



**Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second open-ended meeting: preparations for the
second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
Nairobi, 29–31 May and 2 June 2023**

Group of African States

Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure

The United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

{PP1} *Affirming that* urbanisation is one of the defining characteristics of our time, as more than half of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, making it essential to ensure that urban planning and infrastructure development are given requisite attention to mitigate the challenges and maximize the benefits associated with urbanization; [ad ref. 15:07](#)

{PP2} ~~*[Aware that cities are currently facing an unprecedented situation and urgent challenges that constitute a real opportunity to change paradigms, tools, planning systems and managing cities]*~~ [{USA, EUN+}](#)

{PP3} *Recognizing* the importance of increased efforts towards the [\[actualization\]](#) [{BRA+, NGA+}](#) [\[realization\]](#) [{NGA+, BRA+}](#) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically, Goal 11 in which member states commit to “make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, ~~*[as well as to leave no one behind]*~~ [{USA+}](#);

{PP4} *Recalling* Governing Council Resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 which approved the International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for All, as well as Governing Council Resolution 25/6 of 23 April 2015 which approved the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning as a valuable guide toward the achievement of sustainable development and encouraged member States to consider urban and territorial planning principles outlined in the guidelines while developing, reviewing and implementing their national urban policies and urban and territorial planning frameworks; [ad ref. 15:16](#)

{PP5} *Recalling* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito ~~*[, -on]*~~ [{USA+}](#) [\[in\]](#) [{USA+}](#) October 2016, and its endorsement by the [United Nations General Assembly](#) resolution 71/256, and reiterating the importance of the attainment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015, specifically Goal 11;

{PP6} *Further reaffirming* our shared vision as enshrined in para 11 of the aforementioned [General Assembly](#) resolution, specifically on the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements [\[, where all persons enjoy equal\]](#) [{USA+}](#) rights and opportunities [\[and in order not to leave anyone behind\]](#) [{USA+}](#), and on the commitment to develop and implement urban policies at the appropriate level, ~~*[and the promotion of]*~~ [{USA+}](#) [\[including in local-national and multistakeholder partnerships, building integrated systems of cities and human](#)

[settlements and promoting](#) [{USA+}](#) cooperation [\[among all levels of government\]](#) [{USA+}](#) to enable the achievement of sustainable integrated urban development;

[{PP7}](#) *Recognizing* the efforts by Member States to develop and implement national urban policies and the importance of effectively linking national urban policies to national, regional and urban planning and infrastructure development and of translating policies into action. [\[ad ref, 15:25\]](#)

[{PP8}](#) *Recalling* the commitment to working towards an urban paradigm shift, including by adopting sustainable, people centred, age and gender responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development by implementing policies, strategies, capacity development and actions at all levels, based on fundamental drivers of change, including, but not limited to, paragraph 15(c)(i) of the New Urban Agenda about long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design and paragraph 15(c)(iv) referring to innovative and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments, as well as the pledge to leave no one behind; [\[ad ref, 15:46\]](#)

[{PP9}](#) *Further recalling* A/Res/75/224 of 21 December 2022, Paragraph 11 which urged UN-Habitat to continue to develop innovative methods, approaches and guidelines for data collection, analysis, monitoring and implementation, with the objective of supporting Member States, especially developing countries, when needed, in dealing with emerging urban challenges and opportunities; [\[ad ref, 15:47\]](#)

[{PP10}](#) *Further recalling* Governing Council Resolution 26/8 (para 20) encouraging [\[UN-Habitat\]](#) [{USA+}](#) [\[the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN Habitat,\]](#) [{USA+}](#) to develop further the Urban Planning and Design Lab as an integrative facility, as one of the tools to provide support to Member States in the implementation of the relevant elements of the New Urban Agenda; [\[and paragraph 9 of Governing Council Resolution 25/4L.6 on promoting a Global Network of Planning Labs as part of or in close collaboration with the government.\]](#) [{USA reserve}](#) [{ARG suggests to review}](#)

[{PP11}](#) *Noting* the current challenges related to urban planning and infrastructure development, including increasing urban population, urban sprawl, traffic congestion, environmental degradation, natural disasters, water shortages and an increase in urban inequalities and informal settlements, further experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic; [\[ad ref, 15:56\]](#)

[{PP12}](#) *[Emphasizing* the importance of an integrated approach to urban planning and infrastructure development to promote sustainable development and to address the global challenges arising from rapid urbanization, including health, social and economic development [\[challenges that incite to question\]](#) [{GHA+}](#) and redefine the effectiveness of city planning and management models, and stressing on the continuous need for expanding the access and adoption of integrated urban and infrastructure planning, through national experience sharing of innovative approaches in urban planning and management and by making available state of the art tools, expertise and knowledge for all countries and cities to be able to advance in the development of adequate planning and implementation of sustainable urbanization; [\[EUN reserve\]](#)

[{PP13}](#) *Encouraging* the development of new forms of urban planning systems as flexible and adaptable tools that will strengthen the resilience of urban ecosystems and infrastructure.

[\[Alt PP13\]](#) [Recalling the availability of existing urban planning systems and information repositories, such as the Urban Agenda Platform, the “Our City Plans”, and urban planning and design lab, and the need to increase their visibility and use\]](#) [{EUN+}](#) [{NGA, RUS-}](#)

[OP1](#).*Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) [\[, in consultation with the Executive Board, as appropriate,\]](#) [{USA+}](#) [{NGA-}](#) [\[to develop\]](#) [{USA, NGA+}](#) a [\[user-friendly and easily accessible\]](#) [{BRA+}](#) **Global Technical Digital Platform** for Urbanization and Infrastructure Development that [\[harnesses to the greatest extent possible existing tools and knowledge bases in particular “Our City Plans”\]](#)[{EUN+}](#)[{RUS-}](#) and could include the following elements [{USA, EUN+}](#) [\[is sustainable, and to ensure that, through the Platform\]](#) [{USA, BRA+}](#):

- a. Innovative initiatives on urban policies and planning at both national and international levels, Relevant technical resources, tools and information on integrated urban and infrastructure planning which can be pooled and made readily accessible to governments on a need and on-demand basis;
- b. [\[Availability of\]](#) [{NGA+}](#) continuously updated, expanded, documented and analysed solutions, good practices and tools for integrated urban and infrastructure planning [\[are made available\]](#) [{NGA+}](#) for possible adoption, replication or adaptation in different contexts;

- c. Integrated planning processes are promoted, to support coordinated land use and infrastructure development and for governments and local authorities to access relevant technical support tools and resources for supporting such processes and ensuring their wider adoption and their connection with adequate financing opportunities.
 - d. Provision is made for spatial data management, regional and urban planning practices, mechanisms for urban and land management, capital investment planning for infrastructure and policy imperatives for sustainable and resilient development, as well as capacity building options for the same;
 - e. Relevant regional or sub-regional content is made available to respond to specific needs of different contexts;
 - f. Mechanisms for capacity building and exchange are promoted across countries through mechanisms such as city to city twinning, network of Urban Labs or planning agencies, and professional expertise clearing house;
 - g. Information and guidance is made available on financing options and strategies for local and national government for integrated plans and infrastructure implementation; and
 - h. Access to technical resources and services is facilitated for developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and intermediate cities through dedicated financial support and solidarity mechanisms, as resources may allow.
1. *Encourages* Member States to identify their urbanization needs through evidence-based analysis and profiling of territories and urban areas and to undertake the assessment of their planning systems in line with the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and of the International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for all, in order to inform the strengthening of planning systems and facilitate the identification of capacity development needs and of relevant tools for development and sharing;
 2. *Further encourages* Member States to avail themselves of the variety of tools and technical support for integrated and inclusive urban planning and sustainable infrastructure, as would be made available through the proposed Global Digital Platform to be developed by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat;
 3. *Invites* Member States, partners and stakeholders to make voluntary contributions to the Global Digital Platform resources pool for the expansion of access to technical assistance and capacity building on integrated planning and infrastructure development for LDCs and for intermediate cities in particular, and for the regionalisation of the Global Technical Digital Platform, its tools and operational mechanism;
 4. *Further requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to invite multilateral and bilateral financing institutions and other financing actors to provide, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, further information and guidance through the Platform on the provision of sustainable financing, in demonstration of the commitment espoused in A/Res/71/256 of 23 December 2016 on the New Urban Agenda as well as the global commitment to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 11;
 5. *Further requests* the Executive Director UN-Habitat, building from the lessons and gains of the global platform and its regionalization efforts, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to countries and cities and other stakeholders in developing and implementing participatory and sustainable integrated urban planning and infrastructure development initiatives, and establishing localized centres of excellence, Urban Labs or development agencies to support participatory and sustainable integrated urban planning and infrastructure development through best practice applications and tools and by building local capacity and knowledge within government structures;
 6. *Encourages* Member States to report on their urbanization needs, national urban planning system reforms and capacities, and on their progress in implementing participatory and sustainable urban planning and infrastructure development initiatives, and to share best practices and lessons learned with other countries, cities and stakeholders, through the Platform;
 7. *Calls on* all stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations entities, international, regional and national finance institutions, local authorities and their associations, civil society organizations, private sector entities and relevant professional associations, to work together in a coordinated manner

to promote and implement sustainable urban planning and infrastructure development and to contribute to the effectiveness of the Global Technical Digital Platform; and

8. *Calls on* the Executive Director UN-Habitat to provide regular reports on all resources and strategies available to Member States via this mechanism, and to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to be deployed voluntarily to track progress in the adoption of integrated urban and infrastructure planning and implementation towards sustainable urbanisation.