



UN-HABITAT

Briefing:

Overview of the options for Operationalization of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative

Executive Board of UN-Habitat

48th meeting of the Ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters

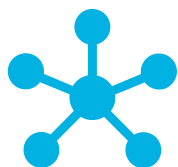
08 April 2024 – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm EAT

RECAP: Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative



Background

- SURGe – a COP27 Initiative dedicated to **connecting local, national and global levels** to coordinate and accelerate climate action and **improved collaboration** between sectoral initiatives.
- Strong partner network which reflects the **multistakeholder reality** of climate action at the city level



Opportunities for creating linkages

- COP28 kicked off the formulation of updated **Nationally Determined Contributions**
- COP28 **Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP)**, endorsed by 72 national governments, pledging to enhance cooperation with subnational governments
- CHAMP as a space for national pledges and government commitments; SURGe as a **mechanism for translating multistakeholder partnerships** at the local level
- Linkages to the **Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action** which supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement by enabling collaboration between governments and cities, regions, businesses



Four work packages

- **From local to global:** connect local action to global climate processes; strengthen multilevel climate action
- **From local to national:** support national multilevel climate action, strengthen the urban content of the NDCs through city and climate change officers/ teams
- **Local implementation:** accelerate local climate action in a holistic way across the five sectoral tracks and cross-cutting issues including through in-country implementation
- **Communication and partnership building:**, including website social media and communication campaigns



Overview of options to operationalizing SURGe

Why a decision at the first EB in 2024?

- Operationalization of SURGe will define the level of engagement or leadership of UN-Habitat for multilevel climate action at upcoming milestone events (I4C Sept 24, WUF12 and COP29 Nov 24, and IPCC SRCCC)
- Clarity on UN-Habitat's role in and commitment to the SURGe Initiative and its future will help to define the level of effort for technical backstopping and engagement, human resources, and resource mobilization prior to the upcoming milestone events
- Aid in implementing the roadmap from COP28 to COP30

Overview of options

- All options recognize SURGe as an ongoing initiative, a multilevel and multistakeholder partnership initiative, an initiative that is fully aligned with work of the Subprogramme 3 of the current UN-Habitat strategic plan
- All options acknowledge creating synergies with other ongoing initiatives

Clarification on funding

- The Programme Budget Implications for Resolution 2/5 were initially kept at an absolute minimum as the guidance from member states on the operationalization of SURGe was outstanding. However, the budget includes strong reference to the SURGe Initiative as part of the overarching operational paragraph. Thus, the PBI is the baseline and is aligned with Option 1.
- Option 1 **no additional resources** would be required
- Option 2 and 3: Beyond the recurrent post and non-post resources anchored in the PBI, the additional resources will be sought from **soft-earmarked funding**. No regular budget or foundation non-earmarked budget will need to be sought
- Option 2 and 3: necessary staff time will be allocated **through amending annual work plans**

Option 1 [minimal]:

SURGe to be sustained as a 'light' network

Basic elements of the SURGe initiative will be implemented without additional resource requirements to sustain the SURGe network of partners.

Option 2 [medium]:

SURGe as an entry point for accelerated climate action

This option supports stronger collaboration with the members of the SURGe Alliance, coordinated by a dedicated UN-Habitat-led secretariat. Collectively, partners would advance multilevel climate action.

Option 3 [strong]:

SURGe as a global coordination platform

SURGe initiative would provide internal coherence for UN-Habitat's climate work, accelerate the provision of support to Member States and cities and act as a coordination platform for the SURGe Alliance

Option 1 [minimal]:

SURGe to be sustained as a 'light' network

Basic elements of the SURGe initiative will be implemented without additional resource requirements to sustain the SURGe network of partners.

UN-Habitat's role

- Guiding organization of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change
- **Building partnerships and synergies** in support of multilevel climate action
- Providing NDC policy analysis for urban integration
- Minimum **technical advisory** to the five sectoral working groups with limited capacity-building support to member states and no institutional support to the SURGe Alliance
- Maintaining status-quo of current web presence
- Limited engagement per sectoral track

Funding

No additional resources for post and non-post requirements will be sought

Option 2 [medium]:

SURGe as an entry point for accelerated climate action

This option supports stronger collaboration with the members of the SURGe Alliance, coordinated by a dedicated UN-Habitat-led secretariat. Collectively, partners would advance multilevel climate action.

UN-Habitat's role [in addition to option 1]

- Leading the SURGe Secretariat
- Supporting the organization of the **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change**
- Leveraging **CHAMP pledges** for accelerated multilevel climate action anchored in the updated NDCs
- Coordinating support to and across partner-led sectoral working group tracks
- Seeking **synergies** with institutional initiatives and flagships Providing direct services to Member States through the technical advisory from SURGe partners and project proposal development
- Supporting national SURGe strategies, city-level piloting, and limited **capacity-building support** through Regional SURGe focal points
- Development and roll-out of **communication** and advocacy strategy

Funding

- **USD1 million per year over six years** will be sought from partner contributions, soft-earmarked, and project funding
- Expected **resource mobilization** USD50 million over 6 years through the SURGe Alliance (in support of member states)

Option 3 [strong]:

SURGe as a global coordination platform

SURGe initiative would provide internal coherence for UN-Habitat's climate work, accelerate the provision of support to Member States and cities and act as a coordination platform for the SURGe Alliance

UN-Habitat's role [in addition to option 2]

- Support multilateral processes, substance, and logistics to operationalize the **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change** at UNFCCC COPs
- Annual **SURGe report** informing negotiators of the state of multilevel climate action
- Development of **global guidelines per sectoral track** with technical support
- Coordination and implementation of annual SURGe governing meetings
- **Urban NDC implementation support** through policy and proposal development, normative projects, and dedicated capacity building provided by regional SURGe focal points.
- SURGe initiative as a mechanism to accelerate the implementation of all elements of the second session of UN-Habitat Assembly Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.5.

Funding

- **USD5 million per year over six years** will be sought from partner contributions, soft-earmarked, and project funding
- Expected **resource mobilization** USD500 million over 6 years through the SURGe Alliance in support of member states

Next steps until COP30



September 2024
**Innovate4Cities
Conference**

Highlight science and innovation – policy – action nexus for urban climate change acceleration



November 2024
WUF12 in Cairo
+
**Launch of World
Cities Report 2024**

Sharpened discussions with WUF stakeholders on engagement



November 2024
COP29 in Baku
Shape the Ministerial Meeting at COP29



2024 – 2027
IPCC Special Report on Cities and Climate Change:

SURGe experiences can be leveraged for documenting innovations and city-level good practices



2025
COP30
Revision of NDCs

SURGe partners could support Member States and urban stakeholders in strengthening urban content of the NDCs