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**Briefing by the Acting Executive Director of UN-Habitat,
Mr. Michal Mlynár, to Member States**
on the 2024 first session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Nairobi, 26 April 2024

Some updates on the preparations of the first 2024 Executive Board session

- Financial situation
- Draft work programme and budget
- Progress on 10 resolutions is underway, more to be shared during EB session in May

1 – International guidelines on people-centered smart cities	6 - Localization of the SDGs
2 - Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030	7 - Adequate Housing for All
3 - World Cleanup day	8 - Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure
4 - Biodiverse and Resilient Cities - Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban-territorial planning	9 - Creation of a Human Settlements Resilience Framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crises response and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction
5 - Enhancing the Interlinkage between Urbanization and Climate Change Resilience championed	10 - Equitable Financing and Effective Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolutions Adopted by UNHA

Summit of the Future

- 22-23 September 2024 in New York
- **The challenge:** The world is not on track to meet the goals we have already set for ourselves. Not effectively rising to new challenges or opportunities.
 - Speed and complexity of developments have outpaced our systems for cooperating and coping
 - High levels of inequality
 - Risks and threats disproportionately impact most vulnerable
- Accelerate efforts to meet existing international commitments and take concrete steps to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.
- Achieved through an action-oriented outcome document called the **Pact for the Future**.
- In addition, a **Declaration on Future Generations** and the **Global Digital Compact** will be adopted.
 - UN-Habitat has previously provided inputs into the GDC



Secretary General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments



- Launched in October 2023 with 20 members (15 local, 5 national), as proposed in *Our Common Agenda*
- Its establishment is a historical achievement in the process of building a structural engagement of the local & regional government (LRG) constituency with the UN
- UN-Habitat acts as Secretariat



- Over **one year**, the Group will inform on **LRG's dimensions for consideration in preparatory processes of the Summit of the Future**
- A mechanism to engage contributions from sub-national stakeholders and **enhance coordination & collaboration between cities, regions, nations, and international processes**, to support course corrections and identify resources for SDG delivery with impact, scale & speed.

Local2030 Coalition and UN-Habitat's added value



UN System-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



UN-Habitat serves as the **Secretariat and Permanent Co-chair of the Local2030 Coalition**, which pushes the UN to advance the crucial **engagement of local and regional governments and stakeholders** in a systematic way. Inside the UN system, the Coalition strengthens **coordination between the UN entities' efforts and expands and deepens their partnerships** with local actors to advance the SDGs.



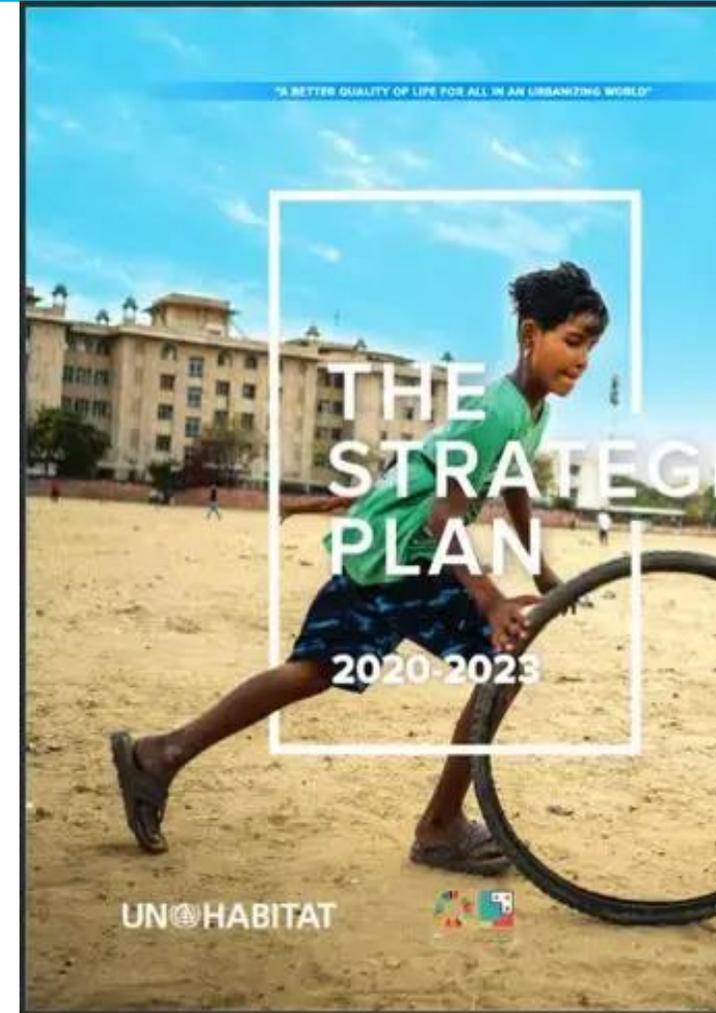
Local2030 has been effectively galvanizing **multilevel and multi-stakeholder** support, driving concerted efforts towards harnessing the **transformative potential of localization** as a catalyst to push for the achievement of the six key SDG transitions – being recognized as the UN **High Impact Initiative on Localization**.

Find out more at <https://local2030.org>



UN-Habitat new strategic plan – progress to date

- Concluded staff retreat for internal consultations on 15-16 April 2024; online survey for additional insights
- Regional retreats planned (Africa to kick-off)
- Draft background paper for MS retreat under preparation
- Retreat will focus on priorities (impact areas) and goals
- Lessons learnt and external assessments from previous Strategic Plan are incorporated



UN Climate Change Conference (COP29, 2024)

- 11-22 November 2024
 - COP30 will be hosted in Belém in 2025
- UN-Habitat proposed a **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change** to the COP29 Presidency, bringing together Ministers of Environment, Ministers of Urbanization & Housing, and Mayors.
 - Multilevel climate action
 - Identifying a how-to roadmap
 - Accelerating local climate finance
- Plans to host a Cities & Urbanization Day at COP29



Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All

- The initially proposed Preparatory Reference Group for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing for All has been replaced by **consultations with the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative (PBA) matters** on the work of the working group
- **Aug / Sept 2024: circulate documents** for inaugural meeting of the Working Group
- **Beginning of Q4, 2024 (TBC by EB): Inaugural meeting** of the Working Group, electing officers, adopting its rules of procedure and work programme.

International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities

- Member States adopted a resolution on developing international guidelines on people-centred smart cities at UNHA
- 31 international experts were selected to develop the guidelines, nominated by MS
- First in-person meeting of the experts on 16-18 April 2024 in Strasbourg, France. Planned completion by early 2025 for UNHA adoption in June 2025



12th World Urban Forum, 4-8 November 2024

- Close relationship with Egyptian Government, technical missions undertaken to Cairo in February and April
- Significant high-level push for accelerated work
- Program of main sessions has been completed
- Good progress on logistical preparations
- Strong internal WUF coordination office
- Several successful campaigns run for WUF registration and applications for partner-led events

**WORLD
URBAN
FORUM**



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Italy's G7 presidency – urban content

- G7 is an informal forum bringing together Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, UK and USA. The EU also participates in the G7, represented at the summits by the President of the European Council and President of the EC.
- Now confirmed an Urban Development track, with UN-Habitat's participation
- Ministerial meeting to take place 17-19 November

17-18-19

NOVEMBER

GENOVA

Ministerial Meetings

Ministerial meeting on Urban Sustainable
Development



Preparations for the 2024 first session of the Executive Board

- **Official communication of the list of delegations** should be shared as soon as possible with:
 - chris.mensah@un.org
 - unhabitat-sgb@un.org
- **Online registration for all delegates:** Registration for the session opened on 25 March 2024 as scheduled and will close on 2 May 2024 at 14:00, East Africa Time (EAT).
- **Onsite badging following registration:** Delegates not holding a UNON ground pass should collect their badge at UNON, Pass & ID office, on:
 - Friday, 3 May, 08:00-14:00, EAT
 - Monday, 6 May, 08:00-16:00, EAT
 - Tuesday, 7 May, 08:00-16:00, EAT

Preparations for the 2024 first session of the Executive Board

Regional consultations and additional information

- Provision for regional consultations during the session has been made, and the UNON Division of Conference Services has assigned rooms for each regional group.
- Additional information on the session, including pre-session documents, programme and information for participants, are available on the dedicated website at:



<https://unhabitat.org/meetings/first-session-of-2024-of-the-executive-board>

Other updates



- UN-Habitat's recovery work in Gaza
 - Last official mission in February 2024
- Upcoming mission to Ukraine
 - May 2024
- Planned field trip by the Executive Board to Mozambique
 - June 2024
- Recently concluded Bureaux Meeting of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat in Mexico
 - March 2024



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Thank you