

## Report of the Executive Director on the special theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

### **A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: *Achieving the SDGs in times of global crises.***

#### Concept note

The UN-Habitat Assembly, as the main legislative body for global urban policy making, convenes for its second session from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya under the proposed overall theme:

**A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: Achieving the SDGs in times of global crises.**

Today, the world is **off-track** in the implementation of the global agendas on sustainable urbanization, including several targets of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on 'Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'. As such, it is urgent to accelerate implementation and to translate goals into **concrete pathways for bold transformative action**. Member States have declared actions and commitments towards these goals during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (28 April 2022, New York) and the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (June 2022, Katowice, Poland). Similarly, these topics have been debated at the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (November 2022, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt).

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the current **global crises** have clearly shown that **prosperous, just and green urban futures** cannot be realized without **inclusive and effective multilateralism**, that acknowledges human rights and gender equality, and complements and reinforces national and local efforts towards sustainable development. In this regard, special efforts are required to enhance the role of Local and Regional Governments in developing and implementing global agreements. Taking cognizance of this, as well as the thematic focus of some of the aforementioned global forums, five key action areas have been identified to structure the deliberations of the UN-Habitat Assembly on global urban policies: **1) universal access to adequate housing, 2) urban climate action and environmental protection, 3) urban crisis recovery, 4) localization of the SDGs and multi-level governance, 5) prosperity and finance.**

The dialogues expected during the UN-Habitat Assembly and the Ministerial Declaration and resolutions adopted by the Assembly, including under these five action areas, will guide Member States to explore action areas for **sustainable urban transformation** to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs. They will also guide and mandate UN-Habitat's future activities, including the preparations for contributions to the 28th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 28), scheduled for November 2023 in the United Arab Emirates and the **'Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow'** in New York in September 2024.