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**Executive Board of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme  
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*\***

**Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions  
adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its  
first session**

## **Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its first session**

### **Report of the Executive Director**

#### **Introduction**

1. At its first session, held in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019, the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme adopted three decisions and five resolutions. In decisions 1/1 and 1/2, the Assembly adopted its rules of procedure and endorsed the rules of procedure of its Executive Board. The present report provides an overview of the status of implementation of the remaining decision and the five resolutions, namely:

- (a) Resolution 1/1 on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
- (b) Resolution 1/2 on the United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements;
- (c) Resolution 1/3 on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (d) Resolution 1/4 on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements;
- (e) Resolution 1/5 on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements;
- (f) Decision 1/3 on arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 8 March 2022.

\*\* HSP/EB.2022/1.

## **I. Resolution 1/1 on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023**

### **A. Results framework with performance indicators and data collection methodology**

2. Following the approval of the results framework of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in 2020, including concise performance indicators, the Programme commenced development of an indicator monitoring guide. The guide sets out clear technical definitions for each strategic plan indicator and a method for the corresponding collection of data to evaluate progress, and will facilitate the consistent application of methods across all projects, programmes and partnerships of UN-Habitat. The monitoring guide includes metadata indicating what data is to be collected, where, how and how frequently, to whom the data is to be given and to what conditions such data transfer should be subject.

3. With over one hundred indicators in the results framework to be tracked using limited resources, the monitoring guide prioritizes certain indicators for tracking and reporting on the strategic plan domains of change. The prioritized indicators are those that most effectively capture the influence of the normative work of UN-Habitat and its contribution to global development in each domain of change. The monitoring guide also focuses on indicators for the cross-cutting and social inclusion focus areas set out in the strategic plan. Such indicators are considered core indicators of progress in areas where UN-Habitat has made sustained investment. They best capture the contribution of UN-Habitat's focus over the past 20 years and provide evidence of the transformational change resulting from the Programme's operational projects, programmes, partnerships and normative work. Given that strategic plans are rolling plans and projects mature over time, transformative change can only be tracked over time. Lastly, the monitoring guide includes indicators for which there is available data or a budget for routine monitoring, indicators for which UN-Habitat and its implementing partners have the capability to collect and analyse data, and indicators for which evidence is easily verifiable and observable.

4. Data on the indicators is being collected from projects and programmes, in particular from UN-Habitat normative work on strengthening institutions through policy advice, the development of norms and guidelines, advocacy and dialogue, which is central to helping countries to make progress in urban development. The principal sources of evidence for such work are UN-Habitat strategic partners, such as local and national governments, universities, civil society, global communities of practice and implementing partners.

### **B. Impact communication strategy**

5. Work on developing a communication action plan for 2022, identifying key themes and topics for communication and developing a framework for the corporate impact communication strategy began in December 2021, following the arrival of the new UN-Habitat Chief of Communications.

### **C. Resource mobilization strategy**

6. UN-Habitat continues to make progress on implementing its resource mobilization strategy. Key achievements in 2021 included an increase in the number of Member States contributing to core funding; increased soft-earmarked funding from Sweden for domain of change 3 ("strengthened climate action and improved urban environment"); and the adoption of the soft-earmarked modality by Germany and Switzerland. In that regard, Switzerland will contribute towards supporting resilience and adaptation activities in Central America and contributions from Germany will provide support in three areas: the implementation of UN-Habitat's strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; the application of the principles of the New Leipzig Charter to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for enhanced sustainable urban development; and strengthened multilateral dialogues focused on the objectives, forms and implementation of national urban development policies. As part of the Cities Investment Facility, the Foundations and Philanthropy Platform has committed to establishing a feasibility fund and three foundations have agreed to contribute to the fund. In April 2022, the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation will be formally launched during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

## **D. Financial plan**

7. The methodology and format of the financial plan for the implementation of the strategic plan, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the draft financial plan for the period 2020–2023, was approved by the Executive Board at its second session of 2021 in its decision 2021/6.

## **E. Results-based management policy**

8. In 2020, to continue strengthening the implementation of results-based management in all programmes, projects, policies and activities of UN-Habitat, the Executive Board approved a results-based management policy. In keeping with the results-based management approach, UN-Habitat project success will be determined by the transformation produced. A “result” is considered to be the difference achieved by a development intervention and “value for money” will be determined by the positive change or impact attributable to a policy or programme; such results must be measurable and observable.

9. In 2021, UN-Habitat produced a results-based management manual and introduced staff training workshops for all staff. New institutional capacities are not only used in results-oriented project design, but also in reporting on the progress of strategic plan outcomes using the results framework indicators. The Project Review Committee has been instrumental in embedding results-based management into the various stages of project design and monitoring approved projects, allowing the Programme to progressively track indicators and aggregate and report on results.

## **II. Resolution 1/2 on the United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements**

10. Further to the global expert group meeting convened by UN-Habitat and Madrid City Council, held in Madrid from 26 to 28 October 2020, UN-Habitat has developed a prototype of the Urban Safety Monitor, a self-assessment tool for local governments, covering the three broad dimensions of crime, community and governance, with projected adaptation to regional contexts in the Global Network on Safer Cities. A number of European cities have already completed a pilot run, based on data collected from cities with existing data and indicators used by cities to assess security in urban areas. Other regions are expected to follow suit, subject to funding.

11. In advancing inter-agency cooperation on the United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements, UN-Habitat is engaging other United Nations entities in the development of voluntary practical guidance notes to assist authorities around the world in the implementation process. UN-Habitat has worked with the Office for Disarmament Affairs on guidance notes on gun-free zones for inclusion in the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium. This modular approach will be used with other United Nations system entities to build a Safer Cities Programme toolkit, which will provide operational advice to Member States on local policy and programming interventions.

12. The second annual 40 Days Safer Cities Challenge took place from the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2021, to 31 October 2021. The challenge brought together partners in the Global Network on Safer Cities through online webinar events at the national, regional and global levels. Each year the event raises awareness of innovative practices as part of the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements.

13. UN-Habitat has received seed funding from the United Nations trust fund for human security to further support the peer review process in 2022. Mexico and South Africa will be the pilot countries. Partner funding is expected from Mexico and South Africa in the first half of 2022 to engage 10 municipalities in a peer review process in each country. Member States are encouraged to provide additional financial support for the engagement of cities in the peer review of the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements.

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

14. The capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda (HSP/EB.2020/13/Add.1) was accompanied by an implementation plan for the period 2021–2024, presented to the Executive Board in a conference room paper at its second

session of 2020. An updated version of the implementation plan, setting priorities for the year 2022 (HSP/EB.2021/17) was presented to the Executive Board at its second session of 2021.

15. In terms of capacity-building for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, the *New Urban Agenda Illustrated* handbook, published in January 2021, is among the most frequently downloaded publications on the UN-Habitat website, with more than 20,000 downloads by the end of 2021. The handbook and the New Urban Agenda “crash course”, a self-paced online course, were translated into Arabic and Spanish with the support of regional partners for wider outreach. Translation into Chinese, French and Russian has also been initiated. A total of 2,082 participants have accessed the online course in English and Spanish, and 387 certificates of completion have been awarded.

16. In the context of innovation and digital transformation for capacity-building and learning, UN-Habitat has developed a guide to delivering capacity-building using digital tools. The guide identifies opportunities to leverage digital technologies and innovation for learning and for improved application in UN-Habitat’s capacity development work.

17. UN-Habitat has also developed UN-Habitat Learn, its first online learning platform and learning management system, in which the New Urban Agenda crash course was first developed. By December 2021, the UN-Habitat Learn page had been viewed by users from 181 countries, demonstrating the potential for multiplying outreach and dissemination of learning products.

18. UN-Habitat now offers a large choice of online courses, such as the series on monitoring urban Sustainable Development Goal indicators, which includes the following courses: “Learn how to measure SDG Indicator 11.1.1: Adequate Housing and Slum Upgrading”, “Learn how to measure SDG Indicator 11.2.1: Access to Public Transport”, “Learn how to measure SDG Indicator 11.3.1: Land Consumption Rate”, “Learn how to measure SDG Indicator 11.3.2: Civil Participation in Urban Planning and Management” and “Learn how to measure SDG Indicator 1.4.2: Secure Tenure Rights to Land”.

19. Under the Waste Wise Cities programme, UN-Habitat has also developed the extensive course “From Data to Tangible Impact: Achieving Waste SDGs by 2030”, which is currently being translated into several languages, and has launched an internal basic training course for staff on the Environmental and Social Safeguards System version 3.0. More courses are in preparation on topics including data, housing and climate change.

20. In addition to the new learning resources that are being developed, existing digital learning tools produced by UN-Habitat are being migrated onto UN-Habitat Learn.

21. Collaboration with universities and training institutions has continued through specific projects and through the coordination of the “Habitat UNI” initiative. An inventory of current partnerships with academic institutions and strategic analysis of good practices and potential for innovative collaboration with universities have been initiated and are expected to strengthen coordination and engagement, both across the organization and during the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum.

22. In terms of capacity-building tools, UN-Habitat launched several practical global tools in 2021:

(a) Developed in partnership with CatalyticAction, University College London’s Development Planning Unit and the United Nations Children’s Fund, *DeCID Handbook: Co-designing built interventions with children affected by displacement* is a guide for practitioners working with displaced communities in the built environment. The handbook highlights the ways in which methods of co-design can enhance social infrastructures built for displaced communities;

(b) The “Her City” digital platform provides a range of tools for increasing gender equality in public space design and urban planning. It contains nine building blocks as a digital guide to co-planning cities from a girl’s perspective, including through visualization services such as Minecraft;

(c) “Our City Plans: An Incremental and Participatory Toolbox for Urban Planning” supports local government and urban actors in small and medium-sized cities in implementing and customizing inclusive urban planning processes using a step-by-step methodology;

(d) At the Smart City Expo World Congress 2021, UN-Habitat released a series of strategic guideline options on the ways in which governments and local officials can develop smart cities that are more inclusive, sustainable and better focused on residents’ needs.

23. In terms of support for regional centres of excellence, UN-Habitat has continued to provide support to the universities of Ouagadougou and Dakar for the establishment of a centre of excellence for housing, funded by the World Bank, for the eight countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

24. In 2021, ongoing collaboration with the International Urban Training Centre in Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea, resulted in five online training workshops, with over 250 participants from 13 countries and all regions representing city governments, local universities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The focus of the 2021 workshops was on climate change and resilience, sustainable mobility, and economic and community health recovery in a post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) context.

#### **IV. Resolution 1/4 on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements**

25. In keeping with the requirement under resolution 1/4 to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in the normative work and operational programmes of UN-Habitat in all key focus areas and to set up policies and programmes to support efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, continuous project reviews were undertaken by the Project Review Committee to ensure that gender and other social inclusion considerations were addressed in all UN-Habitat programmes and projects. Between July and December 2021, 40 project documents and 18 concept notes were reviewed, resulting in notable improvements on social inclusion issues.

26. As a result of the strong engagement of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit in the update of the Environmental and Social Safeguards System, the social inclusion and cross-cutting thematic areas of the strategic plan now feature prominently as "safeguards" in the system.

27. As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, UN-Habitat organized a virtual event on 30 November 2021, attended by UN-Habitat partners, including representatives of local government, grass-roots women's organizations and civil society. The outcomes of the meeting included participation in a peer review and documentation with cities on intersectional approaches in their policy frameworks, and an assessment of the Programme's progress on gender mainstreaming by members of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues.

28. In 2021, the terms of reference of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues were revised and a new chair was elected. In January 2022, UN-Habitat will issue a request for expressions of interest for new members of the advisory group.

29. The UN-Habitat Policy and Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Urban Development and Human Settlements 2014–2019 has recently been revised and an updated version will be submitted to senior management for endorsement in early 2022. The updated Policy and Plan will ensure that UN-Habitat's engagement on gender-related problems is in line with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, ensuring that all the Programme's operations reflect and advance the global consensus on inclusion, non-discrimination and equality with regard to gender.

30. The evaluation of UN-Habitat's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women during the period 2014–2019 has been completed. UN-Habitat has responded to the findings of the evaluation and will implement the recommendations to support the achievement of gender equality and inclusion within the organization.

31. Under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN-Habitat is due to submit a progress report on gender mainstreaming for 2021. The report will provide a comprehensive picture of activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in 2021 in connection with gender equality and the empowerment of women.

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

32. Between July and December 2021, UN-Habitat held workshops in Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania to enhance the knowledge of 220 experts in data collection, analysis and reporting on urban-rural linkages. In addition, validation workshops were conducted to share the outcomes of the United Nations Development Account project “Leaving no place behind: strengthening urban-rural linkages in Africa”. On 19 and 20 November 2021, a workshop was conducted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as part of the Andalusia-funded project “Supporting the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda through national and subnational urban policies”.

33. In collaboration with partners, UN-Habitat contributed to events related to the Pre-Summit of the Food Systems Summit from 26 to 28 July 2021 and the summit itself in New York on 23 September 2021. UN-Habitat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development supported the Italian presidency of the Group of 20 for the launch of a platform on territorial development and working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level. At the forty-ninth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held online from 11 to 14 October 2021, UN-Habitat, along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Cities and Local Governments and others, organized a side event on the role of urban and territorial governance for inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation. On 19 and 20 October 2021, UN-Habitat and Songyang County, China, co-organized the second International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages. Attended by over 200 participants from 19 countries, the Forum highlighted the benefits of strengthening communication among urban-rural linkage stakeholders, deepened partnerships and promoted “inspiring” practices, especially for an equitable health system in which “no-one and no place is left behind”.

34. With regard to partnerships and advocacy, UN-Habitat and the University of Nairobi initiated collaboration on assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the spatial flows of people and food in the urban-rural continuum in five African countries, namely Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria (Niger State), Senegal and Zimbabwe. Activities to date have included research, capacity-building and the design of the first African centre of excellence for urban-rural linkages, which will serve as a platform for developing and disseminating knowledge, expertise, tools, innovations and best practice.

35. In terms of resources, since July 2021 UN-Habitat has released and disseminated the third issue of the *Urban-Rural Linkages* newsletter, a synthesis report entitled “Urban-Rural Linkages and COVID-19: Lessons for Resilience and Recovery from Crisis” and various country workshop reports. In December 2021, UN-Habitat issued a call for case studies in preparation for publication of the third edition of “Compendium of inspiring practices on urban-rural linkages” in March 2022. Other forthcoming technical materials include a working paper on strengthening urban-rural linkages through SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) approaches, urban-rural linkage toolkits and learning manuals, a thematic guide on sustainable food systems and nutrition in the urban-rural continuum (in collaboration with FAO), country project reports and the fourth issue of the *Urban-Rural Linkages* newsletter.

## VI. Decision 1/3 on arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

36. In October 2021, UN-Habitat mobilized Member States, United Nations entities, major groups and other stakeholders for the observance of Urban October, for which 520 events were organized around the world. The month began with World Habitat Day 2021, held on 4 October under the overarching theme “Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world”, with some 55 events held, including in Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, “Somaliland”, Spain and the United States of America.

37. Between July and December 2021, UN-Habitat held monthly consultative meetings with stakeholders using the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise group to seek advice and support for enhancing stakeholder engagement in the five areas of resource mobilization; monitoring and reporting on global commitments; development of knowledge products, such as the 2022 World Cities Report; programme design and implementation; and advocacy through events such as the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum.

38. In December 2021, UN-Habitat established an online portal showcasing information on its partnerships, including its implementing partners, signed agreements and partners within regions. The platform aims to enhance transparency, interactions between UN-Habitat and its partners, and the recognition of the contributions made by partners to the achievement of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda.
39. UN-Habitat has circulated the draft background paper for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum to over 8,000 partners for review and comment in advance of the conference, which will be held from 26 to 30 June 2022 in Katowice, Poland.
40. At the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to UN-Habitat was elected as Chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy. The ad hoc working group is currently reviewing the previous deliberations of Member States on the policy and the current draft of the policy.
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