World Blind Union to increase the social inclusion, accessibility and participation of persons with disabilities in programmes implemented by UN-Habitat and its partners.

VI. Observations and recommendations

77. Among the accelerators of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, the New Urban Agenda is of crucial importance. Increased collaboration in the United Nations system in this area is encouraging, in particular the endorsement of the system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in May 2019. Recognition of the pivotal role that local governments play in sustainable development is also important, as evidenced by the extraordinary urban response to COVID-19, which has had a particularly significant impact on cities. Governments are invited to redouble their efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda and to support key priority areas, such as data and analysis, integrated policy, capacity-building and inclusive partnerships, in particular with national and local governments. Given that the joint efforts of all levels of government are essential for the realization of sustainable urbanization, the increased participation of local and regional governments in the implementation of the Agenda is welcomed. UN-Habitat is committed to supporting efforts by countries to implement the Agenda, focusing particularly on national urban policies, national and local government dialogue, urban planning capacity-building, and the urban economy and finance.

78. The work of Member States to support the strengthening of UN-Habitat is appreciated, in particular through General Assembly resolution [73/239](#) establishing the UN-Habitat Assembly and the Executive Board. The participation of 124 countries in the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly demonstrated the capacity of that intergovernmental body to provide strategic direction and advance global urban policy. The first three sessions of the Board showed that Member States have greater oversight of UN-Habitat, including with regard to workplans and budgets. In addition to institutional reforms approved by the Executive Director, the enhanced governance structure has ensured that UN-Habitat is more trusted, transparent, accountable, effective and efficient. In adopting the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, the UN-Habitat Assembly systemically aligned the work of UN-Habitat with poverty eradication, economic transformation, climate action, and peace and security, which are shared objectives of the 2030 Agenda. The latest strategic plan also makes the work of UN-Habitat more relevant and accessible to other entities of the United Nations system, Member States and local and non-State actors.

79. The active engagement of the regional commissions and other United Nations entities on the issues of sustainable urbanization within the emerging regional architecture of the United Nations system is encouraging. Regional action plans for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, issue-based coalitions on sustainable urban development, knowledge hubs that include urban diagnostic tools and regional ministerial forums on housing and urban development are effective mechanisms through which UN-Habitat can mainstream sustainable urban development at the national level, by providing implementation guidance that is regionally appropriate. It is recommended that the United Nations system, regional entities and Member States continue to support those mechanisms in order to achieve results at scale.

80. The Executive Director successfully eliminated the \$5.5 million deficit that she had inherited in 2018, but the financial situation of UN-Habitat remains of concern. While allocations to the overall portfolio of UN-Habitat technical cooperation projects financed by earmarked contributions has remained constant at \$200 million, the Programme's tool development, policy advisory services and programme development support financed through general purpose funding has decreased to less than \$4 million. The imbalance between earmarked and core funding poses challenges for UN-Habitat in continuing to strengthen its organizational structure. That and the absence of funds for core normative work will undermine the Programme's ability to implement its strategic plan. Member States are therefore encouraged to contribute financially, particularly through non-earmarked funds, to the efforts of UN-Habitat to catalyse collaboration on urban issues across the United Nations system.

81. An issue related to funding is that of the effective use of core resources to mobilize public and private and international and national investment in urban infrastructure and basic services. The Cities Investment Platform piloted at the tenth session of the World Urban Forum, which matches private investors with city governments, is a welcome innovation in that regard, and Member States are invited to utilize it at the national and city levels.

82. The tenth session of the World Urban Forum, attracting some 13,000 participants, demonstrated the power of that non-legislative body to offer national Governments, private business, local governments, professionals, grass-roots organizations and representatives of academia opportunities for learning and constituency development. The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions demonstrates the commitment of diverse actors to implement the New Urban Agenda and achieve the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The hosting of the session by the Government of the United Arab Emirates is noted with appreciation, as is the offer of the Government of Poland to host the eleventh session, in 2022.
