THE WORLD WILL BE URBAN
Today 55% of the world’s population lives in cities, yet by 2050 this is expected to increase to 68%

CITIES ARE CENTRAL TO SDGs
Two-Thirds of SDGs have important local dimensions

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE in achieving the SDGs through transformative actions in cities and communities around the world.
Relevant UN Agendas and Frameworks

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The New Urban Agenda
- SDG Localization

Local implementation of the SDGs
UN- Habitat support initiatives for cities

Data Collection

Strategic Planning

Plans, and Regulations

Project Development

Project Financing & implementation

Strengthened institutional capacity
- Inclusive governance
- Planning
- Municipal finance
- Service delivery
  - Solid waste management
  - Water/sanitation
  - Mobility

SDG Localization in urban areas

SDG IMPACT

Theory of Change

UN-Habitat key support initiatives for cities

+ specialist services
SDG Cities Flagship Initiative encourages cities to catalyze their own potential to accelerate their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDG Cities is implemented in four tracks:

1. **Data**
   - Stocktaking of Data and Urban Plans
   - Align Indicators with UMF

2. **Strategic Planning**
   - Conduct baseline Data Assessment
   - Facilitate Inclusive City Development Strategy

3. **Plans, Regulations, and Institutions**
   - Diagnose Urban Management Effectiveness
   - Build Capacity
   - Implement New Policies

4. **Investment in Impact**
   - Identify Investment Requirements
   - Financial Match-Making
   - Monitor and Measure Impact
Need for cities to step up the realization of their transformative potential as a positive force for sustainable development

However...

- Not all cities are aware of the SDGs
- Not all cities are incentivized to engage with global agendas
- Not all cities are aware of frameworks such as the NUA to guide them in the local implementation of the SDGs
Purpose of SDG Cities Certification

SDG Cities certification helps set cities on the course to accelerate achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by:

1. Guiding an effective urban development process, in line with the New Urban Agenda
2. Recognizing the achievement of key milestones and inclusive, effective processes via the completion of objectives
Certification Stages

1. Cities have effective data that reflects social, economic and environmental dimensions with and have evidence-based, inclusive, participatory and strategic development frameworks for 2030.

2. Cities have effective enablers: They have taken stock of plans, regulations, governance system, revenue system, plans and taking action to make them fit for purpose.

3. Cities are generating measurable SDG impact.

Further opportunities associated with SDG Cities Certification:

- Improving multi-level policy coherence
- Improving UN coordinated action at the local level
- Alignment with SDG accreditation and support of other organisations
- Alignment with “credit-worthiness” metrics
- Alignment with ESG metrics of financers
- Aggregated investments
Mechanism: Global Mechanism & Costs

Global Mechanism for Implementation

Global Advisory Committee

Role
➢ Setting rules and criteria and guiding national mechanisms

Pilot Stage
➢ UN-Habitat establish certification criteria in consultation with UN Member States and relevant partners

Long Term
➢ Advisory Board of UN partner entities and UN Member States

Technical Team

Role
➢ Monitoring and auditing certification for quality control

Pilot Stage
➢ Technical support provided through SDG Cities Global Flagship Initiative

Long Term
➢ Establishment of technical team in the SDG Cities Global Office

Cost Break Down:
$1.5 million/yr extrabudgetary
- Travel for Global Advisory Committee
- Secretariat team supporting the Global Advisory Committee
- Global Technical Team working in UN Languages
- Digital platform maintenance

(may expand with demand)
### Mechanism - National Mechanisms

#### National Mechanism for Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Advisory Committee</th>
<th>Technical Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Adapt certification criteria to national context</td>
<td>➢ Review applications and make recommendations on certification</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pilot Stage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pilot Stage</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Ministries use internal resources to support the certification of a cluster of cities</td>
<td>➢ Technical support is provided by national staff and SDG Cities Global Initiative staff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term</strong></td>
<td><strong>Long Term</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Establish a national hub</td>
<td>➢ Establish technical team to assist with certification criteria in cities</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Global engagement and peer-to-peer learnings</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Cost Break Down:
- Annual meeting of National Advisory Committee
- One National Coordinator
- One National Technical officer per 40 cities
- Four training sessions per year in first year, and Eight per year by 3rd year (webinars encouraged)
- Digital Platform, tools, ToT and backstopping provided in-kind by global hub
Support Services

Digital Platform
Provided through an in-kind donation for technical support and data storage

SDG Cities Tools
City Scan Data Tool; Institutional Diagnostics tool: Governance, revenue, planning & service delivery

Existing UNH Tools
NUA Illustrated, UMF metadata, Habitat-learn; Block by Block, Her-City, Our City Plans, Shanghai Manual

Utilising partners’ open source technical resources
IHS, GIZ CityWorks, Local 2030
UN Certification Model

WHO & UNICEF Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
- Hospital level & country level (policies) implementation
- Country-level designation with social monitoring process

UNICEF Child Friendly City Initiative
- City-level implementation
- National-level recognition and evaluation

UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Local to national to global level application
- Global-level nomination evaluation

SDG Cities Certification
- City level implementation
- National & Global level certification evaluation

Light • Complex
Possible Benefits

**For Cities**
- Incentivizing the acceleration of the SDGs
- Providing direction
- Enabling knowledge-sharing and capacity development at scale
- Attracting SDG aligned investment
- Coherence with other city-based initiatives that support global agendas

**For Residents**
- Certification promotes a greater responsiveness of cities to the needs of residents in cities

**For the UN System**
- Promotes local implementation of the UN Cooperation Framework and the integration of United Nations system support at the local level

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**All of Society Coherence**
- Multi-stakeholder coherence around implementing the SDGs in cities
- Aggregating SDG investment for greater efficiency

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**For National and Subnational Governments**
- Policy coherence
Link between SDG Cities Certification and Local2030

- SDG Cities certification has the potential to become an instrument to motivate, support and build capacities of cities and local actors to accelerate progress on achievement of the SDGs.

- A global certification system would be developed through extensive consultations, piloting, and alignment with existing systems at national or regional levels.

- To build awareness and ownership of this certification approach across the UN system, it could be socialized through the Local2030 Coalition.
6. FAQs from Members

1. Alignment with urban development agenda, policies and framework of each country and region?
2. Alignment with other initiatives such as UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour, Voluntary Local Review, and Shanghai Manual?
3. Benefits of developed cities to participate in SDG Cities?
4. Does UN-Habitat have enough capacity to deliver the programme?
5. What types of stakeholders will involve in the process of SDG Cities?
6. How can corruption be mitigated within the national mechanism?
7. How can developing cities avoid being excluded in the certification process?
8. What will be the budget for the certification?
9. How will security of data be protected during the process?
10. What has already been created for the certification?
11. Are there alternatives to the Term “Certification”?
12. Role of Canada
13. Applicability in crisis affected areas
Suggested Way Forward

• UN-Habitat to further explore and pilot the SDG Cities certification model in various countries through the SDG Cities Flagship Programme.

• UN-Habitat to explore synergies and possible integration into the work of the Local2030 Coalition

• UN-Habitat to report to the EB during its third session in 2023 on costs, business model, benefits, implementation mechanism, and coherence with UN and other relevant initiatives that support achieving SDGs in cities.
Thank you!

(please switch on your headphones as we hear the testimonials)