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**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**

**Highlights of the outcomes of the implementation of the United
Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the
period 2020–2023 for the year 2021****

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat presents the highlights of the outcomes of the implementation of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan for the year 2021 which was undertaken through UN-Habitat's work programme and budget. These highlights mark the second year of the Strategic Plan period. Results were gathered from UN-Habitat Headquarters, country and regional offices in a survey-based data-collection exercise between January and February 2022.
2. The highlights demonstrate that UN-Habitat is implementing initiatives that contribute to the fulfilment of the organization's mandate by alleviating poverty and inequality, enhancing shared prosperity, strengthening climate action and preventing urban crises. Cities provide opportunities to anchor COVID-19 pandemic recovery in social justice and climate action.
3. The mid-term review of the Strategic Plan by UN-Habitat's Committee of Permanent Representatives found that the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the continuing value of the Strategic Plan which serves both as a framework for recovery and as a road map for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The new organizational structure and choices made by UN-Habitat, despite its financial constraints, have allowed the strengthening of integrated programming and synergies, contributing to different outcomes across the strategic plan.
4. The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic into 2021 impacted the implementation of mandates. In particular, cities asked to delay technical support on areas such as the SDG Cities (all four Domains of Change) and city resilience plans (Domain of Change 4), as the focus remained on immediate COVID-19 recovery. In addition, in order to support Member States on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic within the overall scope of the objectives, priority was given to making the New Urban Agenda Illustrated and related online crash courses available in all United Nations languages working closely, for instance, with the Regional Economic Commission for Western Asia for Arabic supporting the work across all Domains of Change.
5. In 2021, UN-Habitat has produced publications, tools, guidelines and technical materials through its earmarked funding and from funds available at country and regional level, such as the

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Cities and Pandemics report, the Waste Wise Cities tool and the Our City Plans toolbox. These outputs have formed a good basis to strengthen the global normative work, connecting better to operational activities and field operations,

6. Under **Domain of Change 1: Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum**, UN-Habitat has supported the adoption of urban regeneration policies. Community-led COVID-19 responses in informal settlements and slums were implemented increasing awareness on the right to access basic services as well as generating income and access to water and sanitation for about 2.9 million people in 45 countries. UN-Habitat supported local governments in strengthening capacity on low-emission mobility and access to water and sanitation.
7. Under **Domain of Change 2: Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions**, UN-Habitat supported countries to better harness these aspects for sustainable urban development through promoting National Urban Policies and numerous guidelines on the same. The Global Urban Monitoring Framework assisted municipal governments in developing Local Urban Agendas. UN-Habitat promoted a people-centred approach to urban innovation, digital technologies, smart cities and urbanization processes, supporting the development of people-centered smart city strategies, identifying climate smart solutions to reduce urban climate impact, demonstrating the potential of digital technologies and data for solving urban challenges, and addressing the digital divide in cities.
8. Under **Domain of Change 3: Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment**, UN-Habitat contributed to the acceleration of innovation in urban climate action by supporting municipal governments in taking comprehensive climate action. Specifically, new climate action plans were developed and updated, and greenhouse gas inventories and climate risk assessments finalized. Through the CityRAP methodology, community-led participatory climate resilience planning can improve the coordination, response, preparedness and adaptation to climate change using resilience action frameworks.
9. Under **Domain of Change 4: Effective urban crisis prevention and response**, UN-Habitat has supported cities in applying participatory planning methodologies in their effort to become more inclusive and enhanced the positive impact of urban migration for host communities across Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. The development of the Global Compendium of Practices on Local Economic and Financial Recovery (COVID-19) and the provision of city case studies, training, peer-to-peer and E-learning materials to enhance resilience and improve future response and recovery actions have contributed to strengthened urban resilience.
10. UN-Habitat also contributed to the roll out of five flagship programmes as vehicles to fast-track integration between the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat, scaling up the impact of the organization:
 - (a) *Sustainable Development Goals Cities (SDG Cities)*. This flagship programme has advanced the overall implementation of the SDGs at the local level in 2021 by supporting cities in developing and implementing transformative projects;
 - (b) *RISE-UP: resilient settlements for the urban poor*. This flagship programme has been implemented in 2021 mainly by leveraging large-scale investment to build urban adaptation and climate resilience in global hotspots of vulnerability and also to address issues of spatial inequality;
 - (c) *Inclusive cities: enhancing the positive impacts of urban migration*. In 2021, this flagship programme has supported local and national authorities in creating inclusive and non-discriminatory urban environments for all people;
 - (d) Two other flagship programmes: *Inclusive, vibrant neighbourhoods and communities* and *People-centred smart cities* are being incrementally scaled, in line with available resources, with links across the outcomes of the strategic plan whilst ensuring synergies with the other flagship programmes. In addition, a normative and capacity-building approach to strengthen the agency-wide operationalization of digital transformation in sustainable urbanization contexts will be further implemented;

11. The extensive Annual Progress Report for the year 2021 on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020–2023 is currently under preparations and will be published with an accompanying online version by 28 April 2022 for distribution at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It will also be shared with the Executive Board of UN-Habitat at its second session of the year 2022. In line with the request of United Nations Member States, the full report will present progress made towards planned results (outcome areas) measured against their indicator targets for 2021.
