Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Addendum

Cooperation with United Nations system entities, intergovernmental organizations, and other UN-Habitat partners in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023**

Report of the Executive Director

1. This report presents an overview of UN-Habitat’s cooperation and collaboration with partners and stakeholders in implementing its mandate. It presents the key achievements arising from UN-Habitat’s cooperation with its partners, while highlighting prospective opportunities to scale these up for accelerating progress with the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Section I provides the context within which UN-Habitat is cooperating with partners; Section II presents key milestones in cooperation with agencies and organizations of the United Nations System; Section III considers partnerships with intergovernmental organizations outside of the UN systems; Section IV reviews partnerships with major groups and other stakeholders; and Section V identifies key bottlenecks as well prospective opportunities for cooperation going forward.

I. Introduction

2. Partnerships are key to realize the global vision of a sustainable present and future at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. The enormity of challenges faced, and responses required, necessitates partnerships for scaled impact. Thus, at core of Agenda 2030 is a commitment to accelerate and scale up partnerships for effective delivery. Member States, through General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, said, “We recognize that we will not be able to achieve our ambitious Goals and targets without a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership”. They further expressed their vision for this partnership to bring together “…Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations...”
system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources...” to join their efforts and capacities in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

3. Furthermore, through the New Urban Agenda, member States recognize that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires “...enhanced international cooperation and partnerships among Governments at all levels, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors”. It specifically also notes the importance of “Developing and implementing urban policies at the appropriate level, including in local-national and multi-stakeholder partnerships”.

4. UN-Habitat thus leverages cooperation and partnerships extensively to fulfil its mandate as the UN System’s focal point for Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities and the lead UN agency promoting and mainstreaming the New Urban Agenda. It draws upon expert advice, knowledge, and resources of partners through multi-stakeholder, multilevel and multi-sectoral cooperation for the effective implementation of pertinent mandates and decisions of the UN General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council as well as UN-Habitat’s Assembly and Executive Board, realised through UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

5. UN-Habitat’s partnerships are advanced through joint programming, advocacy, resource mobilisation, and research; co-creation of tools, guidelines, publications, and other instruments; and the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and initiatives. As called for through the New Urban Agenda, this cooperation is “…based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination, accountability, respect for human rights and solidarity, especially for those who are the poorest and most vulnerable”. UN-Habitat’s partnerships have generated dividends for all involved including communities, local and national governments, the UN systems, and international organisations.

6. Accordingly, the diversity and number of partnerships of UN-Habitat has been steadily on the rise. A review of 653 legal agreements signed between 2020 and 2022 shows an increase in agreements of cooperation and contribution agreements (Figure 1). In terms of the type of partners, the bulk of the agreements were with governments (37%) and CSOs (31%), with private sector agreements being the lowest (Figure 2).

Figure 1
Legal agreements by type, 2020-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agreements of Cooperation</th>
<th>Contribution Agreement</th>
<th>MoUs</th>
<th>Letters of intent</th>
<th>Private sector agreements</th>
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II. Cooperation with organizations and agencies within the United Nations system

7. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat actively partnered with entities in the UN system to implement its work programmes, and to mainstream sustainable urban development throughout the United Nations system. This has been informed by the mandate of the New Urban Agenda to “...improve United Nations system-wide coordination and coherence in the area of sustainable urban development, within the framework of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting.” It has also been guided by the United Nations systemwide strategy for sustainable urban development endorsed in 2019 by the Chief Executives Board and welcomed in December 2022 by the General Assembly in resolution 77/173. The systemwide strategy requests UN-Habitat to facilitate efforts by UN entities through global, regional, and country-level interagency processes. Significant results have been realised in the following key areas.

A. Elevating United Nations system-wide cooperation for the New Urban Agenda

1. UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

8. As a critical milestone in the follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda, the President of the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (HLM) on 28 April 2022, attended by 83 Member States. This was preceded by a special meeting of ECOSOC on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda on 21 April 2022, to highlight key elements of the 2022 Quadrennial Report pertaining to inequality and UN reform, and to provide key messages transmitted to the HLM by the ECOSOC President. The HLM succeeded in positioning the New Urban Agenda as a road map for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and other global agenda, reinforcing the need for the United Nations to assist countries through whole-of-system approach. Importantly, Member States made commitments to accelerate the New Urban Agenda, highlighted in the President’s Summary, on adequate and affordable housing; climate mitigation and adaptation; urban crisis reduction and recovery; localizing the SDGs and multilevel governance; and financing urban solutions. The Governments of Botswana and Slovakia announced at the HLM the establishment of the Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization, and the New Urban Agenda. Subsequently, 46 Member States have joined the Group of Friends to harness the commitments and momentum of the HLM by serving as the interface between the United Nations Secretariat and the General Assembly.

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1 Annex I provides a list of, local governments, civil society organizations, private sector, academic and research institutions.
UN systems-wide strategy for sustainable development

9. With a renewed and amplified mandate to assist Member States in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat utilized the UN systemwide strategy for sustainable development to bring together the UN system through global, regional, and country level interagency processes. At global, this has involved continuing to work through the Chief Executives Board and its High-Level Committees on Programme and Management, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, the Senior Management Group, the Executive Committee, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

10. In October 2022, the High-Level Committee on Programmes of the Chief Executives welcomed progress on the implementation of the UN systemwide Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development. HLCP welcomed progress in global and regional inter-agency platforms but urged greater focus on the implementation of the systemwide strategy at country level. Subsequently, UN-Habitat has utilized partners of the Local 2030 Coalition and the Development Coordination Office to embark on a more dedicated engagement with select UN country teams under the leadership of UN resident coordinators. Focus will be on joint programming designed to strengthen urban dimensions of Common Country Analysis and accelerate implementation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks through subnational governments and other local development organizations. HLCP also identified institutional resistance to the New Urban Agenda within the UN system. UN-Habitat, FAO, and UNEP under the auspices of HLCP will develop a policy paper on the power of sustainable urbanization to enhance rural development, food systems, climate action, environmental sustainability, and nature-based solutions to biodiversity.

3. Regional cooperation for scaled impact

11. UN-Habitat has been mainstreaming sustainable urbanization in each of the five regions. It has worked through the United Nations Regional Collaboration Platforms chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General with UNDP and Regional Economic Commissions as vice-chairs, and regional representatives of all UN entities to support issue-based coalitions and UN country teams. Together with each of the Regional Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat has helped Member States each year elevate housing and urban development in the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development. For each Forum UN-Habitat has facilitated the participation of regional Ministerial Meetings on Housing and Urban Development and regional associations of local and regional governments (see below).

4. Coherent delivery through UN country teams

12. At country level, UN-Habitat is working closely with UN country teams through UN resident coordinators to center housing and urban development in the UN common country analyses and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (Cooperation Frameworks). As the primary means of defining the work of the UN at the country level, Cooperation Frameworks are the result of a consultative process with host countries that clarify ways for the country to utilize UN advisory and technical services to further national policy priorities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Habitat has contributed to the formulation of urban priority interventions and monitoring indicators for these frameworks.

13. A case in point for effective UN-Habitat collaboration within a UN country team is the United Nations joint programming for Somalia. Since 2008, UN-Habitat has worked with UNDP, UNICEF, ILO and UNCDF on a Joint Program on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery in collaboration with government counterparts. The program is the longest running UN joint program and remains active, relevant, and important in the Somalia recovery and development agenda. In this context, UN-Habitat is the lead agency of all functions related to public finance management at sub-national structures, urban planning, and urbanization in general, land governance and waste management. The program has been instrumental in transforming the districts in many parts of Somalia from nominally existing administrations to effective authorities that presently provide and sustain essential social services. In addition, UN-Habitat is working with IOM and UNDP on a UN joint program in Somalia to find durable solutions to displacement (Saameynatala).

B. Implementing urban components of the 2030 Agenda

14. UN-Habitat continued its partnerships with UN entities in the implementation of a number of SDG targets. On climate change, UN-Habitat partnered closely with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), building on three decades of collaboration. This includes collaboration in intergovernmental platforms including the Stockholm+50 Conference, the Ministerial Segment at UNFCCC COP27, and the subnational track of CBD COP15. Further, joint projects are
underway in more than 20 countries (e.g., Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Iran, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Somalia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vietnam, and Zambia). Specific examples include a Go Blue project on the Kenyan coast, climate adaptation in the Caspian Sea region, a Sustainable Cities Impact Program for Nairobi, Kenya, urban ecosystems-based adaptation strategies in Asia-Pacific; climate finance strategies for LDCs and SIDS; and a low-carbon sustainable urban development project for Zimbabwe, and air quality and nature-based in Serbia, Kirgizstan and Tajikistan. UN-Habitat and UNEP are also collaborating on the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Ecosystems.

15. UN-Habitat has collaborated with UP-Water towards the preparation of the UN 2023 Water Conference that took place in New York from 22-24 March 2023. Specifically, UN-Habitat registered three commitments to the Water Action Agenda, a main outcome of the UN Water Conference. The World Water Development Report on Partnerships and Cooperation for Water launched during the UN Water Conference also had a chapter prepared by UN-Habitat. The Report describes the essential role of building partnerships and enhancing cooperation across all dimensions of sustainable development in accelerating progress towards SDG 6. Through the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI), UN-Habitat continued to develop and support UP-Water to roll out of monitoring methodologies for SDG 6.3.1 on wastewater. In these collaborations, UN-Habitat leverages its work with global water operators with the support of the Government of Germany that hosts the Global Water Operators Alliance in Bonn.

16. UN-Habitat was also actively engaged with UN-Energy through its role in the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group (SDG7 TAG). UN-Habitat developed its Energy Compact as a contribution to the Energy Compact Action Network launched on 4th May 2022 supported by UN-Energy. UN-Habitat has also been engaged in the discussion on joint actions and partnership focusing on closing the electricity access gap, accelerating clean cooking action towards an additional one billion people with clean cooking and just, inclusive, and equitable energy transition and energy interlinkages with other SDGs. Importantly, UN-Habitat is contributing to the SDG7 Policy Briefs 2023 that will be presented at the HLPF in July 2023.

17. UN-Habitat collaborates with UNICEF in urban planning sensitive to the needs of children and young people, including safe and inclusive public and green spaces for children and their communities. These include data and diagnostics for children in urban settings; flagship reports and country programme development; and advocacy during corporate events. For instance, the two entities partnered on child sensitive National Urban Policy formulation and public space design. Extensive collaboration is ongoing in monitoring the wellbeing of children in cities including through the Global Urban Monitoring Framework (see below also) and producing joint normative products, for example on children in slums and informal settlements.

18. The urban dimension of global food security was accentuated through UN-Habitat’s collaboration with the World Food Programme. In 2020, UN-Habitat and WFP signed an MOU to support collaboration in Sub-Saharan Africa. A joint report was also launched in 2021 on “Life amidst a pandemic: Urban livelihoods, food security and nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa”. Furthermore, WFP is in the process of developing a new “Urban Strategy: Achieving zero hunger in urbanizing world”, which will be the basis for further strengthened partnership.

19. In relation to migration, UN-Habitat has a growing partnership with IOM at different levels. UN-Habitat is in the process of strengthening its partnership with IOM also in support of the Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on IDPs and UN-Habitat’s global flagship on migration. UN-Habitat and IOM also collaborated in the Asia-Pacific region through the Networking Group on Migration and Sustainable Urbanization as a convening platform on urban issues within the Regional Collaboration Platform in Bangkok. Country level collaboration between the two entities has covered Mozambique, Pakistan, Somalia, the Sahel, Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran among others.

C. Effective crisis response and recovery for resilience

20. UN-Habitat partners with UN entities on urban resilience building through multi-hazard, multi-stakeholders, multi-sectoral approach considering the complexities of urban systems. In this regard, UN-Habitat has been collaborating with the UNDRR since 2000 when the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction was launched. Currently, UN-Habitat is an active member of the Making Cities Resilient 2030, a platform that supports cities in their efforts to reduce risk and build resilience. In complement, UN-Habitat also continues to collaborate with UN entities through its membership of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee principals and working group and of the
Executive Humanitarian Affairs (since 2008), chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, to consider matters of policy regarding global humanitarian operations.

21. UN-Habitat supported UN system wide efforts to support member States in COVID-19 response and recovery. Cities were hotspots for the pandemic concentrating most of the cases globally, and local governments were frontline responders to protect lives, livelihoods, and communities. UN-Habitat contributed to the “UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better”, emphasizing the role urban dimension of the pandemic and the critical role of local governments in both response and recovery. Furthermore, UN-Habitat contributed to the UN Secretary-General’s Policy Brief “COVID-19 in an Urban World” through a collaborative process with UN agencies and local government networks including UNDP, UNDESA, UNEP, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO, WHO, OHCHR, all Regional Economic Commissions, Global Task Force, UCLG, Local 2030 among others.

22. Partnering with UN entities has enabled UN-Habitat to be more responsive to disasters and risk. For instance, in Beirut, Lebanon, following the Port explosion of 4 August 2020, UN-Habitat is collaborating with UNESCO on the restoration and rejuvenation of the inner city through a project on housing rehabilitation and cultural and creative industries recovery funded from the Lebanon Financing Facility (LFF) as part of the Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) administered by the World Bank.

23. Also, in partnership with the UNDP and other relevant regional partners and stakeholders, UN-Habitat is implementing the Spatial Development Strategy for the Sahel - Towards a Network of Resilient Human Settlements. The project identifies the need for strengthening a network of resilient human settlements able to positively contribute to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus and sustain the surrounding territory through reinforced urban-rural linkages.

D. Strengthening urban data and monitoring

24. As part of the global SDGs/New Urban Agenda reporting responsibilities, UN-Habitat has actively engaged with many ECOSOC and UNDESA affiliated bodies including the UN Statistical Commission, Inter-Agency Expert group on SDG Indicators, UN Geospatial Network, UN Population Division, and UN Statistics Division to advance the application and uptake of the principles of statistical standards in the global monitoring responsibilities. In addition to setting standards, over 100 countries have been supported through these global joint efforts to enhance their capacities on monitoring the urban dimensions of the SDGs.

25. Significantly, UN-Habitat led an extensive collaboration with UN entities to develop a common set of core indicators. Through joint efforts with over 24 UN system agencies and other partners, UN-Habitat developed the Global Urban Monitoring Framework to harmonize urban data and indicators for better monitoring. The framework was endorsed in March 2022 to be implemented in support of the Harmonized Global UN System wide strategy for monitoring the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. The Framework is enabling the streamlined monitoring of progress with urban targets and commitments across UN entities in a coherence and comparable manner.

26. Partnership with UN entities has also been anchored in UN-Habitat’s pioneering work with the European Commission to roll-out the global urban, cities, and rural definition (known as Degree of urbanization methodology) as part of the efforts to ensure that countries/cities are able to monitor and report on attainment of targets of the SDGs and on progress towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda using globally agreed statistical and spatial standards that allows for comparability overtime. This initiative is transforming global monitoring of urbanization by providing a harmonized comparable definition of settlements. UN-Habitat has extensive collaboration with UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA and others on this. Altogether seven subregional workshops on harmonization of city definitions and computation of Goal 11 indicators, were organized in 2019–2022 in partnership with regional commissions in Africa, Arab States, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, bringing together 250 participants from 85 countries. Since 2022, UN-Habitat has organized in country workshops on the Global city definition where support to 13 countries is provided directly.

27. UN-Habitat has also been working extensively with UN entities to enhance the monitoring of specific SDG 11 targets. For instance, with UNESCO, UN-Habitat is working on SDG indicator 11.4.1 to finalize the methodology for data collection and build capacity for countries and cities to collect the data. The two entities are also collaborating to develop cultural indicators to monitor the role and contribution of culture to the 2030 Agenda transversally across the 17 Goals and 169 Targets, in addition to ongoing collaboration. Through joint custodianship for SDG indicators 1.4.2 and 5 a.1, the World Bank and UN-Habitat work closely on methodologies for monitoring land rights and security of
tenure. UN-Habitat and UNODC collaborate on SDGs monitoring through designing data collection modules and building capacities of member states to collect global data using SDG methodologies for SDG 11.7.1 and 11.7.2 on urban public spaces.

E. Localizing the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals

28. The localization and implementation of the global agendas with local governments being in the driving seat is crucial for achieving sustainable urban futures. UN-Habitat is playing a leading role in advancing localization of the SDGs, most prominently through the Local 2030 Coalition. This is a UN system-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of all Sustainable Development Goals. It brings together the UN entities, national governments, regional and local governments and their associations, businesses, professional association, and grassroots organizations to foster collaboration and innovation, share solutions, and implement strategies to support local actors in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. UN-Habitat is a permanent Co-Chair with other UN entities co-chairing on a rotational basis, currently Co-Chaired by UNDP.

29. UN-Habitat is also working extensively within the UN entities to advance Voluntary Local Reviews of the SDGs to accelerate progress on the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development. For instance, with UNDESA, UN-Habitat is providing joint technical support and capacity building opportunities to local and national governments on SDG reporting (VLRs-VNRs) in 14 countries around the globe. In addition, UN-Habitat and UNDESA have made strides in advancing the global debate on local action and SDG localization with three editions of the Local and Regional Governments Forum organized yearly in the context of HLPF, between 2019 and 2022, to discuss issues related to response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic from the bottom-up. Further, UN-Habitat has collaborated closely with Regional Economic Commissions in promoting and supporting Voluntary Local Reviews including through joint publication of guidelines, technical support to selected cities, and policy advocacy on SDG localization.

F. South-South cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

30. UN-Habitat entered an MOU with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in 2020. This has resulted in the ramping up of technical support and advisory at a country-to-country level. Further, in 2022, UN-Habitat contributed to stocktaking and knowledge generation on cities climate resilience by coordinating with partners and co-producing a report documenting “Innovative Experiences of Cities on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action through South-South and Triangular Cooperation”, sponsored by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) under the South-South Cities Project Framework. The publication provides evidence of how cities around the world are spearheading innovative solutions in many areas of low-emission climate-resilient development and environmental sustainability and increasingly joining forces and learning from each other to collectively strengthen environmental protection featuring 12 case studies from 15 cities.

G. Scaling up regional cooperation and impacts

31. UN-Habitat has sustained active collaboration with Regional Economic Commissions and Regional bodies globally. In the Asia Pacific Region, with UNESCAP, UN-Habitat co-organized the 9th Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Penang, Malaysia in 2019, launched a joint State of Asian Cities report (2019), is partnering towards the Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Suwon, South Korea (2023) and engaging through the Asia-Pacific Mayors Forum.

32. In Africa, UN-Habitat continues in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to jointly elevate and support programming related to the New Urban Agenda at the African Union. Building on highly effective prior collaboration to develop a Harmonized Framework for the New Urban Agenda endorsed by the African Union, UN-Habitat is working closely with UNECA and AUC to develop a biennial road map to partner on initiatives that advance urbanization as a driver of structural transformation. Some key activities include a proposed Africa Urban Day and Africa Union Urban Forum.

33. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat works with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and on the Regional Urban and Cities Platform. UN-Habitat has further participated on the Comprehensive Development Plan for North of Central America led by ECLAC. The two institutions also serve as the Technical Secretariat of MINURVI (the Assembly of Ministers
34. With the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UN-Habitat is collaborating on SDG localization through support for development of a regional guideline for Arab States, and preparation of VLRs by specific cities and countries, with the Greater Amman Municipality as a first in the region. Other areas of partnership include the Arabic translation and dissemination of NUA capacity building tools, and a joint publication on smart technology solutions for COVID-19 response and recovery.

III. Cooperation between UN-Habitat and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system

35. UN-Habitat collaborates extensively outside the UN system to deliver its mandates. It has strategic partnerships with intergovernmental and other international and regional organisations to advance the implementation, follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda. This has involved two main types of organisations namely regional intergovernmental and other bodies and regional development banks and foundations. Partnerships with these entities have strengthened UN-Habitat’s efforts to accelerate progress in promoting sustainable urbanization in several areas of priority for the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11 as follows.

A. Supporting implementation of the New Urban Agenda through regional intergovernmental bodies

36. The EU has been a major partner of UN-Habitat on the roll-out of the Degree of Urbanization methodology that allows for standard classifications of cities, urban and rural areas. This approach has improved evidence-based planning for cities as unique entities away from the blanket planning for urban and rural areas.

37. UN-Habitat is further collaborating through a tripartite partnership with the European Commission and the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States globally on a Global Action Plan transforming informal settlements and slums by 2030. The tripartite partnership and its partnership platform enabled the production of a global publication and an action-oriented implementation framework scaling efforts in slums and informal settlements. A consortium of leading global actors in the slum transformation and housing space have joined the initiative being: World Bank, UNICEF, Cities Alliance, Habitat for Humanity, Slum Dwellers International, Houairou Commission as core partners.

38. Further, UN-Habitat has an MOU with the African Union focused on joint advocacy for sustainable urbanization including advocating for sustainable urban-rural linkages. UN-Habitat worked closely with the AU towards the United Nations General Assembly in April 2022 in New York and the need to harness the transformative force of urbanization in Africa to achieve the African Agenda 2063 vision. Efforts are underway to collaborate with the AU on co-organizing the first Africa Union Urban Forum prior to the forthcoming WUF and commemorating the Africa Urban Day.

39. UN-Habitat and the League of Arab States signed an MoU in October 2022 to strengthen collaboration. Every other year, UN-Habitat and LAS co-organize together with a host country, the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development (AMFHUD). The next forum is due to be hosted by Libya in December 2023. Furthermore, UN-Habitat serves as an observer on the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing and Urban Development, updating the group annually on progress of agreed relevant resolutions, more specifically by delivering capacity building for country focal points to be able to report on NUA progress and the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development with ESCWA, and operationalization of the implementation plan for the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.

40. An additional strategic collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in 2022 resulted in a Call to Action on Sustainable Urban Development adopted by all 53 member states. UN-Habitat is currently developing a global partnership with the Commonwealth Associations of Planners, Architects and Engineers to help address the capacity gap identified in the Call to Action. Specifically, UN-Habitat and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum are developing capacity building solutions for city managers.
B. Leveraging partnership with regional development banks

41. Through A/RES/75/224, the UN General Assembly encouraged “UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to ensure coherence of policy support and the alignment of large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda and to facilitate increased investment in sustainable urbanization”. Accordingly, UN-Habitat has continued its collaboration with regional development banks globally.

42. In 2017-2022, UN-Habitat collaborated with the European commission and European Investment Bank on an initiative requested by the European Parliament: Supporting the urban dimension of development cooperation: Enhancing the financial positions of cities in developing countries to achieve sustainable urban development. In the context of this initiative, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and UN-Habitat issued a Joint Communique, committing to exchange experience and, where required, support each other’s work, through technical level cooperation sharing standards and concepts. The Communique triggered collaboration on the ground, for example, in Kenya, where the programme on housing and land is starting, led by UN-Habitat, and financed by the European Commission, and EIB and Agence française de développement participating as investors.

43. In 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the IsDB and UN-, and a workplan was developed outlining collaboration activities identified by ROAS and ROAf. UN-Habitat subsequently worked closely with IsDB in the Arab Region on urban upgrading and regeneration using innovative financial mechanisms and participatory city-wide approaches effectively piloted in 12 Arab cities in 5 countries (Egypt, Saudi-Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen) in 2021. Further, UN-Habitat in partnership with KfW, IDB, AfDB and Shelter Afrique published 9 technical reports on Financing for Resilient and Green Global Urban Solutions in 2020 and 2021. Additional collaboration with IsDB is being considered currently on sustainable urban upgrading, affordable housing and UN-Habitat’s flagship programmes.

44. In Latin America and Caribbean, UN-Habitat joined efforts with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) on a global public spaces programme. The two institutions have also worked together on the promotion of regional public goods for Latin America and the Caribbean, including the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub. Also, CAF and UN-Habitat joined efforts to work with the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights and other partners on a guide for mainstreaming human rights in the governance of the digital transformation of cities. In parallel the two institutions have started a joint work to promote the approach of BiodiverCities to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

45. Collaboration with the African Development Bank on policy advocacy and dialogue is ongoing with UN-Habitat pursuing additional specific avenues for collaboration going forward. For instance, UN-Habitat is currently developing a city plan for Aba which may foster collaboration with AfDB which has already developed an infrastructural proposal for the city.

46. UN-Habitat also collaborated with Asian Development Bank in field projects implemented by jointly UN-Habitat and UN-Habitat partners on issues of mainstreaming climate resilience in Cambodia and developing provincial urban growth and municipal investment strategies in Pakistan.

IV. Cooperation with Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (previously Habitat Agenda partners, including non-governmental organizations)

47. UN-Habitat has a long history of collaborating with major groups and key constituencies of the New Urban Agenda including delivery of programmes and projects, co-creation of knowledge products, advocacy, organization of specific events, capacity building and as part numerous expert group meetings on housing and sustainable urban development. Annex I provide a list of organisations that signed legal agreements with UN-Habitat as confirmation of cooperation between 2020 to 2022.

48. Since the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (2019) a total of 215 organisations attended all the sessions of the Executive Board as observers, mostly online between 2020 and 2022. Thirty-nine (39) oral and written statements were delivered by 11 organisations including non-governmental organisations (3), local government association (2), advisory boards (2), professional associations (1) and intergovernmental organisations (2) at relevant sessions of the Executive Board held in the last three years. Additionally, 45 organisations attended as observers, and 6 organisations made both oral and written statements at the midterm session of the Committee of

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2 https://www.eib.org/attachments/events/joint-communique-africa-day-04032020.pdf
Permanent Representatives held in June 2021. The following organisations contributed oral and/or written statements at sessions of UN-Habitat intergovernmental meetings: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI), Habitat Professional Forum (HPF), Stakeholder Advisory group Enterprise (SAGE), Huairou Commission, ICLEI – Local governments for sustainability, the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation, Habitat International Coalition, World Blind Union, Compass Housing, City Space Architecture, Block by Block, Bufete de Estudios Interdisciplinarios AC, Slum Dwellers International, and Edinburgh University.

49. UN-Habitat further works, as appropriate, with internal and external cross-sectoral and multistakeholder mechanisms, networks, steering committees, and advisory boards which, \textit{inter alia} bring together policymakers, experts, grassroots, and informal settlements organisations in support of specific thematic programmes, advocacy campaigns, and alike. The networks include: The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), Urban Planning Labs, the Global Water Operators Partnerships (GWOPA), the Habitat Universities (Habitat Uni), the Global Housing Network, the Global Network for Safer Cities, the Habitat Professional Forum, the Networks of organisations working on slums and informal settlements (Sis-Net), just to mention but a few. Advisory Boards and steering committees include: the Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE), the Advisory Group on Women and Gender Issues (AGGI), the Sustainable urban development advisory council, the World Urban Forum Advisory Board, and the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee. UN-Habitat also serves by invitation on the boards of other organisations including the Cities Alliance, the World Economic Forum, etc.

50. In addition, UN-Habitat’s World Urban Campaign (WUC) has increased its outreach and engagement since 2019. It has mobilized 153 new partner organizations in the 16 WUC constituencies made of civil society actors, research and academia, professionals, and private sector organizations. Altogether, 174 Urban Thinkers Campuses have been organized by the WUC Partners supported by UN-Habitat in a wide range of thematic areas during the reporting period. These events have generated productive dialogues and synergies between organizations towards the SDG implementation and the New Urban Agenda. WUC Partners have prepared “The City We Need Now”, a joint manifesto on 10 Action Areas comprising of essential principles and priorities to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. It has helped engage and promote solutions and actions by a wide range of actors. The WUC has been instrumental in several action campaigns: the COVID 19 Campaign, the 40 Days Safer Cities Challenge, the Housing for All Campaign, and the Climate Action for Cities Campaign.

51. Building on historical collaboration, while pursuing new avenues for engagement, UN-Habitat has deepened its partnership with the following major groups and stakeholders.

A. Local and regional governments

52. At the global level, UN-Habitat continues to work with self-organized, structured associations of local and regional governments such as the Global Task Force on Local and Regional Governments (GTF-LRG) and the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), as well as thematic local government networks including ICLEI, C40, and the Mayors Migration Council, among others. UN-Habitat worked closely with the networks to: (i) provide capacity building and peer-learning opportunities to local and regional governments (see \#beyondtheoutbreak platform and SDG localization trainings); (ii) raise the priorities of the constituency within UN-led processes such as the HPLF including through the Local and Regional Governments Forums, among many others; (iii) develop normative guidance and cutting-edge research on the SDGs (see UN-Habitat-UCLG Global Guidelines on VLRs); (iv) provide joint technical support to cities to develop their SDG reports and implementation plans mainly through UCLG regional chapters – UCLG Africa, MEWA and ASPAC. In addition to the global level engagement, UN-Habitat continues working with national associations of local and regional governments though national projects and programmes. To date, 199 VLRs have been completed with 70 in Europe, 66 in Latin America & the Caribbean, 40 in Asia, 11 in Africa, 10 in North America and 2 in Oceania.

53. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General requested UN-Habitat to lead the United Nations Task Force on Future of Cities to develop inputs for the Report on Our Common Agenda. Encompassing 20 UN entities and expanded to include representatives of the GTF-LRGs, the UN Task Force submitted twelve recommendations to strengthen engagement of local and regional governments in intergovernmental and national planning processes. Among these, the Secretary-General included in Our Common Agenda the recommendation to establish an Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments. Subsequently the UN Task Force prepared terms of reference for consideration by the Secretary-General.
B. **UN-Habitat Professionals Forum**

54. The Habitat Professional Forum (HPF) is supported by UN-Habitat in preparing for their regular meetings. The HPF agreed on a strategic plan focusing on building resilience towards recovery from COVID 19, and member networks are actively engaged in its implementation. HPF actively engaged in a capacity building initiative for city managers to ensure to increase the participation of professionals of the built environment in city and territorial planning. They supported the Call to Action on Sustainable urbanization at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022, and served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization convened by the President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly.

C. **Women**

55. UN-Habitat is part of the inter-agency network through UN Women, on gender equality and women’s empowerment IANWGE. The agency contributes to joint initiatives with other UN sister agencies discussing topical issues such as climate change, digital technology, and intersectionality. Further, UN-Habitat participates annually in the Commission on the Status of Women hosted by UN Women and during the 67th session organized several events on the fringes of the meetings, namely a donor breakfast event on Women-led Cities, a side event in partnership with UNCDF and EllaImpacta launching the Women-led Cities initiative and a side event on Smart Cities with and for women and girls. Also, together with UNON with the support of the UNON Gender Theme Group on 8th March 2023 International Women’s Day, a High-Level Meeting commemorating International Women Day in Kenya centered on a discussion with prominent female political leaders in Kenya. Further, UN-Habitat works with the Advisory Group on Gender Issues to the ED (AGGI), to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all projects and programmes. AGGI has been instrumental in advocacy events at WUF in 2020 and 2022 speaking as gender experts in the Women’s Assembly and the Women’s roundtable.

D. **Indigenous people**

56. Since 2019, UN-Habitat has continued its engagement in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and its overall advocacy and technical discussion to ensure barriers faced by indigenous peoples in their enjoyment of the right to adequate housing are duly analysed, recognised, and discussed. Indigenous peoples living in cities are disproportionately experiencing high rates of homelessness, forced evictions, land-grabbing, and the effects of climate change. Furthermore, UN-Habitat also contributed to the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing focusing on discrimination in the context of housing to highlight challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in cities. In addition, UN-Habitat has been working with partners, including OHCHR to highlight initiatives strengthening resiliency to climate change by building on indigenous knowledge and ensuring compliance with the right to adequate housing for all to avoid perpetuating inequalities.

E. **Civil society**

57. UN-Habitat has continued to work closely with a consortium of grassroots organizations comprised of Slum and Shack Dwellers International (SDI), the Huairou Commission, and Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WEIGO). At the global level, grassroots organizations served on the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization convened by the President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly and played an active role during the 11th Session of the World Urban Forum to disseminate the President’s Summary and Annex of Actions of the April 2022 HLM. They also convened events during the United Nations General Assembly, the High-Level Political Forum, Urban October, and World Urban Campaign. Members of the grassroots constituency contributed to UN-Habitat programming including the Global Land Tool Network, Settlements Upgrading, and Safer Cities among others.

F. **Universities**

58. 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 was initiated in 2021 and is expected to strengthen coordination and engagement both across the organization and during the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum. The first United Nations Innovation Accelerator for Cities launched with UN-OICT, HafenCity University and financial support from Germany. UNITAC is currently developing data and artificial
intelligence tools to address specific priorities of the New Urban Agenda including policies for slums and informal settlements.

V. Prospects for scaling up cooperation

59. The magnitude of sustainable challenges makes partnerships a necessary foundation for UN-Habitat’s support to member States in their execution pursuit of sustainable urbanization aligned with the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11. UN-Habitat continues to draw upon partnership with a multiplicity of actors to deliver its mandate, drawing on a long tradition of doing so since its establishment in 1978. This has played a significant role in the enhanced delivery of UN-Habitat’s mandate in several ways:

(a) Leveraging complementary expertise, resources, and operations of partners to deepen or expand existing partnerships, while designing new initiatives at local and national levels

(b) Enabling longer term support to local and national governments thereby enhancing the sustainability of impacts and transformation

(c) Responding to a growing demand from Member States for normative and operational support to implement the New Urban Agenda

(d) Enhanced global advocacy and momentum to revitalize action to accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda

(e) Responsiveness to emerging trends and demands, including those related to recent interlocking global crises

60. Opportunities lie ahead to further scale up UN-Habitat’s cooperation with partners, including through streamlining initiatives for scale and impact.

(a) Engaging in constituency development, supporting efforts of local governments, professionals, business leaders, civil society, academia, and grassroots, among others to sharpen their respective contributions, commitments, and action agendas to implement the New Urban Agenda

(b) Fostering multi-year, multi actor, multi-country partnerships around selected key priority issues including those that emerged from the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly namely housing, climate, finance, localization, and crises

(c) Developing coalitions of partners and pooled mechanisms around selected priority areas of intervention to join resources and expertise for higher impact and more effective delivery of support to Member States

(d) Targeting specific actors leverage partnerships were potential remains largely untapped especially with the private sector

(e) Advancing the role of UN-Habitat as a catalytic lead to advance partnerships to advance priorities of the New Urban Agenda

(f) Scaling up resource mobilization to strengthen and scale up UN-Habitat’s partnerships at all levels
### List of organizations that signed legal agreements with UN-Habitat in 2020–2022

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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Comité Interministériel d’Aménagement du Territoire
Commune Urbaine d’Antananarivo Madagascar
Community Building Mitrovica
Connected Places Catapult
Cooperation for Assistance and Relief Everywhere International -Haiti
Cooperazione e sviluppo onlus
County Government of Taita Taveta
County Government of Turkana
Critical Needs Support Foundation
Danish Refugee Council
Deakin University
Deltares
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V.
Development Workshop Angola
Disability Relief Services
Doppelmayr Seilbahnen GmbH
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée d’Abidjan
El Colegio de México
EMIF Group Ltd
Empresa Metropolitana De Abastecimiento Y Saneamiento
De Aguas De Sevilla, Sa
Energias de Portugal, S.A
Environment and Child Development Centre
Environmental Management Authority of Yangon City
Environmental Protection Agency
Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development
European Forum for Urban Security
Films for Sustainable World
First+Main Films
Fondation Botnar
Fukuoka City
Fundacion Alternatives
Fundacion Construir
Garowe Municipality
Gebilay Municipality
Geneva Cities Hub
Gensler Architecture, Design & Planning, P.C.
Ghana Water Company Limited
Global Development Incubator
Global Parliament of Mayors
Global Sustainability Index Institute Foundation
Go Metro
Gobierno Autonomo Municipal de La Paz
Gorongosa National Park
Gorongosa Restoration Project
GRAD-MALI “Groupe Recherche, Actions, Développement”
Habitat For Humanity in Zambia
Habitat for Humanity International
Hamburger Wasserwerke GmbH
Hargeisa Municipality
Hawassa University, Institute of Policy and Development Research
HBD Toursim Investments
Health Bridge Foundation
Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
ICLEI Africa
ICLEI South America
IKEA of Sweden AB
Impact valley
Indah Water Consortium
INFONAVIT
INGT Instituto Nacional de Gestao do Territorio
Institute for Transport and Development Policy
Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement
Human Rights
Institut Superieur des Sciences de la Population
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies
Institute for Transportation and Development Policy
Institute Nossa BH
Institution of New Economic Development Limited Company
Instituto de Estudos, Formacao e Assessoria em Politicas Sociais
Instutute for transport and Development Policy
Integrated Development Society Nepal
International Association of Providers of Aids Care
International Business Machines Cooperation United Kingdom
International Centre for Migration and Policy Development
International Council on Monuments and Sites
International Federation of Surveyors
International Institute for Environment and Development
International Institute for Rural Reconstruction
International Islamic Charity Organization
International Urban Training Centre
International Youth Council Yemen
Janaki Women Awareness Society
Johannesburg Development Agency
Kalobeyei Settlement Community Centre Management Committee
Kasulu Town
Kenya Alliance of Residents Association
Kenya Climate Innovation Center
Kibondo District Council
Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company
Kochi Municipal Corporation
Koidu New Sembehun City Council
Korea East-West Power company
Kounkuey Design Initiative
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Kuwait Oil Company
L.T.O Networks B.V
La Société Tunisienne de Banque
Laws of Africa
Lebanese Center for Policy Studies
Live Love Lebanon
London School of Economics
Makerere University, School of Built Environment
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MAWV Märkischer Abwasser- und Wasserzweckverband
Mayors Migration Council
MethodKit
Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco
MORABI, Associação Cabo-Verdiana de Auto-promoção da Mulher
Moscow Urban Forum
Municipal Autonomous Government of La Paz
Municipalities of Buenos Aires and Lima
Municipality of Beirut
Municipality of Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
Municipality of Leposavic
Municipality of Mitrovica North
Municipality of Mitrovica South
Municipality of Prishtina
Municipality of Rio de Janeiro and Municipal Institute of Urbanisma Perreira Pessos
Municipality of Salvador
Municipality of San Nicolas de los Garza, Nuevo Leon
Municipality of Santa Marta
Municipality of Sao Paulo
Municipality of Skederaj
Municipality of Vushtrri
Municipality of Zubin Potok
Municipality of Zvecan
Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority
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Nam Papa State Owned Enterprise Sekong
Nam Papa State Owned-Enterprise Attapeu
Nam Papa State Owned-Enterprise Savannakhet
National Council of Churches of Kenya
National Office for Electricity and Drinking Water
National Water and Sewerage Corporation
Nepal Red Cross Society Siraha District Chapter
Norwegian Refugee Council
NPO Solid Waste Management Advisers Network
ONG Recherche Action pour le Développement Intégré
Open Society Institute
Oxfam International
Oxfam Italia
Pamoja Trust
Pangea Accelerator and Strathmore University
Peace Winds Japan
People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia
PIN S.c.r.l. – Servizi didattici e scientifici per l’Università di Firenze
Plan International Germany
Planet Holding Limited
Planning Institute of Fortaleza
Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador
Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth
Polish Center for International Aid
Prakash Awareness Group
Prefeitura Municipal de Niterói
Public Foundation "Urban Initiatives
Purple Cow Communicacao LTD
Qatar Fund for Development
Quality Standards Information Technology S.A.
Ramboll Danmark A/S
Real Alternatives
Real Estate Syndicate of Lebanon
Reall Limited
Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Programme
Regional Government of the Basque Country
Resilient Cities Catalyst
Royal Institute of British Architects
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Royal Scientific Society
Sabe Sanabul Organization for Relief and Development
Sandals Foundation
Waleed Philanthropies
Save the Earth Cambodia
Science PO
Shenzhen Association for International Culture Exchanges
Shining Hope for Communities
Smart Cities Network Ltd
Social Development Path
Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Matemática
Società Metropolitana Acque Torino S.P.A
Society for Technology and Action for Rural Advancement
Songyang County, Zhejiang Province
St. James Municipal Corporation
State Government of Rio de Janeiro
Stichting IHE Delft, Institute for Water Education
Stichting Vredesbeweging Pax Nederland
Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service
Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment Inc
Technical University of Crete
Technische Universität Berlin
TERI School of Advanced Studies
The Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
The City Celebration Charitable Trust
The County Government of Nakuru
The Distrital Municipality of Cartagena des Idias
The Distrital Municipality of Santa Marta
The Ganziantep Metropolitan Municipality
The Government of the State of Alagoas
The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
The International Real Estate Federation
The International Renewable Energy Agency
The Medellin Post-Secondary Education Agency-Sapiencia
The Metropolitan and Territorial Planning Agencies-Global Network
The Municipality of Bafoussam III
The Municipality of Douala 4
The Municipality of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico
The Municipality of Yaoundé
The Northeast Development Commission
The Norwegian Institute for Water Research
The Royal Institute of British Architects
The Université Chritienne Bilingue du Congo
The University of Twente, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation
The Urban Electric Mobility Initiative and Association for Electric Mobility and Development in Africa
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