

PLGS Annual Report 2023

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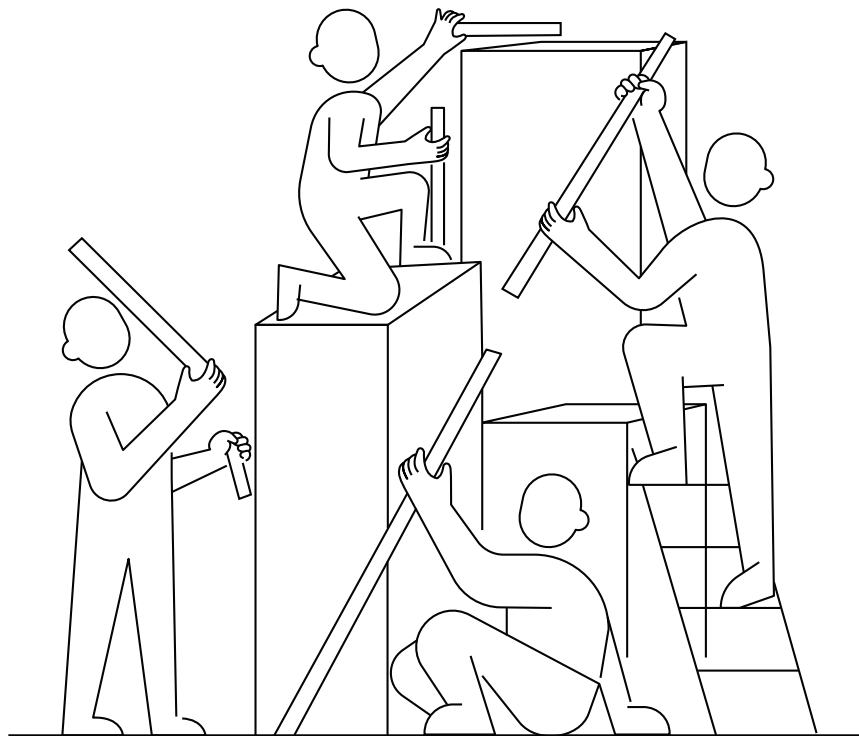
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ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Fostering Sustainable Development through Urban Policies, Legislation and Governance

URBAN PRACTICES BRANCH | GLOBAL SOLUTIONS DIVISION



UN-HABITAT

FOREWORD

In many ways, 2023 was the year of renewed commitment and drive in global efforts towards sustainable urban development.

At organizational level, 2023 marked the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA2), convened around the theme of a sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism. Delegates to UNHA2 acknowledged adequate housing as one of the most pressing problems of the twenty-first century and called for accelerated action in the remaining years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “to build the foundation for a transformation meeting the needs of today’s estimated one billion slum and informal settlement dwellers”. In this regard, the Member States adopted a historical resolution on affordable housing for all.

Member States also [adopted](#) nine other resolutions, five decisions and one ministerial declaration to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda. As the Urban Practices Branch is normative nerve centre of the organization and the home of most of its global programmes, the vast majority of resolutions adopted relate directly to the work of the Branch and it will have a significant role in driving their implementation.

This Policy, Legislation and Governance Section Annual Report 2023 presents the effort of the Section to advance UN-Habitat’s priorities as well as accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In addition to describing how PLGS shaped policies, legislative and governance processes in 2023, the report also details how the section contributed to UN-Habitat’s aim to be “a centre of excellence and innovation”.

A lot was accomplished in 2023 – yet, much more needs to be done to accelerate efforts towards implementing the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs. 2024 appears to be another engaging year for those working on the sustainable urban development agenda. The upcoming 12th session of the World Urban Forum will be a particularly important opportunity to take stock of the progress made and to identify opportunities going forward. WUF12 will focus on localizing the SDGs and on the local actions and initiatives required to meet current global challenges.

I hope you will not only read and share this report widely, but also be inspired to join forces with the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, to advance its many exciting initiatives.



Shipra Narang Suri

Chief, Urban Practices Branch

I am pleased to share with you our Annual Report 2023, which provides information on pivotal milestones, progress and achievements and, equally, lessons to carry forward from the role that the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) played in implementing the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan and progressing on the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

In 2023, PLGS built on the momentum generated in 2022 and engaged with more than 44 activities in over 37 countries globally. These activities, which included projects, knowledge and tools development and deployment, capacity development and advocacy, continued to shape urban policies, legislation and governance processes in Member States. Our work in 2023 also enabled significant strides to be made in supporting governments and other stakeholders to strengthen urban-rural linkages and applying sustainable metropolitan approaches in the governance of ever-expanding cities and communities.

The sustained piloting and application of UN-Habitat tools and knowledge products at country level led to increased demand and interest in our technical support. More countries made formal requests for support in developing urban policies. Some of the impacts from the ongoing demonstration projects have shown what can be achieved when these urban policies are implemented. It is also encouraging to report that several countries have made progress in legislative and governance reform processes, with some of their governments enacting laws with the influence of our technical support. In addition, the rising number of downloads as well as the correspondence from organizations using our tools and knowledge products demonstrates their continuing relevance in the global efforts towards sustainable urban development.

Our capacity development tools and initiatives witnessed more in-person and virtual interactions in 2023. Noteworthy is the renewed interest by partners, including academia, to include several of the tools and knowledge products into their curricula. The established thematic centres within these academic institutions, and the forthcoming centres are becoming the go-to hubs for policy research and debate, capacity development and advocacy. Our global and country-level advocacy efforts in 2023 raised more awareness about the urgent need to make concerted efforts towards a sustainable urban future. These events were also opportunities to strengthen partnerships and develop new ones to jointly implement sustainable urban initiatives. All these achievements were made possible with the support of PLGS donors and development partners, and collaboration with sections, branches, divisions, regional and country offices within UN-Habitat, for whom we are grateful.

It is also important to recognize the many lessons learned in 2023. These lessons will spur us to advance better in 2024 and achieve more together.



Remy Sietchiping

Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance



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ACRONYMS

AACID	Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease-2019
CoP	Community of Practices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSNUP	Global State of National Urban Policy
HLPF	High-level political forum
IALS	Institute for Advanced Legal Studies
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
IFURL	International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages
IUD	Integrated urban development
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
MOLIT	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (South Korea)
MoRUD	Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (Iran)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NUSP	Niger State Urban Support Programme
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUP	National urban policy
NUPP	National urban policy programme
OECD	Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation
OPAMSS	Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador
PLGS	Policy, Legislation and Governance Section
ROAF	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa
ROAP	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
ROAS	Regional Office for Arab States
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UPB	Urban Practices Branch
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme



UNSCN	United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
URA	Urban-Rural Assembly
URL	Urban-rural linkages
VMR	Voluntary metropolitan reviews
WMD	World Metropolitan Day
WUF	World Urban Forum



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PLGS 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

Guided by the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025¹, UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) reached several milestones, made progress and realized results in 2023 along the various delivery mechanisms.

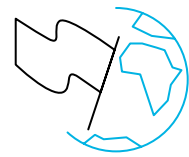
This report presents the progress of PLGS within the UN-Habitat strategic context and contains the results from internal and external collaborations.

It presents achievements under the PLGS focus areas and reviews the financial portfolio. The report also features the planned outcomes PLGS has for 2024.

In 2023, UN-Habitat through the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section delivered over **44 activities in more than 37 countries**, with the activities including country projects, tools and knowledge development, capacity development initiatives, and advocacy efforts.



44 ACTIVITIES



37+ COUNTRIES

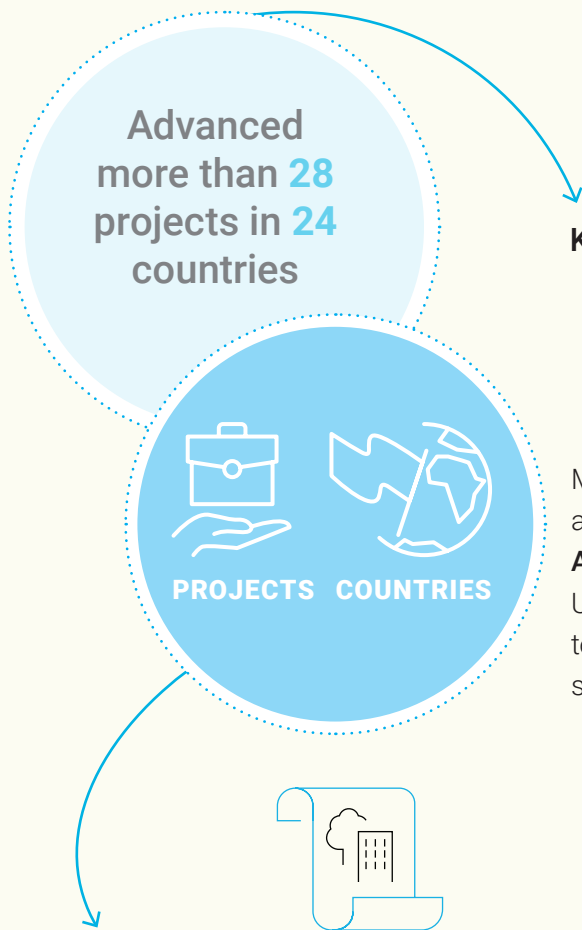


¹ UN-Habitat, Strategic Plan 2020-2025, available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-09/strategic_plan_2020-2023.pdf.

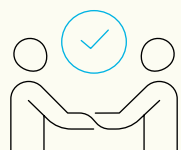


THE NUMBERS

Growing uptake of PLGS tools in country level-projects



Key outcomes from these projects:



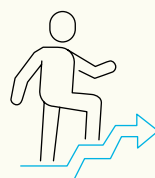
More countries, including **Iraq** and **Lesotho**, and **Nigeria's Abia State**, have requested UN-Habitat (PLGS) support to develop national and subnational urban policies.



Ongoing NUP demonstration projects set to benefit over **50,000** households in **Niger State, Nigeria**, with improved access to water and sanitation.

Scaling up and replication of initiatives:

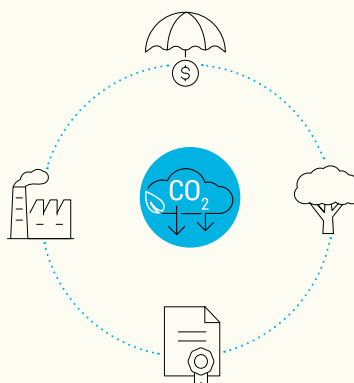
- > **The Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP)** transitioned to phase 2, implemented in five countries.
- > Building on the success of urban legislation support provided in Tajikistan, a similar project was initiated in Kyrgyzstan.



Several countries, including **Comoros, DRC, Lesotho**, and **Oman**, are developing or revising urban planning laws. The **African Union** is also developing a model law on housing with UN-Habitat support.



As a result of the influence of UN-Habitat's project to support climate legislation, Zimbabwe enacted the **Carbon Credits Act 2023**



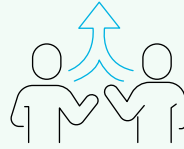
Strengthening partnerships

Collaborated with **10** more partners in 2023
(**12** per cent increase)

Key examples:



Agreed with **three** Commonwealth associations to collaborate on enhancing the **capacity of national and local governments** to promote effective, climate smart and rights-based law.



Songyang County, **China**, and Nyamira County, **Kenya**, established friendly relations on areas of common interest such as **agriculture, rural tourism, and nature**.



Expanding knowledge

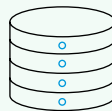
Developed and released **15+** new tools, guides and knowledge products in 2023



Over **1,600** downloads in total.



The new and existing tools have been deployed in the various country projects.



Partners such as the Commonwealth Association of Architects **used the NUP database** to source NUP information for various countries, including Uganda.



UrbanLex database updated with over **230 laws** from 9 countries. Brings total to **2,500+** legal instruments.



Metropolitan areas including **Valle de Abura, Guadalajara** and **San Salvador** continue monitoring their progress on SDGs through the voluntary metropolitan review series released in 2023.

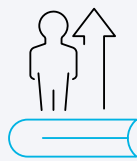


Up-taking and Scaling up Capacity

Key outcomes:



Strengthened capacity for up to **1,400** learners globally who accessed the new online courses on **digital governance** and on **climate law**



Growing interest and demand for UN-Habitat capacity development tools and initiatives.

1,400 learners globally

Over **150** participants on urban law days

APPLICATION OF UN-HABITAT TOOLS



Academic institutions from **Kenya, Italy** and **Spain** integrated UN-Habitat guidelines and tools as part of their urban professional education. Tools used: 1) Guiding Principles on Urban-Rural Linkages and 2) MetroHUB toolkit.



MetroHUB

As a result of continued metropolitan capacity development, led to requests to establish the MetroHUB centre at Politecnico di Milano, Italy.



Capacity development and partnership led to launch of the Center for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa, at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



Strengthened capacity of over **150 participants** on urban law and related themes. Two (2) Urban Law Days were held in 2023.



Enhanced collaboration and increased external participation at the PLGS **Community of Practice** sessions.



Advancing Advocacy efforts

More awareness on sustainable urban development created from the **30+** events.



Themes covered

- urban policy
- legislation and governance
- metropolitan management
- urban-rural linkages

Key events:

PLGS at UN-Habitat Assembly



5 side events (including a Ministerial Session)

28 bilateral and **multilateral** consultations with **17 countries** and over **10 organizations**

Over **300 participants** in total engaged.



PLGS at Urban October

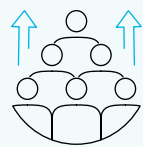


12 engaging thematic events (organized and/or participated)

Over 350 in-person and virtual participants engaged



World Metropolitan Day



Held in Marmara, Türkiye

Over 250 diverse participants.



3rd International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages



Held in Songyang, China

180+ participants from **17** countries

18 international organizations.





Introduction

Welcome to the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) Annual Report 2023. This report narrates the milestones reached, progress made and results achieved by PLGS and its partners in fostering sustainable urban development.

As the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025² transitioned into the second half of implementation, PLGS continued contributing to this by advancing its normative and operational initiatives and collaborating with other UN-Habitat sections, branches, regional and country offices, and with external partners. These collaborations enabled PLGS to expand its portfolio of innovative and relevant normative tools, knowledge products, technical cooperation projects, policy dialogues and advisory services to continue benefiting numerous national and subnational governments and their communities towards sustainable urbanization .

Since the annual reporting began in 2020, the goal remains to demonstrate a clear alignment and connection with the overall mandate of the UN-Habitat to promote sustainable urban development. This fourth annual report contains information on the progress made by PLGS , the results achieved in 2023, and a look at the planned work for 2024.

The report also presents how the section contributed to global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, as well as its contribution to UN-Habitat's strategic results framework in 2023. The report further has information on new and continuing collaboration with our donors, development partners and beneficiary countries along the themes of policy, legislation and governance, metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages.

The annual reporting by PLGS proved to be valuable in several ways. For instance, each report was a consolidation of the section's annual results and this information was more accessible and readily available to all internal and external partners. In addition, the reports presented advances in several areas of UN-Habitat's work, allowing global readers better access to the organization's progress and achievements, especially on the themes outlined above.

This report remains beneficial to UN-Habitat's donors and development partners, beneficiary governments at all levels, and to all UN-Habitat personnel.

² UN-Habitat, Strategic Plan 2020-2025, available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-09/strategic_plan_2020-2023.pdf.





Leveraging on Collaboration

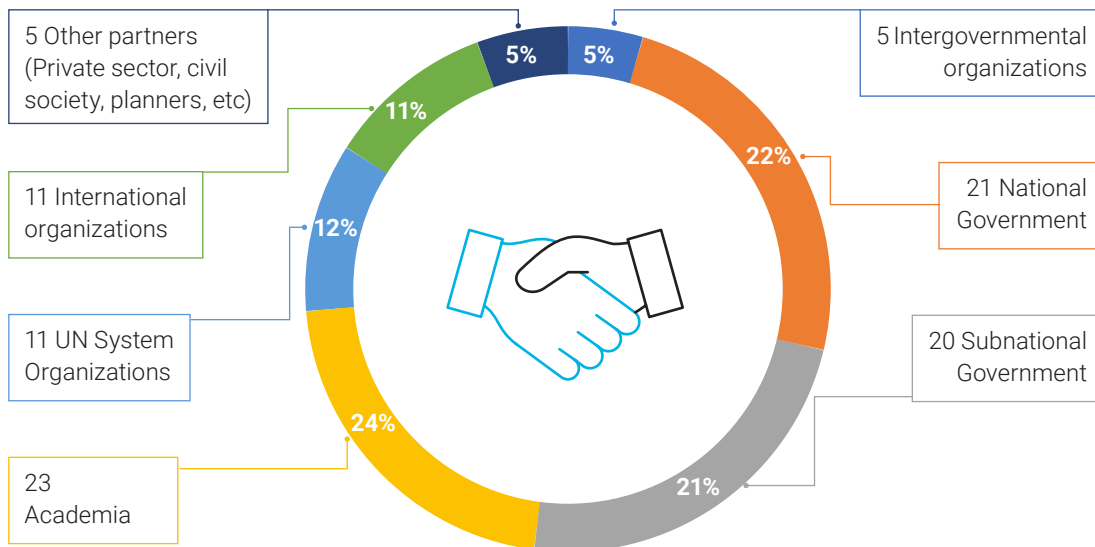
Collaboration fosters synergistic innovation, efficiency, cross-learning and mutual growth. It is through collaboration in 2023 that UN-Habitat (PLGS) transcended traditional operational boundaries, thereby benefiting more governments, institutions and communities.

Through PLGS, UN-Habitat collaborated with an additional **10 partners**, an increase of almost **12%** in 2023 compared with 2022. The number of partners increased in most categories, including academia

(4), subnational governments (1), international organizations (2), intergovernmental organizations (1) and United Nations agencies (2).

Internally, PLGS signed several in-house agreements, both in-coming and outgoing, while externally, several memoranda and agreements were signed and more are on course to be signed with national and subnational governments, international organizations and academia, among other partner institutions.

PLGS Diversified Development Partners



a. Internal collaborations

A key part of realizing the outcomes of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is “enhancing integrated delivery through more effective collaboration between its liaison offices, regional offices, country offices and the headquarters”. PLGS worked with regional and country offices, and other organizational units within UN-Habitat.

To achieve the objectives of these collaborations, PLGS transferred resources (human and financial) to other organizational units to implement some components within nine projects over the year (see Table 1). Subsequently, PLGS received resources from other organizational units (see Table 2) and supported the implementation of 12 projects in 2023.

Therefore, 2023 saw a **33%** increase in incoming agreements and **100%** increase in those outgoing; this was due significantly to the launch of **Phase II of the Korea-funded programme on national urban policies and smart city strategies in 5 countries**.

Outgoing Agreements (PLGS to other Units)	
Project	Organizational Unit
Strengthening the legal and institutional framework governing urban planning in the Sultanate of Oman Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies - Egypt	Regional Office for Arab States
Strengthening the legal and institutional framework governing urban planning in the Sultanate of Oman	Planning, Finance and Economy Section
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies - Mozambique Phase II of the project on strengthening the capacities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction	Regional Office for Africa
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies- Cambodia	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies - Paraguay	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies - Azerbaijan	Europe

Table 1. Outgoing In-House Agreements



Incoming in-house agreements from other units to PLGS	
Project	Organizational Unit
OECD-UN-Habitat Cities Connect Initiative Urban-Rural Linkages support	External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division
Scaling Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Service Systems (CWIS)	Urban Basic Services Section
Urban development and sanitation programme in Guinea (SANITA) – Sustainable Cities – NUP and Legislation Post-Kenneth Recovery and Resilience Project in Comoros	Regional Office for Africa
Integrated Spatial Plan for Environmental and Socioeconomic Resilience, Khorog, Tajikistan Legislative support to the Resilience Informed Urban Planning Support to the Naryn Urban Resilience Programme (NURP), Kyrgyzstan	Planning, Finance and Economy Section
Urban Rural Land Linkages	Land, Housing and Shelter Section
BMI Project on Urban Policies	Urban Practices Branch
Legislative and governance support to the Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development (ISCB) project in Vietnam.	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Table 2. Incoming In-House Agreements



b. External collaborations

In 2023, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, advanced its partnerships externally with United Nations agencies, international organizations, governments (national and subnational) and academia, among others. These collaborations provided additional avenues to support global efforts towards sustainable urban development.

Key results:



1 UN-Habitat and three Commonwealth Associations (Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Commonwealth Association of Architects and the Commonwealth Association of Planners):

One highlight of the 2023 collaborations was between **UN-Habitat and three Commonwealth Associations**. The letter of intent provides for **joint research, capacity development and advocacy efforts** towards addressing urban vulnerabilities and positively impacting resource-poor communities in

least developing, low-and middle-income countries. The new partnership will help **enhance the capacity** of national and local governments **in promoting effective, climate smart and rights-based law**, and will contribute to strengthening the SDGs in cities.



Representatives of UN-Habitat and the three Commonwealth associations following the signing of the agreement in June 2023 during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly © UN-Habitat

2

Fostering Collaboration between Policy, Legislation and Governance Section partners

PLGS also facilitated collaboration between partner sub-national governments. During the **3rd International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages** in China, UN-Habitat (PLGS) facilitated the signing of a letter of intent between Songyang County, China, and Nyamira County, Kenya. This collaboration involves friendly relations on areas of common interest such

as agriculture, rural tourism and nature. In addition, the planned collaboration will facilitate regular discussions on common issues and promote the development and prosperity of the two places. UN-Habitat will provide regular technical support to the two counties as they consolidate the agreement of cooperation.



Songyang County and Nyamira County signing the Letter of Intent, 29th October 2023 © UN-Habitat

3

Partnership with the Institute of Governance, Humanities, and Social Sciences of Pan-African University (PAUGHSS), Cameroon



**Institute for Governance
Humanities and Social
Sciences**

In March 2023, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, held consultations with the institute to explore possible partnership avenues. This partnership has so far been progressive as a letter of intent has been signed by both parties, and there have been consultations to discuss plans of activities. Further engagements are expected to transition into a memorandum of understanding and activities to implement the agreement.





Aligning with the UN-Habitat Strategic Context

a. UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025

At the core of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is the vision to achieve “a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world”. The plan harnesses the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point in sustainable urban development and human settlements to accelerate progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. PLGS is one of the sections of UN-Habitat responsible for

programmatic delivery of the strategic plan and plays a catalytic role in advancing two of the four Drivers of Change of the Strategic Plan; these are 1. Policy and Legislation and 2. Governance.

In 2023, PLGS collaborated with at least ten organizational units of UN-Habitat both at headquarters and at the regional and country level to contribute to all the outcome areas of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025.



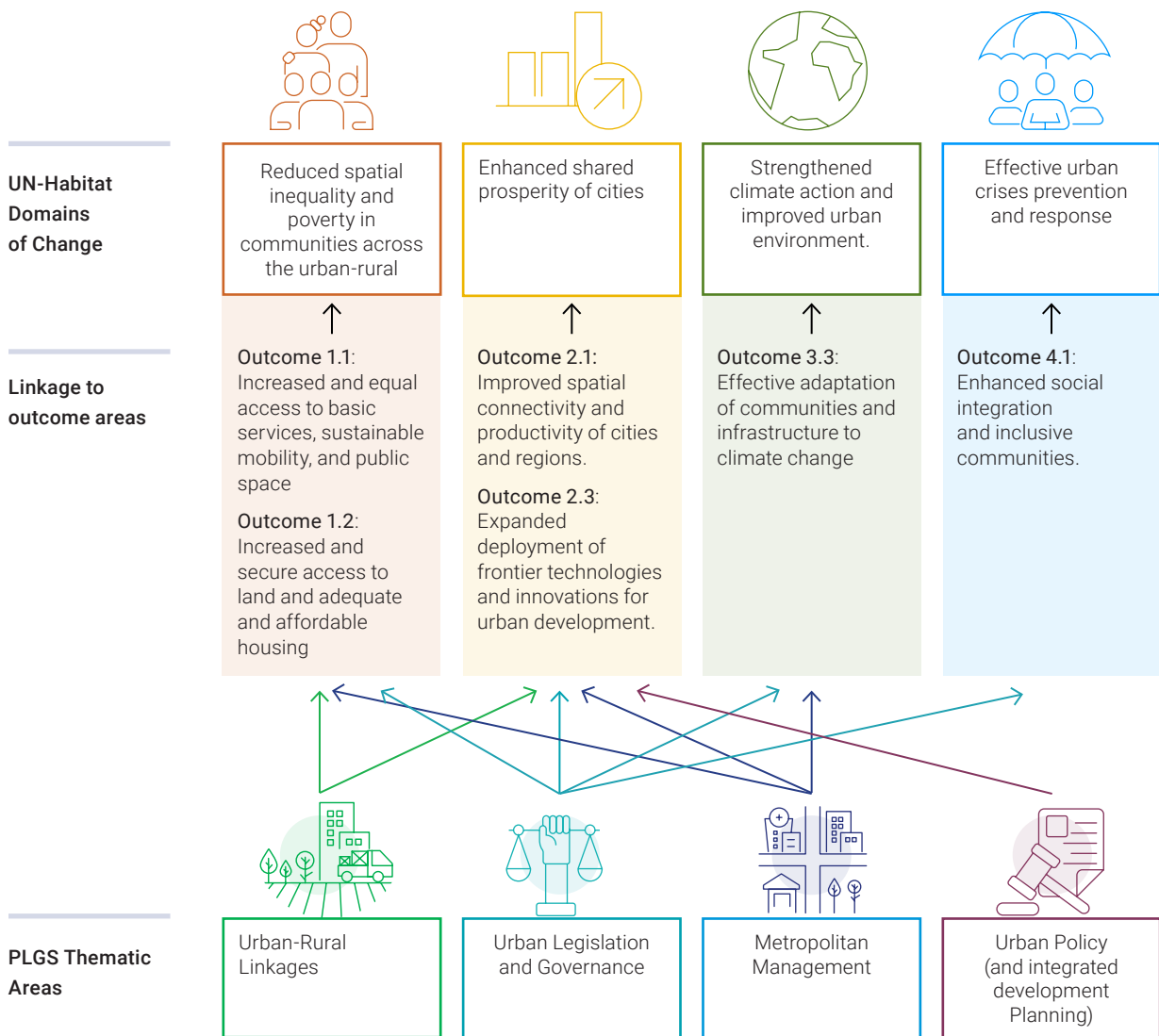


Figure 1. PLGS contributions to the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025

b. UN-Habitat as a ‘centre of excellence’

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 repositions the agency as a centre of excellence and innovation on sustainable urban development. “It is assumed that for the organization to be a viable and credible centre of excellence, there must be uptake and replication of both its normative and its operational or demonstration work around the world, including within the United Nations system”.³

The results framework of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 therefore contains indicators to measure the “transition process of UN-Habitat becoming a centre of excellence, a thought leader and the ‘go-to’ organization for issues pertaining to its work”.⁴ As with all other organizational units, PLGS contributed to these indicator targets in 2023 through its normative and operational dimensions.

³ Results Framework for the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Accessible here: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/09/english-9-rev1.pdf>.

⁴ Ibid.



UN-Habitat as a Center of Excellence: Indicators

1. UPTAKE OF UN-HABITAT NORMATIVE WORK

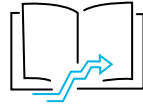


INDICATORS



PLGS CONTRIBUTION

Number of countries and cities implementing key UN-Habitat guidelines and tools.



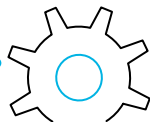
PLGS guides, tools and expertise were used to implement urban policy projects in **12 countries**

Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria, Paraguay and Senegal



UN-Habitat, through PLGS, applied tools such as the **'Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit'** to support the process of improving legal and governance frameworks in **five** countries

Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Kyrgystan, Oman, Tajikistan, Vietnam and the African Union.



MetroHUB
TOOLKIT

The **MetroHUB set of toolkits** was also applied to enhance metropolitan management in **five** countries

El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico and Spain.

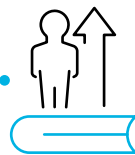


INDICATORS



PLGS CONTRIBUTION

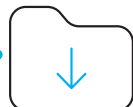
Number of downloads and citations of publications and reports.



15+

* 2023

Normative tools and knowledge products*



1600
downloads*



Number of academic bodies that integrated UN-Habitat guidelines, tools and the New Urban Agenda into their urban professional education.



~3

academic institutions from Kenya, Italy and Spain integrated UN-Habitat guidelines and tools as part of their urban professional education

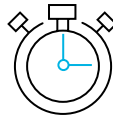
Tools used were:

- 1) Guiding Principles on Urban-Rural Linkages and 2) MetroHUB toolkit.

2. SCALE-UP OF UN-HABITAT OPERATIONAL OR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Percentage of UN-Habitat projects with a funded continuing phase, in which a demonstration, pilot and innovative operational project was scaled up or replicated

The Korea-funded national urban policy programme (KNUPP)



> SECOND PHASE

Five countries



> FIRST PHASE

Three countries



INDICATORS

Number of countries, cities and partner organizations that had replicated a UN-Habitat demonstration, pilot and innovative operational project



PLGS CONTRIBUTION

> 2020 and 2021

successful implementation of COVID-19 demonstration projects (Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Niger State-Nigeria)

> 2022

Scaling up of additional projects in Niger state

> 2023

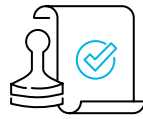
Improving access to water and sanitation for communities in Niger State

> 2020 and 2021

Supported Kyrgyzstan in identifying how resilient its legislation is to the effects of climate change, as a replication based on the success and lessons of a similar project implemented in Tajikistan from 2021 to 2022.



Number of countries, cities and partner organizations that replicated the best practices or successful solutions promoted by UN-Habitat



> **Between 2022 and 2023**

UN-Habitat (PLGS) supported Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe to review and enhance their climate law; influenced by this project, Zimbabwe passed the Carbon Credits Act 2023.

3. CATALYTIC ROLE AND CHANGE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISION

Percentage of projects that were implemented jointly with other United Nations entities



PLGS engaged with five United Nations agencies in co-developing normative knowledge products as well as in events. The agencies were UNICEF, FAO, UNCBD, UNEP and UNCCD.

Percentage of projects that were implemented with other non-United Nations partners



All PLGS projects were implemented with **non-United Nations partners in 2023**. These organizations played key roles such as direct linkage with beneficiaries, expertise, in-kind contributions and implementing partners.

Figure 2. PLGS contributions to “UN-Habitat as a Center of Excellence” indicators



c. Contributing to the UN-Habitat Flagship Programmes

UN-Habitat's five flagship programmes catalyse implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 by facilitating cross-fertilization of ideas, experiences, and lessons to achieve coherence and synergy between the various UN-Habitat initiatives.

2023 saw more projects aligning and contributing to the flagship programmes.

PEOPLE-CENTRED SMART CITIES



- > The Republic of Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP), whose second phase (five countries) kicked off in November 2022, places people-centred smart city approaches at the centre of its implementation.
- > In September 2023, K-NUPP participated in the World Smart Cities Expo in Korea, organizing various bilateral and informal consultations to advance this topic.

URBAN REGENERATION: INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES, THRIVING CITIES



- > PLGS is finalizing the draft guide on Socially Inclusive Urban Policies to support implementation of Phase 2 of K-NUPP in Phase 2 in the participating countries.
- > As part of a project in Vietnam, PLGS delivered the draft case studies and comparative analysis report which contains the benchmarking of urban laws from Chile, Kenya, Panama, Peru, and the United Kingdom. The report supports development of the urban development and management law.

RISE-UP: RESILIENT SETTLEMENTS FOR THE URBAN POOR



- > PLGS launched a course on [Advancing Climate Action through Urban Law](#) in December 2023. The e-learning course is a valuable resource for governments at national and subnational levels as well as other urban actors seeking to adapt their urban planning and environmental regulations and policies to manage climate change effectively. This in turn can lead to the enhanced climate resilience of communities, including the urban poor.
 - > In the first month of its launch, the course was accessed by 167 learners globally, with 17 learners successfully completing the course.



INCLUSIVE CITIES: ENHANCING THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF URBAN MIGRATION



- > A guide on Mainstreaming [Migration and Displacement into Urban Policy](#) was released in 2023 (288 downloads so far). Besides outlining the basic policy processes involved in developing or revising urban policies that adequately address the realities of migration and displacement, it also includes a 10-step pathway of recommendations and actions to achieve a more holistic, integrated, and effective policy response.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CITIES



- > PLGS is developing an SDG legal checklist in collaboration with the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA), Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) and the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) as well as the network of academic partners. The legal checklist will provide a list of key questions that lawmakers, implementing officials, or urban practitioners are to consider to ensure their laws support sustainable urban development. The aim is for the diagnostic tool to be user-friendly and accessible to facilitate the achievement of SDGs in cities and to create city awareness on how key legislative frameworks drive sustainability. The main entry points are adequate housing for all, environmental protection and digital governance.



d. Advancing on Adequate Housing, Cities & Climate and Localizing the SDGs

In continuing efforts to fast-track implementation of the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025, UN-Habitat identified [three action areas](#). In 2023, through projects, knowledge development, capacity development and advocacy, PLGS contributed to these action areas.

ADEQUATE HOUSING



Several PLGS projects promoted adequate housing. For example:

- > PLGS supported and continues to support Lesotho in drafting the New Housing Bill in collaboration with the Sir William Dale Legislative Drafting Clinic, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, United Kingdom.
- > The NUP of Comoros (supported by PLGS) is entitled the National Urban Planning and Housing Policy (PNUH), which demonstrates a keen focus on housing.
- > PLGS is also supporting the African Union in the development of the new model law on housing, human settlements and urban development.

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE



- > In Comoros, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, supported the drafting of a new town planning code. This draft planning code is designed to better reflect realities in Comoros while considering climate change and good practices in urban planning.
- > In DRC, PLGS is supporting the development of a new urban planning code, guided by the best practices from the [climate law toolkit](#).
- > In Kyrgyzstan, PLGS is collaborating with PFES and the local partner – Aga Khan Development Network to identify how resilient Kyrgyz legislation is to the effects of climate change.
- > During the 22nd session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, PLGS provided technical contributions to support Agenda Item 5: Institutional mechanisms for providing economic, financial and structural support to address climate change, reduce the use of fossil fuels and protect biodiversity



LOCALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- > PLGS supported the Metropolitan Areas of San Salvador (El Salvador), Guadalajara (Mexico) and Valle de Aburrá (Colombia) to review their progress in localizing SDGs through the Metropolitan Review [Series 1](#) (on SDG 11.7- public spaces) and [Series 2](#) (SDG 11.2- mobility).
- > During the 22nd session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, PLGS provided technical contributions to support Agenda Item 2: Peer exchange with voluntary national review countries and voluntary local review cities on experiences and promising practices in implementing Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17.

Table 3. PLGS contributions to UN-Habitat Priority Areas 2022-2023



IV.

Sustaining the PLGS Focus Areas: A Multidimensional Approach

1. Uptake of Tools at Country Level

Phase II of Korea-Funded National Urban Policy Programme | Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, and Paraguay

In continuing its robust partnership with the Government of the Republic of Korea, UN-Habitat (PLGS) began the implementation of Phase II of the programme “People-centred Smart Cities through National Urban Policy” in five additional countries:

Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, and Paraguay in November 2022. The three countries that participated in Phase I are also taking part in Phase II in various capacities.

Global level achievements:

At global level, the programme participated in the second session of UN Habitat Assembly by hosting side events: “Promoting people-centred, smart cities for inclusive and sustainable futures leveraging digital cooperation”, “Multilateral governance through Korea’s national urban policy programme in eight countries”, and the “African Ministerial

Session on National Urban Policy”. In these sessions, participants shared inspiring country experiences in developing their national urban policies, which realized a synergistic exchange of knowledge and further enhanced awareness on national urban policy and its potential benefits.

At country level, several milestones were accomplished:



> **Azerbaijan** held its second national urban forum and hosted the World Habitat Day 2023. Aghdam city was selected to participate in the [K-City Network](#), a platform hosted by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) in the Republic of Korea to enhance the sustainability of cities through smart approaches.





> **Cambodia** translated the existing land management and land-use policy from Khmer into English, and consulted with authorities of Preah Sihanouk Province on the modalities of the implementation plan.



> In **Egypt**, the NUP, which was supported by UN-Habitat, was approved by the Supreme Council. In addition, Badr city was selected to participate in the **K-City Network**. The Government approved additional funding to support two outcomes as part of implementing the NUP under this second phase of the programme.



> In **Mozambique**, the NUP development was fast-tracked owing to significant government mobilization and support, as well as participation by other partners. The final draft NUP was presented to the leading and supporting government entities for their validation. On the partnership front, the project secured partnership with the World Bank, GIZ and Catalanian regional government (Spain) support through funds and human resources.



> In **Paraguay**, a proposal for cooperation with learning institutions to support project implementation was issued. Furthermore, UN-Habitat held a technical mission in Asuncion to brief the Government on the programme and mobilize more government commitment and buy-in.



As a result of the Korea-funded national urban policy programme's achievements, Iraq expressed interest in joining the programme. Consultations are currently ongoing between Iraq and the Republic of Korea Ministry of Economy and Finance.

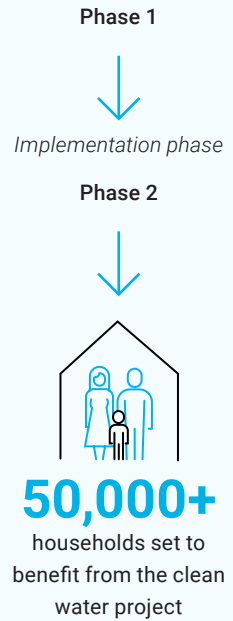
The proposal seeks to support "development of a national urban policy towards a sustainable and equitable Iraq".



In a key milestone under Phase 1 of the programme, Niger State (Nigeria) transitioned its state urban policy to the implementation phase. Specifically, in a bid to build on the many impacts of previously implemented demonstration projects in Niger State, the Niger State Government launched Phase 2 of the pilot implementation of the State urban policy through innovative demonstration projects. At least 50,000 households will benefit from enhanced access to clean water and improved healthcare through these demonstration projects.

The projects to be implemented are:

1. Installation of a solar-powered borehole, a 7.5 KVA solar inverter, and landscaping at Kuta General Hospital, Shiroro Local Government Area, Niger State - Nigeria.
2. Rehabilitation of three bi-water schemes at Beji Town, Tungan Mallam, and Kataaregi Town, Niger State - Nigeria.



Installation of borehole casing for Tungan Mallam Water Scheme, Niger State, Nigeria © UN-Habitat



Below are some remarks from representatives of the beneficiary State Government:



Alhaji Ahmed Matane
*Secretary to the Niger State
Government*



The smart-meter water borehole (installed in 2020) would supply constant water at the COVID-19 isolation centre, ease access to water supply as all patients and frontline health workers would have access to 24-hour water supply.



Engineer Lucky Barau
*Permanent Secretary, Niger
State Ministry of Environment
and Forestry*



Urban reforestation is an investment in the well-being and future of our community. This initiative, we not only create a healthier, more resilient, but also a vibrant livable environment for generations to come.

[Remarking on the reforestation demonstration project implemented by UN-Habitat and Niger State Government in 2022]



Geotechnical engineers carrying out geological survey at Kuta General Hospital, Shiroro LGA, Niger State Nigeria © UN-Habitat



In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UN-Habitat (PLGS) held a technical consultation with government departments (including the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development) to prepare for the approval of the national urban policy. As part of the process towards approval, the draft policy is now being evaluated in the National High Council of Architecture and Urban Development.



Technical consultations between UN-Habitat representatives and representatives of Iran Government © UN-Habitat



Cameroon

UN-Habitat’s presence through PLGS in Cameroon continued in the three projects.



> **National urban policy:** The Cameroon NUP is currently at the tail-end of the formulation phase. Following the intensive participatory workshop held in 2022, as well as with inputs from the stakeholders and the Premier Ministry, the NUP was revised and finalized. Plans are underway to hold a final validation workshop at the level of the Prime Minister Office, the Head of Government which will pave the way for adoption of the policy.



> **Yaounde-Nsimalen Highway Corridor Development Study, Yaoundé.** With the main project reaching conclusion in 2022, two normative tools were produced to guide future similar initiatives for replication. The first was a guide on concerted planning of a corridor area. This guide consolidated good practices and tools that were used during the corridor development study process. Moreover, a toolbox was developed which outlined 13 steps towards a more concerted planning process.

The second initiative was the development of the **Self Sustainable Development Simulator**. This is a digital solution developed for programming basic infrastructure and services in a territorial planning process. It helps to calculate the basic elements needed for a city to attain sustainable development. The tool is mostly used in the diagnostic phase of a project.





> **Dibamba River Corridor Development Study, Douala:** Following the successful five-day technical mission organized by UN-Habitat, Arcadis and the Government in 2022, in 2023, UN-Habitat engaged in regular steering committee consultations to review progress made and results achieved. Noteworthy, for example, is that as part of implementing the project, the land tenure and cadastral surveys conducted will be validated in a multi-stakeholder session. Plans were also made to establish a local management committee to oversee project implementation. This integrated body will facilitate an increased participatory process among all the stakeholders in project implementation.

Dibamba River Corridor Development Study Key milestones (2019-2023)



14,129

Population in the study area (2019)

Projected population by 2035



131,028



4

Number of Municipalities impacted



30+

Consultation/awareness meetings with Ministries, Municipalities, Administrations, Local authorities, and Villages.



30+

Members of the Review and Oversight Committee, including national institutions, local governments and professional bodies approved the project.



159

A set of **regulations** defined along the corridor area.



2x

A projection estimates that after project implementation, future land costs (2035) in the study area will double.



3,500

Creation of employment, after project implementation.



In continuing with the collaboration between UN-Habitat and Cameroon, a technical exploratory mission was carried out in April 2023 and attended by various ministries and departments. Some of the key emerging opportunities included the establishment

of an urban observatory in Yaoundé, Cameroon as well as a metropolitan urban planning agency. UN-Habitat also held consultations with mayors, including the Mayor of Sangmelima, Cameroon, to identify opportunities of support.



UN-Habitat and Cameroon officials at national and subnational level taking part in a technical excursion in Sangmelima Cameroon © UN-Habitat



Central America region

In 2023, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, worked in several countries in the Central America region to advance metropolitan management through improved policies, strategies and frameworks. Some key achievements were:

June 2023

> PLGS provided technical contributions to the new law regulating metropolitan management at the state of Yucatan, **Mexico**.

Aug 2023

> UN-Habitat, through PLGS, contributed to the formulation and application of the special guide on national urban policies for Central America. This has resulted in mainstreaming metropolitan management into national and territorial urban policies in Central America and Dominican Republic, showcasing especially the case of **Honduras**.



- Aug 2023** > PLGS engaged in a technical advisory session on metropolitan planning with the municipality of Soyapango, **El Salvador**, for the project “Contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the post-pandemic recovery in Central America and the Dominican Republic”.
- Sept 2023** > As part of capacity development efforts on metropolitan management, PLGS delivered a lecture entitled “The Global Metropolitan Phenomena and its Significance for Sustainable Development” for the Virtual Capacity Building on SDGs and other Global Agendas organised by UN-Habitat Mexico Office for the State of Yucatan, **Mexico**.
- > PLGS reviewed and provided technical contributions to the first draft national urban policy of **Honduras**



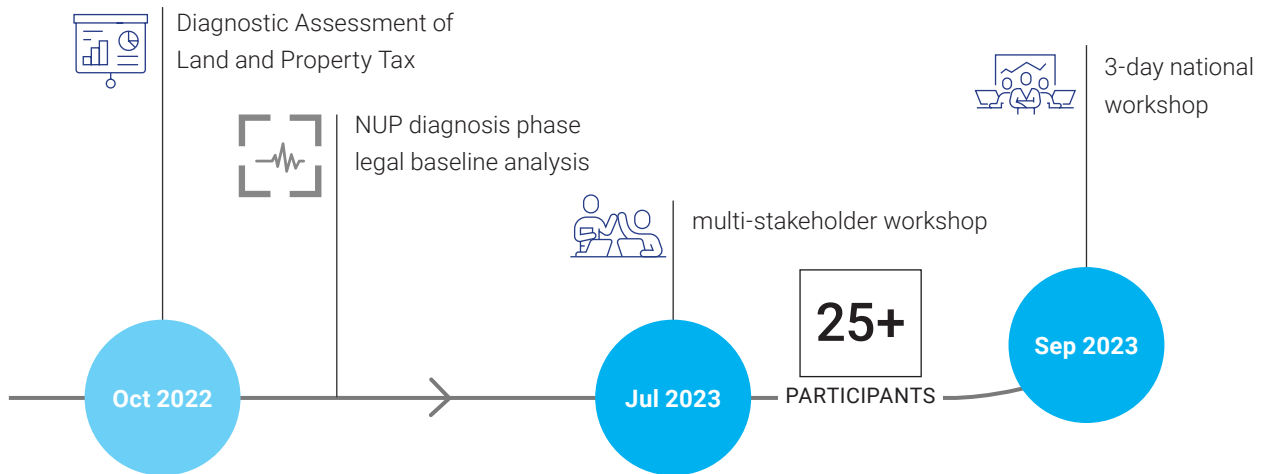
Comoros



A) Revision of the Urban Planning Code



B) Supporting development of a National Urban Planning and Housing Policy (PNUH)



UN-Habitat support to Comoros is inspired by the objective to enhance the resilience of the territory in the long-term through improved normative, legal and institutional frameworks.

Funded by the World Bank, the project has two main components:

- revision of the Urban Planning Code, and
- support for the development of a national urban planning and housing policy.

a. Revision of the urban planning code: As envisioned in 2022, in 2023, UN-Habitat revised the urban planning code then held multi-stakeholder validation sessions in May in Moroni, Mutsamudu and Fomboni. The participants appreciated the initiative to revise the urban planning code to better reflect realities in Comoros while considering climate change and good practices in urban planning.





Some of the issues identified were:

1. Institutional: inefficiency on the ground due to poor coordination between different actors;
2. The lack of respect for the legal requirement of a building permit (traditional rights to land prevail);
3. The land issue is central and needs to be resolved to reduce land conflicts (over 80 per cent of the court cases are related to land);
4. Awareness campaigns are needed once the new law has been ratified.

As a next step to address the four main issues of commonality that were identified, UN-Habitat's support for drafting a new land and property code was requested.

b. National Urban Planning and Housing Policy:

Following the launch at a workshop in October 2022, the diagnosis phase of the NUP of Comoros was carried out. Thereafter, in July 2023, UN-Habitat and the lead ministry (Ministry of Territorial Development) held a multi-stakeholder workshop to validate the diagnosis note of the Comoros NUP. With more than 25 participants, including from other islands of the country, the priorities for inclusion in the draft policy were identified and these revolved around land issues, capacity building and disaster and climate resilience. UN-Habitat then continued to support the formulation phase of NUP development.

In September 2023, UN-Habitat and the Government held a three-day national workshop to review the progress made and results achieved.

The workshop provided a platform to validate the proposed amendments to the urban planning code and the proposed national urban policy.

During this intense period of work, important suggestions and recommendations were collected from the technical departments of the lead ministry and other urban development sectors. The sessions also featured several capacity development sessions, one of the pillars of the national urban planning and housing policy.

Ultimately, the Comoros will be equipped with two key tools to fundamentally change the face of its urbanization: a new Urban Planning and Construction Code, and the National Urban Planning and Habitat Policy (PNUH) and its implementation plan.



Azali Assoumani
President of Comoros



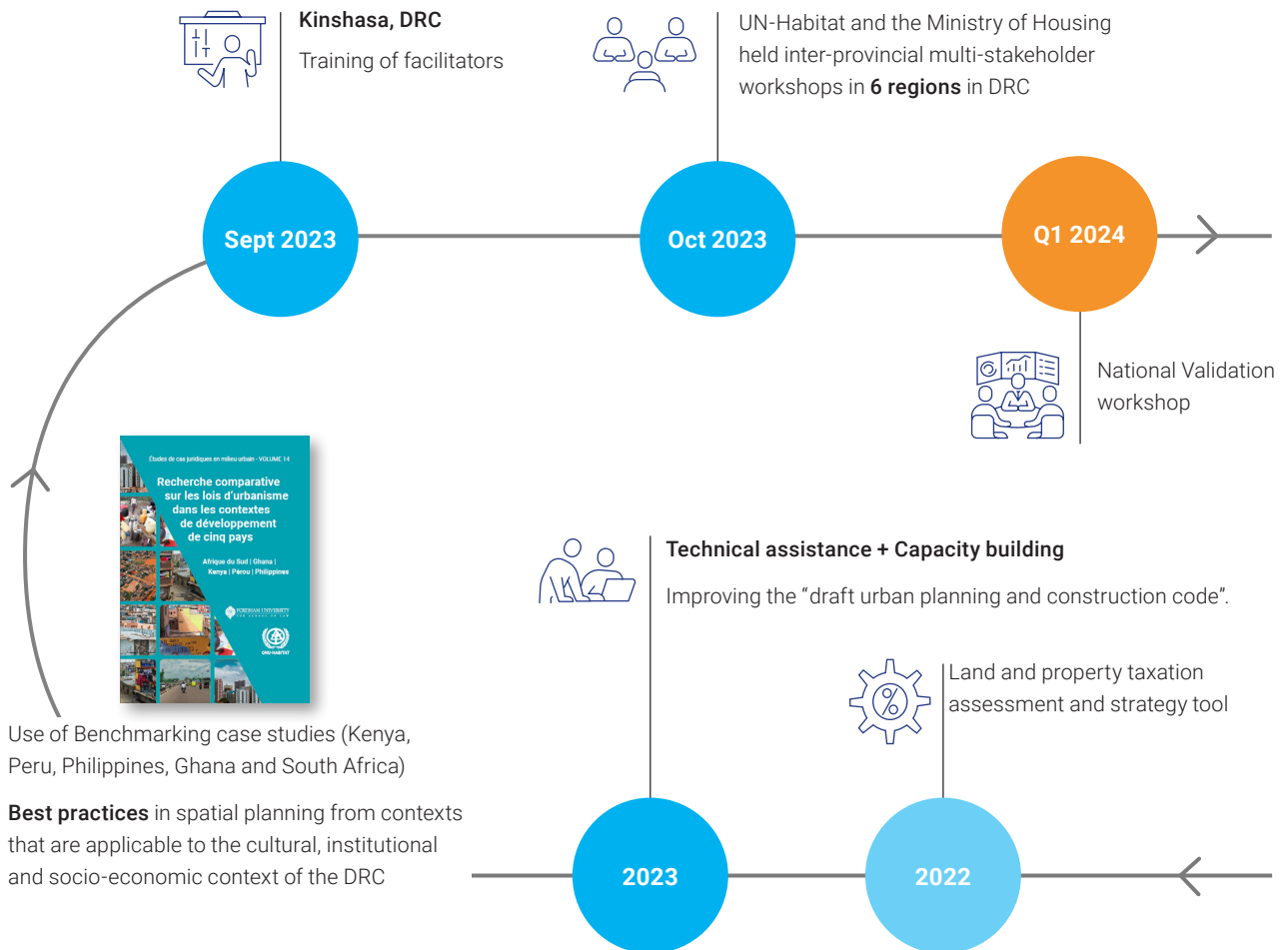
Finally, I would like to appeal for the strengthening of the capacities of UN-Habitat, through more substantial support, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, so that this agency can better support our African cities, which are full of enormous potential, but which have become very vulnerable to climate change.

[Translated extract from a speech during the 78th United Nations General Assembly.]





Democratic Republic of the Congo



In 2023, UN-Habitat continued its support to the country through strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction – Phase II.

Essentially, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance in improving the "draft urban planning and construction code". Benchmarking case studies (Kenya, Peru, Philippines, Ghana and South Africa) were also developed to provide best practices in spatial planning from contexts that are applicable to the cultural, institutional and socioeconomic context of the DRC. To produce this study, UN-Habitat collaborated with a leading legal research institution, the Urban Law Center of Fordham University in the United States.

To ensure a participatory approach in the process of validating the draft law, regional workshops were planned across the country. Prior to the regional workshops, a training of facilitators' session was held in September in Kinshasa, DRC. Thereafter, UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Housing held interprovincial, multi-stakeholder workshops in **six regions** of the DRC. These workshops were held in October, with each lasting two days. During the workshops, the provincial stakeholders provided substantive comments and inputs to the draft urban planning and construction code. Following the interprovincial workshops, the stakeholder inputs will be considered in the final draft law which will then be debated in the national validation workshop planned to take place in the first quarter of 2024.





El Salvador

2022
phase I:
 metropolitan
 and regional
 management



Findings
 presented to **14**
municipalities

2023
 drafting the
 Metropolitan Policy
 of Environmentally
 Sustainable Urban
 and Territorial
 Development

May 2023
 Validation
 workshop

The partnership between UN-Habitat and the Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (OPAMSS) continued in the second phase of improving metropolitan and regional management. Having completed and presented the findings of Phase I in 2022 to the 14 municipalities of San Salvador, Phase II began with the aim of formulating and advancing the Policy for Environmentally Sustainable Territorial Development of San Salvador. In 2023, UN-Habitat began drafting the Metropolitan Policy of Environmentally Sustainable Urban and Territorial Development. As a pillar of all UN-Habitat projects, stakeholder participation is key.

In May 2023, a workshop was held to present and validate the findings of the diagnostic for the policy, and to identify the strategic components, lines of action and main programmes addressing the findings, with full participation by OPAMSS.

UN-Habitat also held high-level consultations with the Ministry of Tourism of El Salvador, discussing the revitalization process of the San Salvador Historical Centre and its relationship with the recent improvement of socioeconomic conditions throughout the metropolitan area, as well as exploring possible cooperation between UN-Habitat and the ministry.



Ghana

The Ghana National Urban Policy, 2023 is a build-up of the progress and results achieved by the 2012 NUP. Led by the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD), the Ghana National Urban Policy 2012 underwent revision in 2022-2023 with UN-Habitat's technical support. As mentioned in the NUP document, "the 2023 National Urban Policy builds on successes of the 2012 NUP, filling identified gaps, proposing strategies to harness new opportunities, and addressing emerging challenges".

Notably, in February 2023, the lead ministry organized a three-day multi-stakeholder validation workshop for the Ghana National Urban Policy.

PLGS also participated in the presentation of the Ghana National Urban Policy by MLGDRD to partners that were interested in implementation of some of the policy components.

This was organized by the World Bank in collaboration with MLGDRD.

2012
 Ghana national
 urban policy >
 Revised in 2022-
 2023



February 2023
 Validation
 workshop

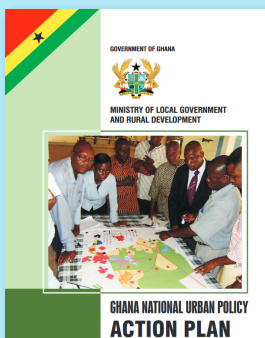




Regarding next steps, the draft NUP is undergoing Cabinet review to facilitate approval as a guiding framework to achieve sustainable urban development in Ghana.



Participants following proceedings at the Ghana Urban Forum 2022 © Ghana/MLGDRD.



"...The Government of Ghana envisages the future of the urban space as communities of people, infrastructure and services that provide opportunities for all residents (irrespective of their income, occupation, tribe, age, gender, and education) to make a sustainable living, have access to affordable housing and basic services, and facilitate their democratic participation in the governance of their communities. In essence, this policy provides the requisite response for attaining these ideals..."

Extracted from the Draft Ghana NUP 2023



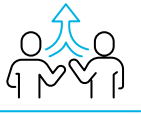


Guinea

In 2023, UN-Habitat through PLGS engaged in Guinea through advancing the national urban policy. Following the eight successful regional multi-stakeholder workshops held over 2022, the goal for 2023 was to incorporate the recommendations from these regional sessions into the NUP. As part of plans to hold a national validation workshop, in

February 2023, UN-Habitat (PLGS) held a capacity development session for **over 25** members of the Permanent Secretariat for Regional Planning (SPAT) in Guinea. The aim was to enhance their technical and institutional capacity on NUP as they planned to review and validate the NUP of the country.

In **November 2023** National validation workshop was held in Conakry with more **100 various stakeholders**



The training enabled ownership of the national urban policy development process in Guinea by SPAT members as they got to better understand their roles during the development process and specifically the validation.

As part of concluding the project, in November 2023, a national validation workshop was held in Conakry with more than 100 various stakeholders from the

Government and from the eight regions of Guinea. In ensuring participation continues in the NUP process, the NUP as well as its implementation framework will be disseminated throughout the eight regions of the country. Thereafter, the policy will be shared with the ministry for consideration of adoption and implementation.





Haiti

○ **2023**
multi-stakeholder workshop with **> 30 participants**

○ **2024**
3 regional urban forums

UN-Habitat (PLGS), working with the Government of Haiti, provided technical assistance in the localization of the New Urban Agenda through national and subnational urban policies.

The expected accomplishments include: strengthened knowledge and support to policy, governance and regulatory reforms; improved multilevel governance and participatory approaches; strengthened capacity of stakeholders for institutional reforms; and strengthened institutional frameworks for urbanization. In 2023, UN-Habitat and the Government

held an international multi-stakeholder workshop with more than 30 participants. The objective of this was to gather international experiences and lessons for the ongoing definition of an urban agenda for the country. In addition, two regional forums were held to enhance awareness and capacity as part of development of the local urban agenda for Haiti.

Plans are underway to hold a national urban forum in 2024. This will bring together stakeholders from all regions of Haiti to review and validate progress in localising the New Urban Agenda in Haiti.



Kyrgyzstan

Forthcoming deliverables



- > Review of building codes and urban planning rules in Kyrgyzstan.
- > Compilation of design guidelines to govern urban planning activities specifically in Naryn city based on the researched information.

UN-Habitat, through its Planning, Finance and Economy Section (PFES) and PLGS is supporting Kyrgyzstan under the project: A Resilience-Informed Urban Planning Support to the Naryn Urban Resilience Programme (NURP). This project is similar to a successfully concluded project in [Tajikistan](#) implemented in 2022.

Under the in-house agreement with the PFES, PLGS finalized the 'Legislation and Governance' chapter of the Naryn Town Profile, while a legal review of legislation in Kyrgyzstan is ongoing, using the [Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#).

UN-Habitat representatives engaged in a technical mission in Kyrgyzstan to start the project, and for initial data collection through workshops, interviews and cross-sectoral meetings © UN-Habitat





Oman

In 2022, UN-Habitat (PLGS) collaborated with the Sultanate of Oman, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MoHUP). The collaboration was intended to realize a new spatial planning law for Oman and envisioned Strengthened Urban Planning Legal and Institutional Frameworks in the Sultanate. Following the milestones achieved in 2022, the project was concluded in 2023.

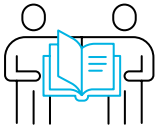
Feb 2023

> PLGS submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning the draft “Green Paper: Towards a New Spatial Planning Law for the Sultanate of Oman” which presents policy orientations for a new spatial planning law for Oman.

PLGS collaborated with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on a workshop with stakeholders to validate and provide feedback on the Green Paper.

Mar 2023

> A [handover ceremony](#) of the Green Paper took place on 8 March, 2023 in Muscat, Oman between UN-Habitat and MoHUP.



Handover ceremony of the Green Paper between UN-Habitat & MoHUP

To facilitate a global comparative analysis to strengthen urban planning law in Oman, UN-Habitat (PLGS) prepared and released [Benchmarking Case Studies on Planning Laws in Five Countries: Morocco, Netherlands, South Africa, Republic of Korea, and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#). UN-Habitat assessed the impact of urban laws on sustainable urban development in these countries to provide a spectrum of regulatory models and schemes for the spatial planning legal reform in Oman.

More info

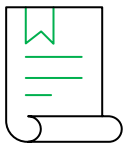


The [Guide on Enabling Meaning Participation in Spatial Planning](#) was produced to provide a global resource featuring a step-by-step process perspective on how to engage the public and civil society and has a series of mechanisms that can be adapted and aggregated in the form of policy mixes that can better suit the local context, the stage of the process and the available resources.





Presentation of project progress in Muscat, Oman © UN-Habitat

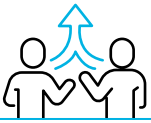


The **Green Paper**, which is the ultimate result of the collaboration, is a framework document that contains broad outlines of function and form for the new Spatial Planning Law on the plan-making process, land management, dispute resolution as well as institutional arrangements, mandates, and competencies



Senegal

2023
11 multi-stakeholder workshops



40+
stakeholders each



The national urban policy process in Senegal continues to advance in an inclusive and participatory manner. The goal for 2023 was to carry out multi-stakeholder workshops across the country to enhance stakeholder capacity on NUP and for stakeholders to share their experiences and priority areas to be included in the national urban policy. Heads of local authorities, local elected officials, local officials of the decentralized administration, social groups and grassroots community organizations participated in the workshops.

In 2023, **11** multi-stakeholder workshops were organized in various regions of

Senegal, with each workshop reaching more than **40** stakeholders. From these workshops, it was clear that issues such as urban governance and citizen participation, spatial dynamics, land policies, urban economies and capacity development were the common priorities needed to be addressed by the NUP.

The next step is the preparation and finalization of the NUP, following the inputs from the workshops. Thereafter, the NUP will be transmitted to the lead ministry for review and consideration for review and consideration for adoption as a guiding framework for sustainable urban development.





Spain

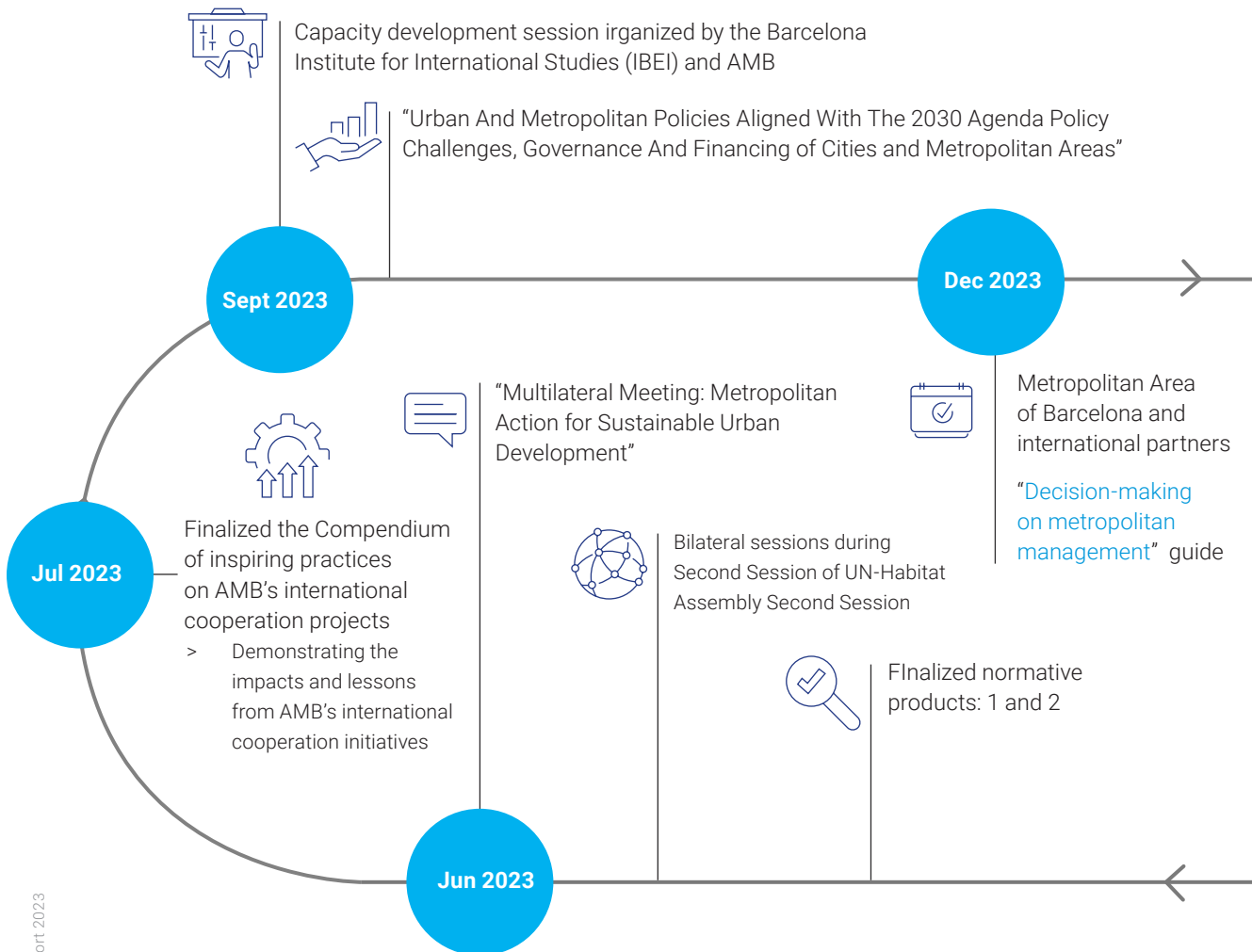


150 participants annually from the metropolitan capacity development programmes

UN-Habitat's collaboration with Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), Spain, has seen several accomplishments on metropolitan management over the years. This has been mainly in the areas of metropolitan policy development, capacity development and advocacy efforts.

More than **150** participants have benefited annually from the metropolitan capacity development programmes. In addition, from the expert group meetings, workshops and other global events, the metropolitan agenda has been advanced as a result of this partnership.

In 2023, UN-Habitat (PLGS) and AMB made progress on several areas:

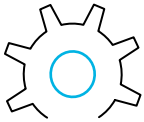




Vietnam



PLGS contribution:
**legislation and
governance outputs**



Project title
"Institutional
Strengthening and
Capacity Building
for Sustainable
Urban Development
in Vietnam",

Oct 2023

PLGS presented
findings from rapid
legal assessment
in collaboration
with the Urban
Development
Agency (UDA)

PLGS engagement with Vietnam is two-fold to support the development of a new law on urban development and management as well as a new planning law. The project is titled "Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development in Vietnam", with PLGS supporting the legislation and governance outputs by collaborating with the UN-Habitat Vietnam Office and PFES. PLGS took a similar approach to other projects on legislation and governance. This began with a rapid assessment of urban laws related to housing, land, spatial planning and local government.

PLGS also delivered draft case studies and the comparative analysis developed in collaboration with the Urban Law Center of Fordham University, United States.

All these efforts went into developing high-level recommendations and draft structure for the new urban development and management law respecting Vietnam's cultural, institutional and socioeconomic context.

The report contains the benchmarking of urban laws from Chile, Kenya, Panama, Peru and the United Kingdom. In addition to this, the following countries were included for specific thematic topics: Australia, Brazil, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda and South Africa.

In a technical consultation with the Urban Development Agency in October 2023, PLGS presented the findings from the rapid legal assessment (planning, land, housing and local governance) and the best practice outcomes from the comparative case studies on urban development laws in 11 countries based on 7 thematic topics (institutional functions and smart governance, urban regeneration, informal settlement upgrading, green growth, public participation, land-value capture and dispute resolution).



Other Country projects



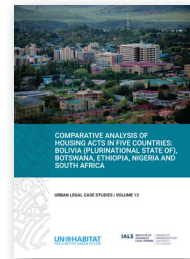
> In **Jordan**, UN-Habitat (PLGS) supported the UN-Habitat Jordan Country Office to provide technical legal assistance to Greater Amman, to draft their first planning by-law regulations. Several technical consultations were held for over six months with the team and the Mayor of Greater Amman. The first draft of the regulation was submitted in late 2023. PLGS is expected to continue supporting the finalization of this process in 2024.

Late 2023

The first draft of the regulation was submitted



> In **Lesotho**, UN-Habitat (PLGS) provided technical assistance in drafting the New Housing Bill. As part of this, PLGS presented to the Lesotho Directorate of Housing, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship Affairs officials on the findings and recommendations from the published [Comparative Analysis Of Housing Acts in Five Countries: Bolivia \(Plurinational State Of\), Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, And South Africa: Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 13](#).



This report will provide best practices for drafting the Lesotho National Housing Bill, with support from the Sir William Dale Legislative Drafting Clinic, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, United Kingdom.



> **African Union:** PLGS supported the African Union in development of the new model law on housing, human settlements and urban development.

May 2023



> In **Nigeria**, PLGS provided technical contributions to enable finalization of the federal level national urban policy. The draft was released in May 2023 for Ministerial and Executive Council review.

federal level national urban policy draft

Progressing with the Metropolitan Management Network:

UN-Habitat through PLGS continued with the binational metropolitan management initiative.



2. Consolidating and Expanding Knowledge

UN-Habitat through PLGS continued to advance knowledge, including thematic guides, databases, reports and technical materials. PLGS expanded its catalogue of knowledge by producing over 15 new guides, tools and knowledge products in 2023, in addition to the more than 10 released in 2022

a. Thematic Guides

Decision Making in Metropolitan Governance

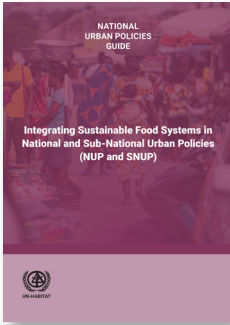


UN-Habitat collaborated with the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona to develop this guide which offers practical tools based on international trends and 22 global case study findings to facilitate inclusive and equitable processes of decision-making in metropolitan areas. The guide contains key messages and policy recommendations, which seek to inspire and guide those who have the competence, authority and role to make decisions affecting metropolises for the benefit of their communities.



Read the full report [Here](#)

Integrating Sustainable Food Systems in Urban Policies (Pre-release version)



UN-Habitat with contributions from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and academic experts has developed a guide on integrating food systems in urban policies. The guide can be used by decision-makers and stakeholders to integrate food systems and nutrition into urban policies. Ensuring this issue of food systems addressed comprehensively is not only essential for the survival of millions of people but will mean the success or failure of the urban policy as a whole. The guide contains several recommendations aligned to the food value chain as well as suggested activities aligned to the phases in the urban policy process.

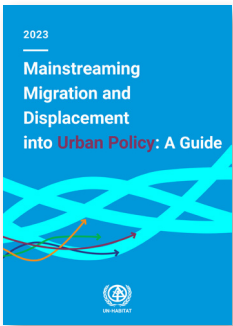
This is a pre-release version, and further editions will be published under the same title with improvements and updates from current events and agreements.



Read the full report [Here](#)



Mainstreaming Migration and Displacement into Urban Policy: A Guide

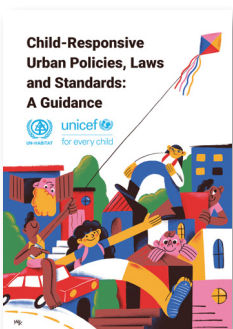


The connection between migration and urbanization is central to the well-being of migrants, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, and the cities hosting them. This guide has been developed for governments at all levels in the management of migration and displacement in urban areas. It contains an outline of the basic policy processes involved in developing or revising urban policies that adequately address the realities of migration and displacement. It also includes a 10-step pathway of recommendations and actions to achieve a more holistic, integrated and effective policy response.



Read the full report [Here](#)

Child-Responsive Urban Policies, Laws and Standards: A Guidance

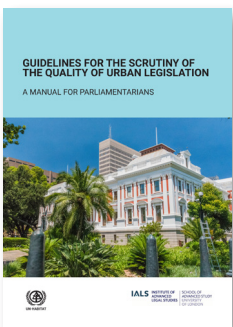


UN-Habitat and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have developed this Guide which highlights the important role that policy and legislation play in setting normative standards and minimum expectations for duty-bearers in all aspects of children’s development. The guidance essentially supports governments at all levels to create urban spaces where children can access basic services, clean air and water; where children feel safe to play, learn and grow, which includes ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are integrated into public policies and decision-making processes.



Read the full report [Here](#)

Guidelines for the Scrutiny of the Quality of Urban Legislation: A Manual for Parliamentarians:

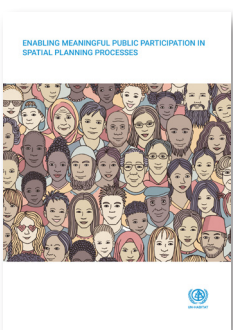


UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, UK has prepared these Guidelines for the Scrutiny of the Quality of Urban Legislation: A Manual for Parliamentarians to act as a point of reference and reflection into quality law-making for all parliamentarians and lawmakers, with the hope of stimulating discussion over ways to address shortcomings in urban legal frameworks.



Read the full report [Here](#)

Enabling Meaningful Public Participation in Spatial Planning Processes



This toolkit features a step-by-step process on how to engage the public and civil society and has a series of mechanisms that can be adapted and aggregated in the form of policy mixes that can better suit the local context, the stage of the process and the available resources. More importantly, rather than using participation as a “symbolic gesture”, with little transformative impact on urban governance structures and systems, it is recommended to foster the empowerment and autonomy of social movements and local stakeholders and entrust citizens and residents with real decision-making powers.

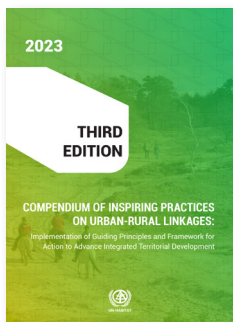


Read the full report [Here](#)



b. Reports and technical materials

Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages - Third Edition



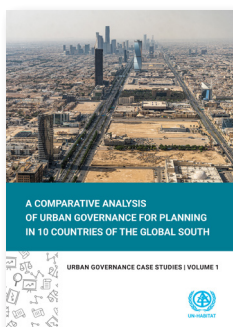
This third Compendium showcases 17 case studies from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. It provides inspiring examples of efforts in various areas, such as linking urban and rural areas, food and biodiversity, waste management, social integration, climate mitigation, and nutrition. Overall, the compendium serves as a valuable comparative resource for government leaders, urban and rural experts, and readers interested in urban-rural linkages and sustainable territorial development.



Read the full report

[Here](#)

A Comparative Analysis of Urban Governance for Planning in 10 Countries Of The Global South: Urban Governance Case Studies, Volume 1



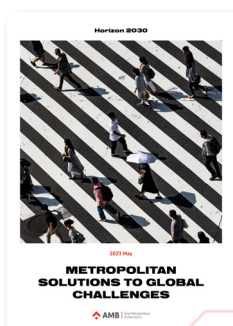
UN-Habitat has conducted this in-depth study on the state of urban governance for planning in 10 countries in the global South (Afghanistan, Cameroon, Guinea, Niger State, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, and Uganda), based on governance principles in the SDGS and NUA. The research findings support previous United Nations studies that found that urban governance systems are currently unfit for purpose and need critical reforms to enable sustainable and inclusive urban development. The findings also serve to inform public officials and other stakeholders working to protect the rights of urban populations on possible actions to improve urban governance.



Read the full report

[Here](#)

Horizon 2030: Metropolitan Solutions to Global Challenges



In this publication, UN-Habitat supported the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona along with a diverse group of international experts to conceptualize metropolitan solutions, as well as to identify the first series of metropolitan solutions already boosting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and serving the territorialization of Sustainable Development Goals at metropolitan level.

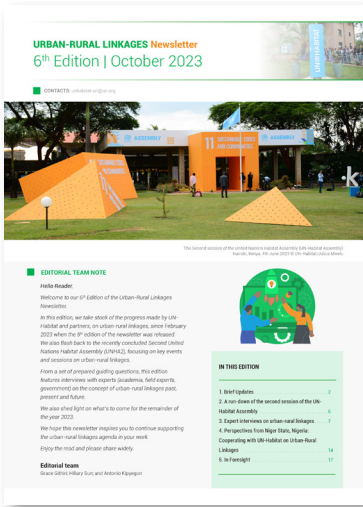


Read the full report

[Here](#)



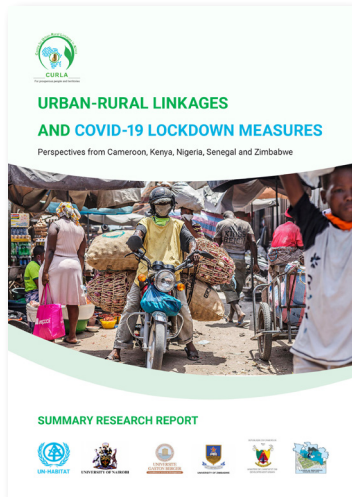
c. Other knowledge products



Read the full report [Here](#)



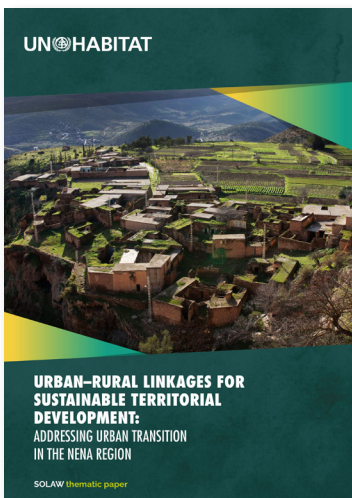
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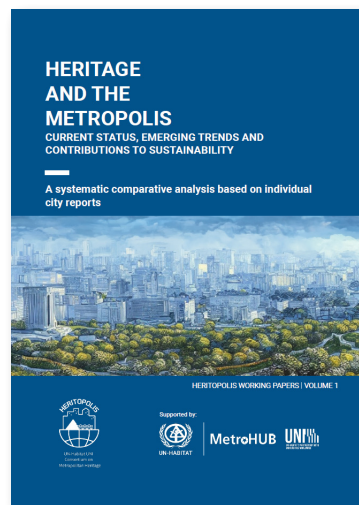


Read the full report [Here](#)





Read the full report [Here](#)



Read the full report [Here](#)



Download the series [here](#)



d. Databases

UrbanLex Database

UrbanLex is a free global database which aims to improve access to the legislation that regulates the urban environment.

The database is UN-Habitat's principle means of collecting and openly sharing information on urban laws from around the world. In 2023, the database continued

to be updated regularly with laws globally, with up to **250** urban laws uploaded from Andorra, Canada, France, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Switzerland, Tajikistan and the United States. This brings the total number of legal instruments in the database to more than **2,500**.



+250
urban law

from Andorra, Canada, France, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Switzerland, Tajikistan and the United States

Snapshot of Tunisia Urban Planning Law from urbanlex.unhabitat.org © UN-Habitat

Urban Policy Database

As part of preparations to input new information from the 3rd Global State of National Urban Policy, the NUP database has been revamped.

This re-structuring now allows users to access data of different years and has improved the map layout for NUP data.



Improved
accessibility

Snapshot of some of the indicators from Argentina NUP © UN-Habitat

Significantly, the database has continued to be a useful repository and source of information on NUPs. For instance, a representative from the Commonwealth Association of Architects used the database in 2023 to source information on the urban policy of Uganda.

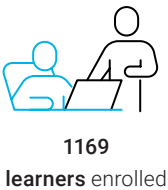


3. Enhancing Capacity across Cities and Communities

In 2023, UN-Habitat through PLGS expanded its capacity development efforts. More government officials and other partners now have improved capacity to develop and implement policies, strategies and frameworks that foster sustainable

urban development. The year saw the development and advancing of tools and application of these tools in trainings, workshops, expert group meetings and other learning opportunities.

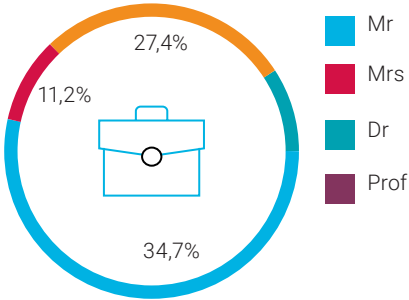
a. Capacity Development Tools



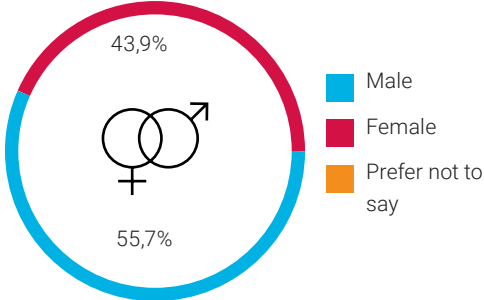
i. 'Digital Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable African Cities' e-learning course - This massive open online course (MOOC) constitutes a learning suitcase for City Leaders, Policymakers, Practitioners, and other stakeholders to have a deep understanding of the process of Using Technologies and Innovative Approaches to create a Communication-Based, Collaborative, Transparent, and

Sustainable Environment for the Citizens. Through Existing Tools, Case Studies, Experience Sharing, Expert Testimonies, and Learning Materials, this MOOC aims to equip participants with tools to Transform Urban Systems through Digital-based Solutions. A total of **1169 learners** have enrolled for the course globally, with **72 certificates** issued so far.

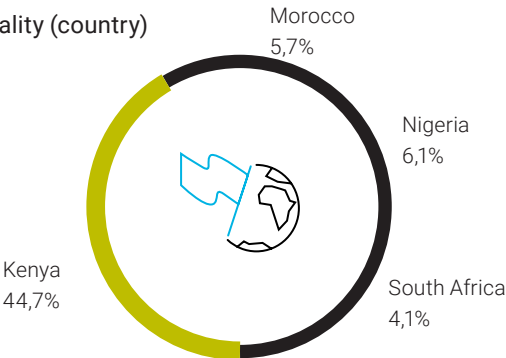
Learners' profile information (296)



Gender



Nationality (country)



Other Countries

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia





167

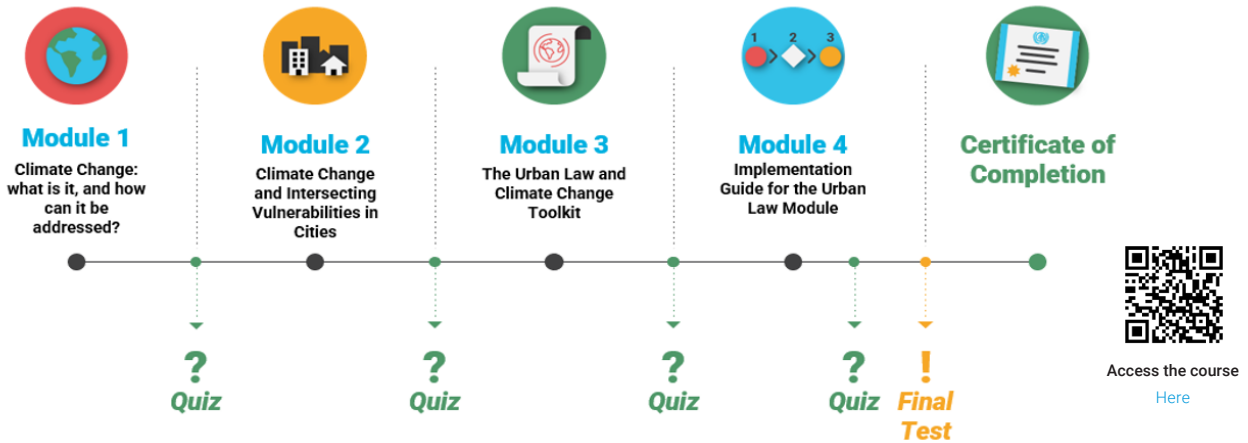
learners globally



17 successfully completed the course

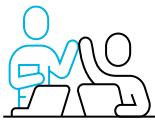
ii. "Advancing Climate Action through Urban Law" e-learning course: This course explores the essential role that urban law plays in addressing the challenges of climate change. It delves into UN-Habitat's Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit, which is a valuable resource for countries, local governments, professionals, academia and other stakeholders

seeking to adapt their urban planning and environmental regulations and policies to manage climate change effectively. This course was launched during COP28 and can be accessed via UN-Habitat's hub of e-learning tools, Habitat Learn. In the first month of its launch, the course was accessed by 167 learners globally, with 17 successfully completing the course.



b. Capacity Development Programmes and Initiatives

i. MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme



Participants from Italy, Mexico, and Spain

The MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme continued to advance knowledge and advocacy on various metropolitan topics. The programme delivered several trainings and courses to metropolitan representatives,

academia members and other urban actors over the year. In 2023, more than 200 participants from Italy, Mexico and Spain enhanced their capacity on metropolitan management through four different capacity development sessions.





Urban and metropolitan policies aligned with the 2030 Agenda



Two-day interactive training: Discussing challenges, trends, and practices in city governance and financing.



Designed to bridge academia and practice for better urban policies by identifying and building synergies.

IBEI & the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)

Sep 27 2023, Spain



Summer School on metropolitan management



Delivered a keynote speech on metropolitan and regional management and its significance to preserve natural resources



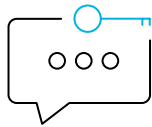
The 'International Landscape Off Limits Workshop', at POLIMI Campus in Piacenza.



POLIMI

Sep 18 2023, Milano Italy

Key result: the session culminated in the signing the new agreement to support Barcelona Metropolitan Area on metropolitan management



A key result of 2023 was that the growing demand for capacity development on MetroHUB led to the request by Politecnico di Milano, Italy, to establish a MetroHUB Centre as a one-stop-shop to disseminate globally the tools and expertise on metropolitan management.



Workshop on the Milano MetroHUB Centre



Professors, researchers and administrative teams of the Milano Polytechnic's (POLIMI) Department of Architecture and Urban Studies



Identifying key actions to link POLIMI's high-quality research and training with UN-Habitat's project design and implementation as the basis of the MetroHUB Centre.



POLIMI

Feb 12 2023, Milano Italy



The Global Metropolitan Phenomena and its Significance for Sustainable Development.



Metropolitan lecture as part of capacity development on Sustainable Development Goals and other Global Agendas.

Sep 2023, Mexic, Virtual



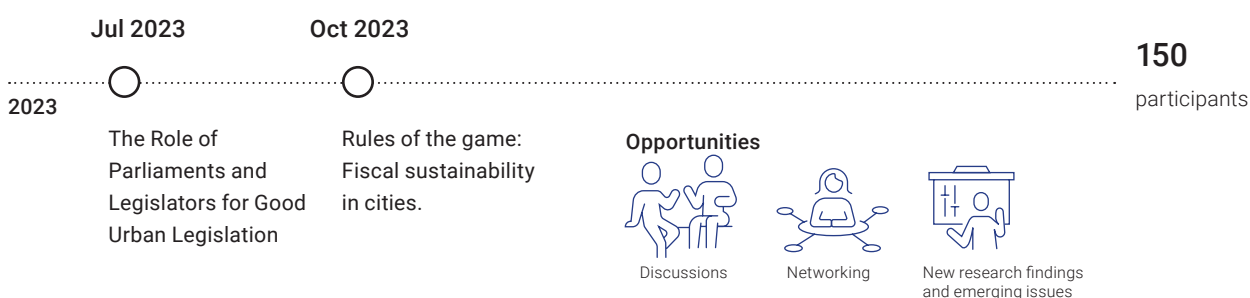
ii. Urban Law Days 2023

Urban Law Days, organized by UN-Habitat and various partners from academia continue to have significant impact in global discussions on urban law and related thematic areas. Through the two sessions held in 2023, more than **150** participants had their knowledge and capacity enhanced on legislation-related topics. The thematic topics for the 2023 sessions were curated to address pertinent issues in urban law:

a) the role of parliaments and legislators for good urban legislation and

b) rules of the game: fiscal sustainability in cities.

The two sessions provided opportunities to facilitate discussion, exchange views, network and to present new research findings and emerging issues. Existing partnerships were further strengthened, while new collaboration opportunities were pinpointed:



ULD1, July 2023: The Role of Parliaments and Legislators for Good Urban Legislation

SPEAKERS

<p>Prof. Sahar Attia Member of Parliament, Egypt and Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union</p>	<p>Hon. Nontembeko Boyce MPL Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, South Africa</p>	<p>Mr. Deogratias D. Kalimenze Director for Urban Planning, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human settlements Developments, Tanzania</p>	<p>Prof. Anel du Plessis Professor of Urban Law, Stellenbosch University, South Africa</p>	<p>Dr. Maria Mousmouti Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London)</p>
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#URBANLAWDAY2023

The 10th Urban Law Day was organized by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) in close collaboration with UN-Habitat PLGS. The session featured panelists from government (Egypt, South Africa, Tanzania), academia (South Africa and the United Kingdom), as well as from international organizations.

With an attendance of around 90 participants from multidisciplinary professionals, the **10th Urban Law Day** achieved the objectives of: showcasing the

existing methodologies into quality law-making processes such as the UN-Habitat/IALS Guidelines for the Scrutiny of the Quality of Urban Legislation: A Manual for Parliamentarians which provided practical skills and knowledge on ways that good urban legal frameworks can promote sustainable and inclusive cities; providing global and regional perspectives on best practices and strategies in advancing effective and rights-based legislation; and detailing the nexus between establishing good urban law and existences of sustainable cities and communities.



ULD2, October 2023: Rules of the game: Fiscal sustainability in cities

SPEAKERS

Matt Glasser
Director for Municipal Law and Finance, Centre for Urban Law and Finance in Africa



Stephen Berrisford
Lead, Cities Practice at Pegasys Global



Prof. Nestor Davidson
Fordham University School of Law



Professor Clay Gillette
New York University



Anne Amin
Legal Specialist, UN-Habitat



#URBANLAWDAY2023





The second Urban Law Day of 2023 was held on the World Cities Day 31st of October, by Fordham University and UN-Habitat PLGS in line with the 2023 World Cities Day theme: Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All. A panel of urban legal and fiscal scholars discussed the role played by urban legislation in setting the rules of the game for fiscal sustainability in cities.

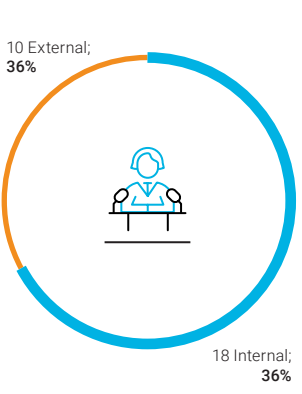
This session explored four main concepts including a) expenditures; b) revenues; c) financial management and d) borrowing. This promoted learning, knowledge sharing and exchange of information and experiences which will better inform the creation of “fiscally sustainable cities” that are more equitable and prosperous.

iii. PLGS Community of Practice

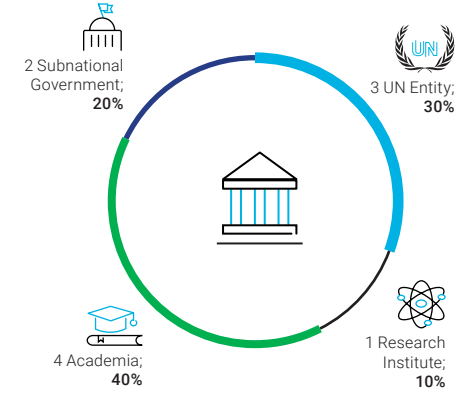
UN-Habitat’s Community of Practice (COP) on policy, legislation and governance saw significant progress and results in 2023. One key achievement was enhanced collaboration both internally and externally. In all the COP sessions held in 2023, UN-Habitat’s PLGS involved other

sections and country offices of UN-Habitat to share their perspectives. In addition, these COPs featured the participation of partner governments and organizations who shared their experiences of what the partnership with UN-Habitat through PLGS has accomplished.

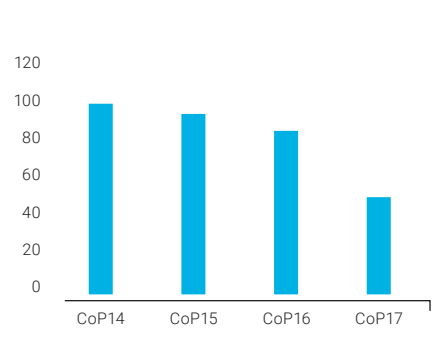
Internal and External Speakers



Types of Organizations



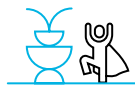
Overall attendance



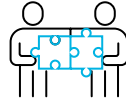
Themes covered.



Governance and public participation



Child-responsive urban policies and laws



Integrated development planning



Metropolitan and regional management



Urban-rural connectivity

Since the COP initiative began in 2020, PLGS has successfully held a total of 17 sessions with internal and external partners. In 2023, UN-Habitat through PLGS held the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th, interactive, engaging and highly insightful community of practice sessions.

Here is a summary of community of practice sessions held in 2023.

i. 14th CoP. Governance and Legislation: Accelerating Participatory Processes for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities



The session focused on showcasing regulatory and governance best practices of the transformative force of public participation in urban processes in achieving inclusive and effective urban development, providing lessons learned on key prerequisites for

successful participatory planning regulation and legislation, and stimulating discussion on how to formally empower urban communities, particularly marginalized groups, to have meaningful decision-making power.

ii. 15th CoP, Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws, and Standards



This 15th CoP was held to discuss the Guidance on Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws, and Standards, developed by UN-Habitat and UNICEF.

The discussions centered on showcasing the linkages between urbanization, children’s rights and how the two concepts are integrated into policies and legislations to achieve effective governance.

iii. 16th CoP, Harnessing the power of connected communities through urban-rural linkages



This 16th session was organized to update participants on recent progress and achievements in the urban-rural linkages thematic area. It was also an opportunity for external panellists to share various experiences from their contexts and in relation to the collaboration with UN-Habitat.

17th CoP, Metropolitan Management and Integrated Development Planning



This 17th CoP session was held to discuss innovative approaches on metropolitan and regional management, as well as showcase inspiring practice solutions implemented by UN-Habitat and partners in various countries such as Cameroon, Mexico, El

Salvador, and Colombia. The session also involved internal perspectives on the metropolitan topic, as well as experiences by partners from government and academia, sharing experiences from collaborating with UN-Habitat in various initiatives.



iv. Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA)

UN-Habitat's continuing advancement of knowledge and capacity on urban-rural linkages spurred interest from many partners, including academia. During Urban October 2023, UN-Habitat and the University of Nairobi, Kenya, launched the Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA). Located at the university, CURLA is a platform to conduct research, enhance capacity, policy reviews and advocacy on urban-rural linkages, and is the first centre of its kind in Africa.

The launch event, attended in-person and virtually by over 130 participants, served as a melting pot of ideas and perspectives. Representatives from governments, international organizations, academia and the public gathered to familiarize themselves with CURLA's objectives, milestones achieved so far and the centre's potential to foster urban-rural linkages in the region.

The centre follows the successful implementation of the research project "Impacts of COVID-19 on Transportation of Food and Related Commodities in the Urban-Rural Nexus in Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe".

The launch of CURLA is another key milestone in UN-Habitat's efforts to "reduce spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum".



The launch of CURLA © University of Nairobi



v. Other capacity development sessions:

21st Feb

> PLGS presented the initiatives on multi-level governance and health equity, and urban laws on climate change for resilience and low-carbon urban development – Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung/UN-Habitat project during the visit of Mr. Hermann Gröhe, Former Minister of Health in Germany, and Vice-Chair of KAS.

2nd Mar

> PLGS, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat Brussels Office, provided a university lecture on urban law to students studying environmental sustainability at the University of Angers, France. The discussion centred around the application and impact of the Planning Law Assessment Framework, Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool and the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit, and why functional and effective law is important in the sustainable urban development agenda.



4. Reaching Out: Advocacy

UN-Habitat held several events at global, regional, national and local levels to ensure the message on sustainable urban development reached all. The over 30 advocacy sessions (events, workshops, campaigns) organized, co-organized or participated

in by PLGS were used not only to further advance UN-Habitat tools and methodologies, but also to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones. Some of the events of 2023 are described below.

a. PLGS at UNHA2

The Second United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA2) opened with a call for sustainable urban development and effective multilateralism to create more liveable, sustainable and resilient cities. This theme was operationalized into five sub-themes

addressed by the assembly: universal access to affordable housing; urban climate action; urban crises recovery; localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and prosperity and local finance.

Overall:



Over **3,400** in-person attendees



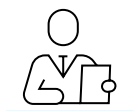
2000 virtual participants



193 countries



Accessibility of high-level plenaries in all **6 UN** languages



52 Ministers



37 deputy ministers



and several other high-level government representatives



The Delegates adopted:

> **10 Resolutions**

> **five Decisions**

and one **Ministerial Declaration**

to further the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.



For PLGS:



5 side events
(including a
Ministerial Session)



28 bilateral
and multilateral
consultations



engagement with 17 countries and
10+ organizations



300+
participants
in total

Themes covered:



Urban Policy



Urban Legislation
and Governance



Metropolitan
management



Urban-Rural
Linkages.



Not only was the Assembly a platform for Member States to review and adopt Resolutions, Decisions and Declarations toward achieving sustainable urban development, but was also a convention for a myriad of stakeholders to engage in thematic side events, bilateral meetings, informal sessions, and other forms of convergence on sustainable urban development issues. Several outcomes were accomplished:





Key Messages from some of the PLGS side events:



Ms. Cecilia Chamutota
Deputy-Minister, ministry of Public Works Housing and Water resources, Mozambique



The National Urban Policy process offers a guiding framework through which indicators of urbanization can be measured and evaluated.



Ms. Anja Casper-Berretta
Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change, KAS



Countries have differing political, economic, social and cultural set-ups. The best approach will be to identify the best principles and practices and incorporate them in domestic laws progressively to enrich urban laws and proactively implement such practices.

b. African Ministerial Session on National Urban Policy



African ministers and other high-level representatives at the African ministerial session on national urban policy © UN-Habitat.

On 8 June, 2023, at a side event during the second UN-Habitat Assembly, more than 30 African ministers and other high-level government representatives joined donors, development partners, academia and other urban actors for a session on urban policies in Africa. The session featured several speakers who shared a wealth of knowledge and experiences in

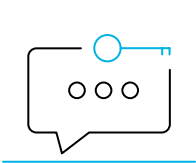
NUP development and implementation, both at the country level and from the development partners' view. Participants underscored their experiences on using Urban Policy to unlock financing opportunities, enhance local economic growth and ensure equitable quality of life for all while protecting the environment.



Employing a participatory approach, country representatives were invited to share their experiences in NUP development and urbanization issues and opportunities. Countries including Algeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tunisia and Uganda shared their experiences, challenges and opportunities in developing and implementing NUPs. These country experiences not only highlighted the diverse approaches in NUP development, but also enriched the session with on-the-ground knowledge

which can be applied as good practices and lessons in other country contexts. In addition, the African Union perspective was presented, emphasizing the importance of global frameworks while recognizing the need for regional frameworks to address Africa-specific challenges.

Overall, the session highlighted the significance of national urban policies in achieving sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities in Africa. It emphasized the need for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and financing for sustainable urban development.



Key outcome: It is from this insightful session that countries such as **Lesotho, Liberia, and Abia State, Nigeria** expressed interest in joining the Korea-funded national urban policy programme; to receive technical support to develop national and sub-national urban policies.

c. Symposium on Climate Smart Urban Planning Law and Climate Change

10th June

Nairobi, Kenya.



27 stakeholders

Attended by **27 stakeholders** from various backgrounds, this event organized by UN-Habitat and the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung Regional Programme Energy and Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa raised awareness about the vital role of urban law in addressing climate change effects and promoting **sustainable urbanization**. The symposium consisted of two interactive sessions: a roundtable symposium for knowledge sharing and a training session on law and climate change.

The first session centered around the [Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities: Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#). Representatives from **Malawi** and **Zimbabwe** shared their experiences and ongoing legal reform

processes, demonstrating the toolkit's effectiveness in **achieving climate-smart and sustainable urban development**. The second session focused on the [e-learning course on law and climate change](#) which aims to equip stakeholders, including national and local governments, with the necessary skills and knowledge to foster low-carbon, green, resilient, and sustainable urban development.

The symposium yielded notable outcomes, including increasing awareness concerning the significance of effective urban laws in promoting sustainable urbanization and the provision of new skills and knowledge to stakeholders on how urban law can support low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable urban development.



Additionally, participants expressed interest in further collaborating with UN-Habitat in supporting legal reforms through the Urban Law Module.

The event left participants inspired to work towards creating a sustainable and resilient future for cities worldwide.

The hope is that more countries will adopt effective urban laws to address climate change challenges and create sustainable and resilient cities for future generations.



Participation at the Climate and Urban Law Symposium © UN-Habitat

d. PLGS at Urban October

Urban October is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns. Each October, everyone interested in **sustainable urbanization** from national and local governments to universities, NGOs, and communities is encouraged to hold or participate in activities, events, and discussions.

Overall



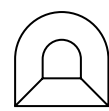
358 events organized



in 176 cities



in 60 countries



204 Urban Circuit events in Brazil



500 participants



from 28 countries attended the event in-person



250 online



World Cities Day – 500+ attendees



PLGS Numbers



12 engaging thematic events (organized, co-organized or participated)



Over 350 in-person and virtual participants

Themes covered



Urban Policy



Urban Legislation and Governance



Metropolitan management



Urban-Rural Linkages.

Urban October 2023 saw several efforts at all levels to raise awareness, promote participation, generate knowledge, and engage the international community in creating a better urban future. For PLGS, Urban October was a great opportunity to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and communities. Urban October kicked off with [World Habitat Day](#), held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan,

and ended with [World Cities Day](#) hosted by the Municipality of Üsküdar, Istanbul, Türkiye.

It was during Urban October that some of the key PLGS events were held, including the [World Metropolitan Day](#), [launch of the Center for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa](#), the second Urban Law Day of 2023, and the [3rd International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages](#).



UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif (centre, left) and First Lady of Türkiye, Emine Erdoğan (centre, right), at the Global Observance of World Cities Day © UN-Habitat.



e. World Metropolitan Day 2023

The final day of [Marmara Urban Forum 2023](#) (7th October) saw the celebration of World Metropolitan Day (WMD 2023), organized by UN-Habitat and Metropolis Association. WMD 2023 sought to explore how nature-based solutions increase the resilience of the world's metropolises, focusing on the question

“City and Beyond: How can nature transform metropolises?” Attended by over 250 participants from all over the world, the event featured keynote remarks from mayors, policymakers, government officials, academia members and others.



Hasan Akgün
Mayor of Büyükçekmece, Türkiye



The issue of finance is important for the citizens to be happy within the metropolitan borders. The metropolises do not receive the necessary share of the national income, and this should change.



Jordi Vaquer
Secretary General of Metropolis



People have defined cities as the opposite of nature for a very long time, but now nature and metropolitan cities should make an alliance, especially in the face of the climate crisis.



Claudia López
Mayor of Bogota, Colombia



The larger the city, the larger the challenges. But also, the larger the opportunities.



Mayor of Bogota, Colombia, Claudia López, making her remarks © Serkan Şentürk





WMD 2023 was also observed throughout Urban October in various metropolitan areas globally, including Guangzhou city, China.



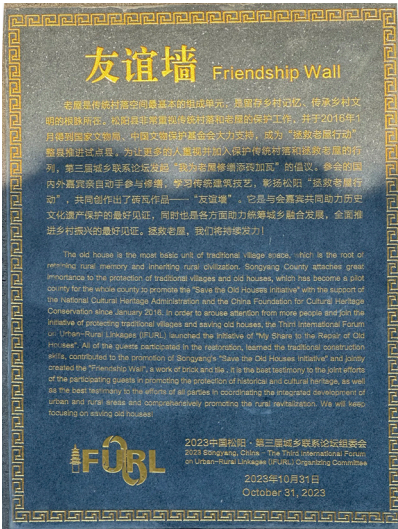
Guangzhou City, China, supports WMD2023 © Metropolis

f. Third International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages

As Urban October concluded, the third International Forum on International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL3), was held from October 29 to November 1, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the global discourse on urban-rural connectivity. The forum was hosted by UN-Habitat, the Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of

Zhejiang Province, the Department of Transportation of Zhejiang Province, Lishui Municipal People's Government, and Songyang County, China. With over 180 participants from 17 countries and 18 international organizations, the forum served as a vibrant hub of ideas, experiences, and solutions on urban-rural connectivity.





Themed, **“enhancing urban-rural connectivity for better livelihoods”**, the forum provided an in-depth exploration of urban-rural connectivity, with a particular focus on the initiatives and experiences from Songyang County, other parts of China, as well as from different global contexts.

The Forum underscored the urgency to bridge the urban-rural divide as part of the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Not only was the forum just a series of plenary sessions. The engaging site visits in Songyang, paired with insightful thematic discussions, provided tangible examples of what shared prosperity between urban and rural spaces can look like. IFURL3 was a blend of plenary sessions, thematic site visits with practical demonstrations and continued engagement on urban-rural connectivity. Below are some photographs from the event. Credits: UN-Habitat.

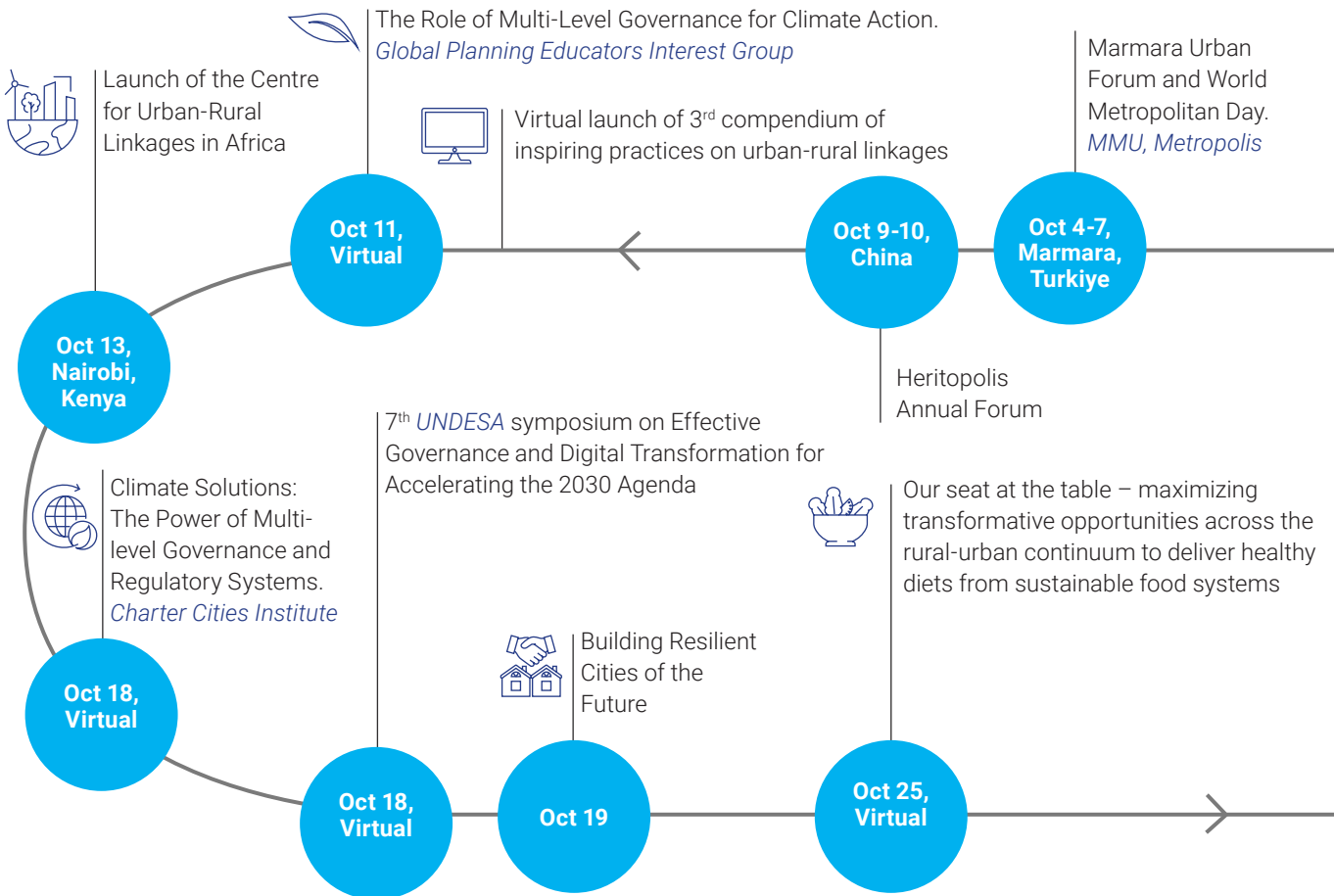
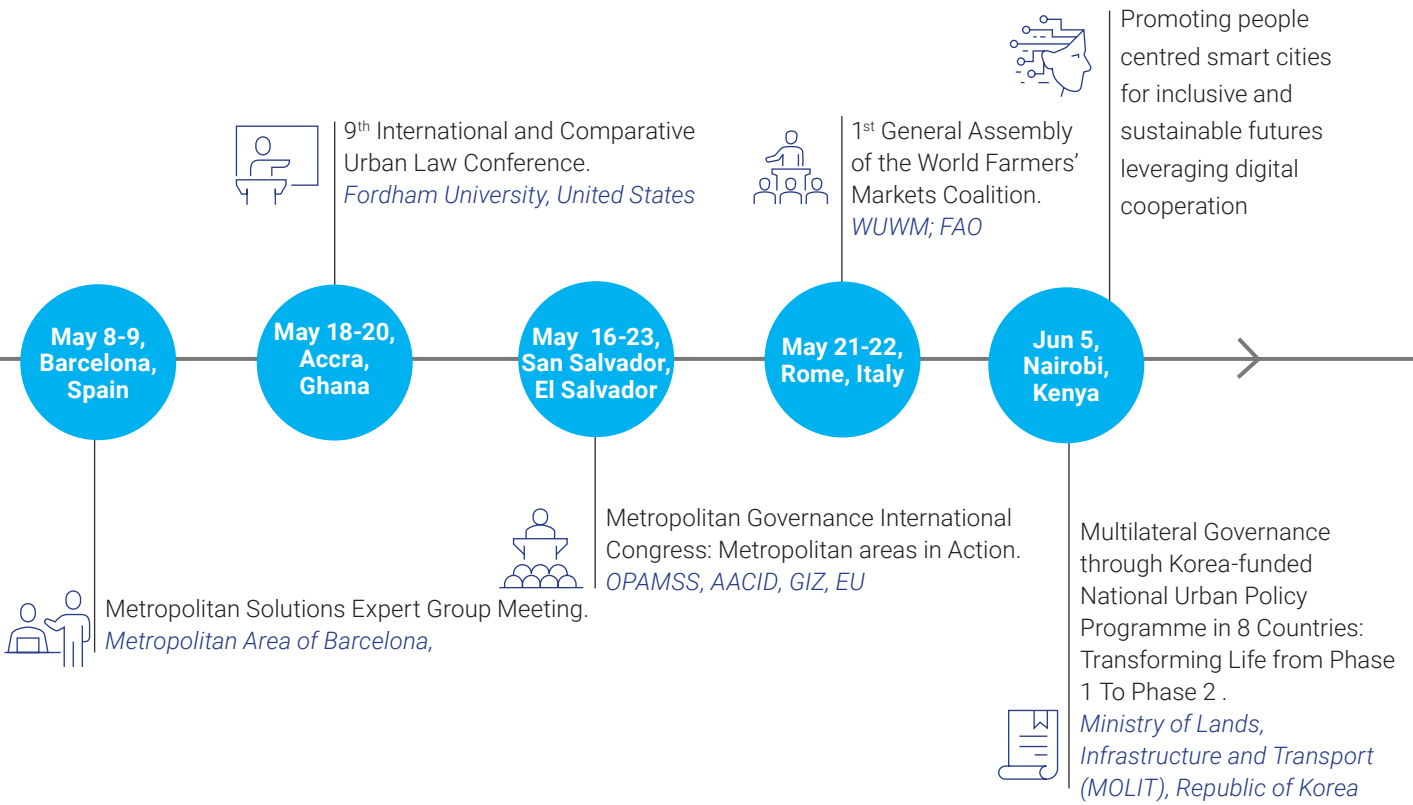


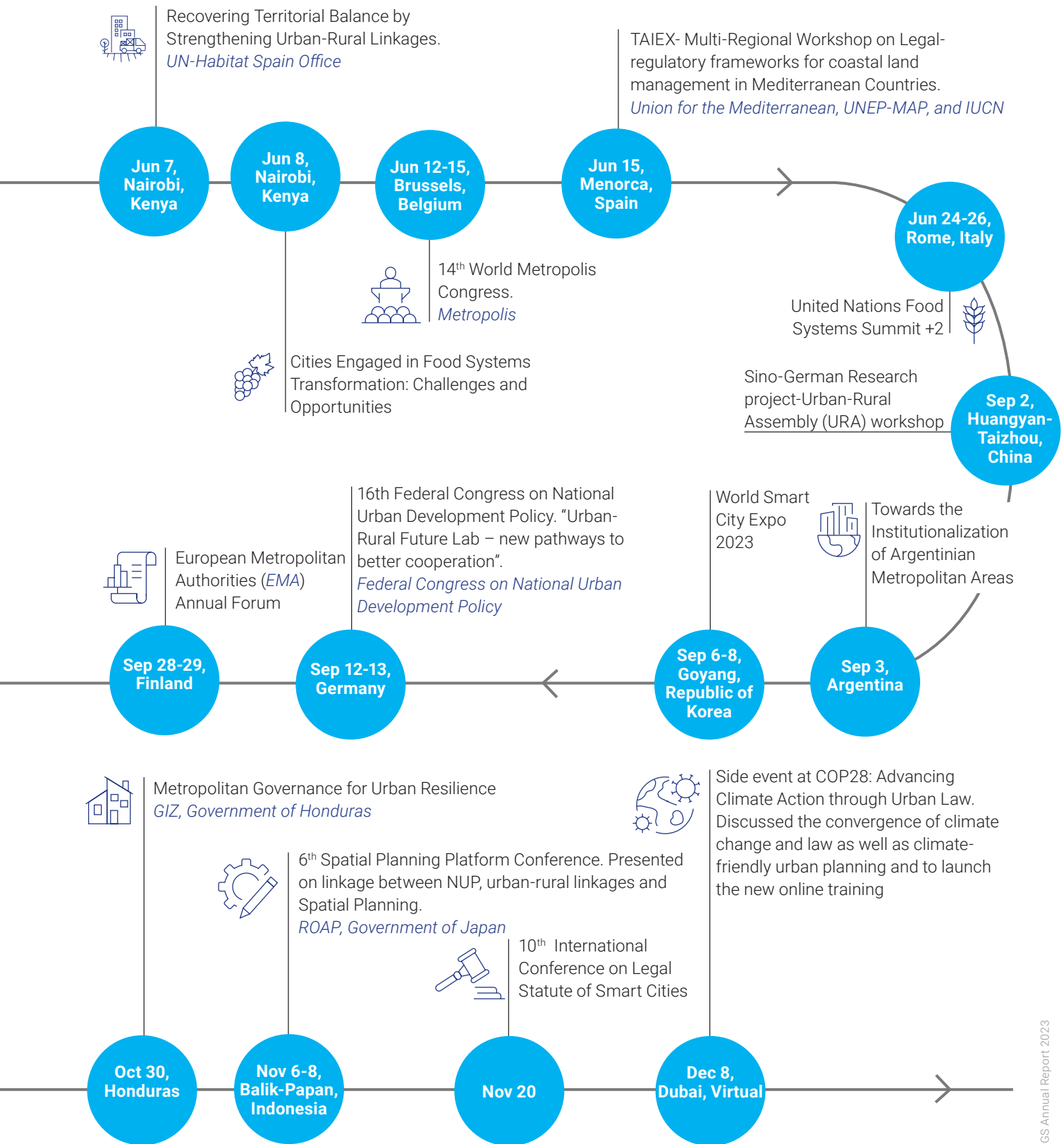
Other events:

During 2023, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, organized or participated in more than 25 other events. These advocacy platforms continued to strengthen and expand partnerships, and more importantly, advanced the message on sustainable urban development.

Here is a timeline of the events co-organized or participated in:

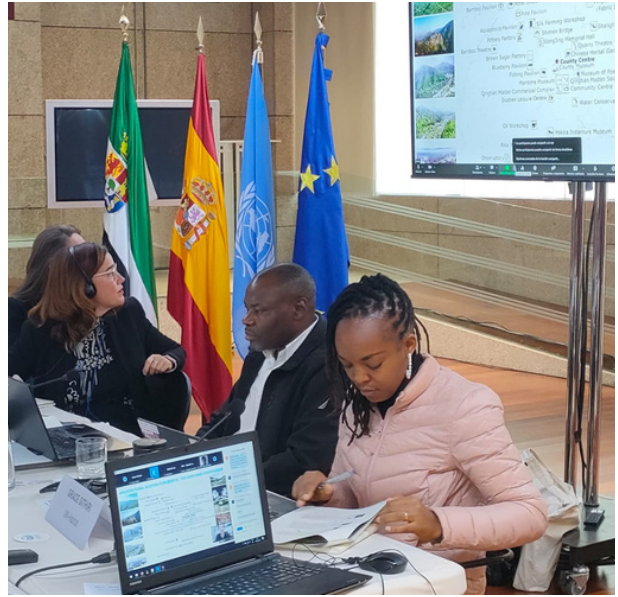






Some of the events, in pictures:

Expert Group Meeting on Urban-Rural Linkages- March 2023 © UN-Habitat



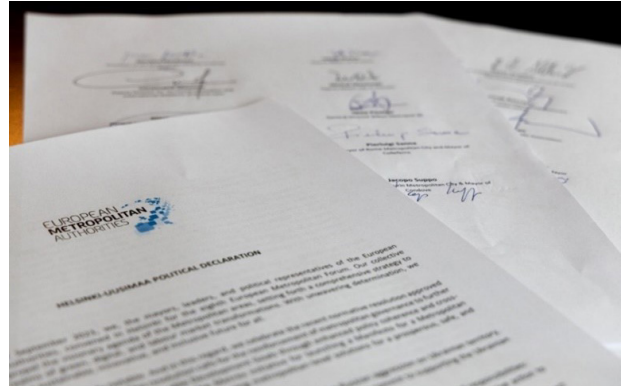
MetroSolutions Expert Group Meeting. Barcelona, Spain. May 2023 © AMB



Sino-German Research project-Urban-Rural Assembly (URA) workshops, Germany. July 2023 © URA



European Metropolitan Authorities (EMA) Annual Forum: 28-29 September (Helsinki, Finland.) © EMA



MetroLAB event: Metropolitan Governance for Urban Resilience: (Tegucigalpa, Honduras.) - October 2023 © UN-Habitat



9th International and Comparative Urban Law Conference. Accra, Ghana- May 2023 © GIMPA





Speakers and participants engaging during the 9th International and Comparative Urban Law Conference © GIMPA





Financial Snapshot

New Funding Acquisitions 2023

In 2023, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, expanded its partnerships and mobilized additional resources for implementation of sustainable urban development initiatives. For some projects, the numerous donor consultations led to an increased confidence in the work of PLGS and additional funding was approved to extend or replicate the projects in subsequent phases.

Additionally, PLGS made new funding acquisitions in 2023 including:



1. Global State of Metropolis, supported by Barcelona Metropolitan Area;
2. Urban-Rural Assembly project, supported by the Technical University of Berlin;
3. Strengthening the capacities of the DRC Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction - Phase II as part of the KIN-Elenda Project, supported by the World Bank-DRC.

Top PLGS Donors 2023

In 2023, the PLGS delivery rate of its funding was 78 per cent. From the released budget 2023, the PLGS funding portfolio continued to illustrate substantial support from national Governments (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Oman, Republic of South Korea and Spain). The top donor analysis also indicated that a significant amount of the released budget 2023 was from in-house agreements

(External Relations Division, Regional Office for Africa; Urban Practices Branch; and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific). This further indicated the strong and ongoing collaboration with various organizational units within the agency. Important to also note was that part of PLGS top 10 donors for 2023 is a foundation (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung).



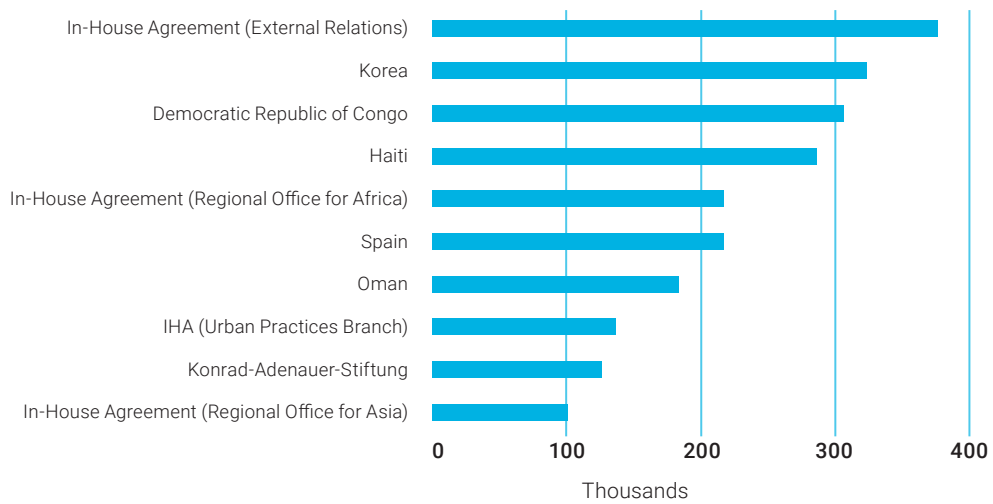


Figure 3. Top Donors 2023

Funding by Thematic Area

PLGS thematic areas were funded in 2023 (released budget) at varying proportions. 30 per cent of the funding was used to initiate or advance urban policy projects while 33 per cent went to implementing projects on legislation and governance. Projects related to implementing the New Urban Agenda used

19 per cent while the urban-rural linkages thematic area received additional funding in 2023, making up 11 per cent of the total PLGS funding. Additional funds were also received in the metropolitan management theme in 2023, contributing 5 per cent of total PLGS funding for the year.

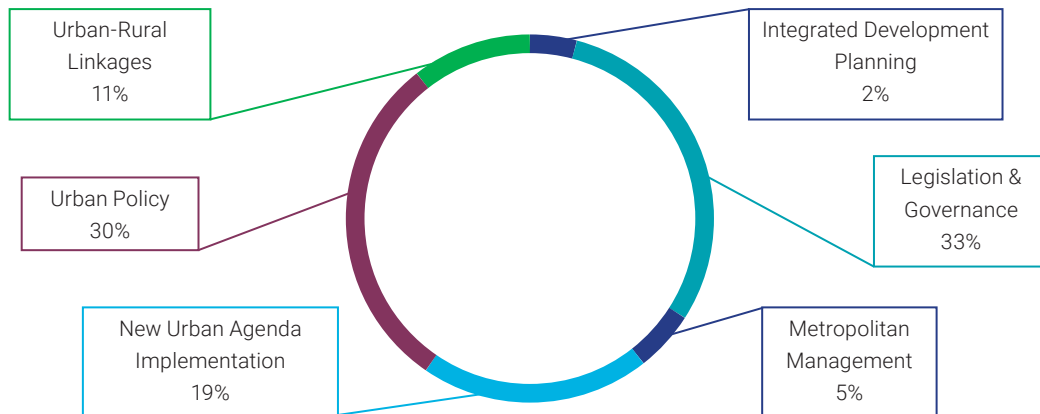


Figure 4. 2023 Funding by Thematic Area



Funding by Donor Category

The PLGS funding portfolio had a diversified nature, with various categories of donors and development partners. National Governments continued to be the major funding source for PLGS (50 per cent), followed by in-house agreements (38 per cent).

Subnational governments funded 4 per cent of the 2023 project implementation, while foundation also funded 5 per cent of the 2023 released budget. The growing partnership with academia also saw a 3 per cent of budget implementation in 2023.

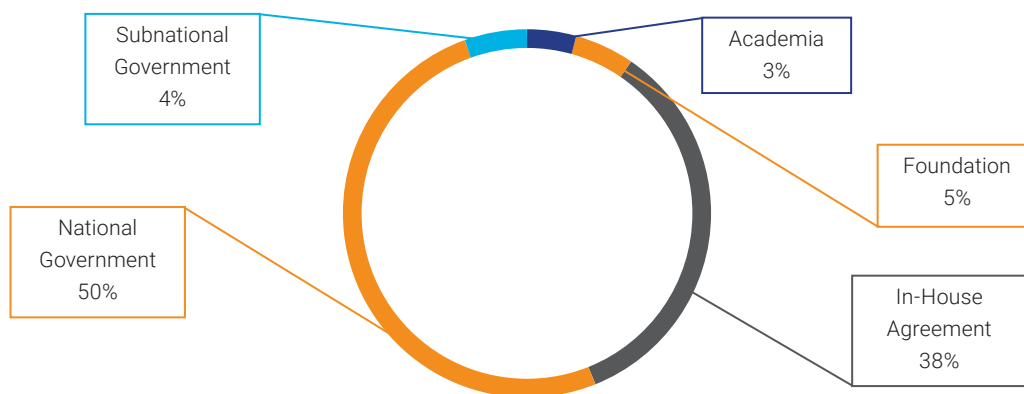


Figure 5. 2023 Funding by Donor Category



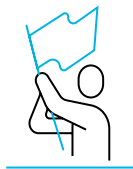
VI

Looking Ahead...

PLGS envisions building on the gains made in 2023, in 2024. With less than seven years until 2030, there is a need to accelerate efforts towards implementing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda for a better urban future for all. In his message, the United Nations Secretary General sees 2024 as “a year for building trust and hope in all that we can accomplish together”. The UN-Habitat Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, underscores that “we will need to redouble our efforts to ensure that every individual has a place to call home.

Recognizing the urgency of climate action, urban climate finance and local action emerge as vital tools in mitigating the impacts of climate change in our cities”.

In 2024, PLGS will continue to mobilize resources and expand partnerships to accelerate implementation of the initiatives that support national and subnational governments and other partners to drive towards sustainable urban development.



Country Projects: Nearly all the projects in 2023 will continue in 2024, as some reach their conclusion. PLGS envisions the signing of more agreements to further cooperate with more partners to jointly begin new projects or advance existing ones.



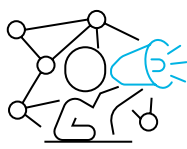
Normative Tools and Knowledge Products: As the existing thematic guides, technical materials and reports continue to be applied in the country projects, PLGS will be looking to develop new innovative and relevant knowledge materials based on ongoing global processes necessitating their development. In addition, UN-Habitat, through PLGS, will be developing the 3rd Global State of National Urban Policy Report and will be releasing two inaugural global reports on a) urban-rural linkages and b) metropolitan management.



Capacity Development: As a key delivery mechanism, most of PLGS projects will continue with technical advisory sessions, workshops and other forms of capacity development efforts. PLGS will also continue leveraging on expert group meetings, workshops and other forms of convergence to enhance the capacity of the partners on various urban topics. Using the wide range of tools and knowledge products, capacity development will be expanded through various initiatives such as the MetroHUB capacity development programme and the Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa.



The forthcoming MetroHUB centre at Milano Polytechnic, Italy, will also offer additional opportunities to apply several metropolitan management tools and knowledge products to reach more cities and communities. It is also envisioned that the PLGS e-learning courses will record increased interaction and learning across the globe. These include the [Digital Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable African Cities](#), the course on [Advancing Climate Action through Urban Law](#) and courses on [urban policy](#), and on [urban-rural linkages](#).



Advocacy and Outreach: At agency level, preparations for the 12th World Urban Forum in November 2024 will be in full gear, in addition to the annual agency-level events such as World Habitat Day, World Cities Day and Urban October at large. At section-level, PLGS will collaborate with other organizational units to make concerted efforts towards the success of these events. For instance, PLGS will be deploying the recently completed Multi-Level Urban Forums Guide in regional, subregional, national and subnational urban forums to mainstream the forum-policy-practice nexus as they review and advance their development agenda in the lead-up to the World Urban Forum. In addition, several other annual events led by PLGS and partners, such as the World Metropolitan Day, Urban Law Days and other events at global, regional and country levels, will continue in 2024.



ENDNOTES

Appreciation from Partners

Note for PLGS participation at 16th Federal Congress on NUP



16th Federal Congress on National Urban Development Policy
Urban-Rural Future Lab – new pathways to better cooperation
12-13 September 2023 in Jena

16th Federal Congress on National Urban Development Policy
“Urban-Rural Future Lab – new pathways to better cooperation”

12 and 13 September 2023
Volkshaus Jena, Carl-Zeiß-Platz 15, 07743 Jena
[Congress website](#)

Dear Chief Sletchipping,

Thank you for joining us for the 16th Federal Congress on National Urban Development Policy at the Volkshaus Jena.

We hosted around a thousand participants live on site for a stimulating and informative two-day event.

This level of engagement is a clear sign that the Federal Congress is valued and appreciated as a platform for face-to-face interaction and networking, and that the scientific, practical and political content is both current and relevant.

A Federal Congress can only be successful if participants actively support and shape it by getting involved and being prepared to share both their experiences and their knowledge. We would therefore like to thank you for your constructive engagement, questions and ideas. We hope that you found the programme just as interesting, inspiring and insightful as we did.

The new breakout session format struck a real chord, allowing us to deepen the dialogue and incorporate excursions and walks. We are delighted that this delivered on our intention to enable participants to encounter best-practice projects in the flesh and engage directly with stakeholders.

If you would like to revisit any of the programme items, please visit the Media Library at [our event website](#). The conference paper with more in-depth contributions from speakers and interesting background information on the Congress topics is also available from the Downloads page.

In the near future, programme highlights will be available on the [National Urban Development Policy website](#), plus you can subscribe to our newsletter there for regular notifications about projects, events and publications relating to the National Urban Development Policy.

Finally, we are delighted to be able to invite you to the **17th Federal Congress on National Urban Development Policy**, which will be held on **17 and 18 September 2024** in Heidelberg.

Until then, we wish you the very best of health and we look forward to seeing you at next year's event.

Congress management:
facts and fiction GmbH
[Borussiastrasse, 19](#)

Correspondence between two partner counties, facilitated by UN-Habitat

松阳县人民政府

圣诞节新年贺信

尊敬的阿莫斯·尼亚立博市长：

值此圣诞节来临之际，我们谨代表 24 万松阳人民向您及贵市人民拜年，并致以诚挚的新年问候和美好的祝愿！

“海内存知己，天涯若比邻”。松阳和贵郡虽远隔万里，但通过联合国人居署这一纽带，两地于今年签署了建立友好关系意向书，约定双方在农业、经济、贸易、文化、教育、体育、卫生、旅游及特色产业等领域开展多种形式的交流和合作，并经常保持联系，一同协商问题，促进两地共同繁荣发展。

感谢贵郡对松阳人民的关心和支持，我们十分珍惜与贵郡友好交流的机会，希望在不远的将来，两地能正式结为友城，进一步深化交流、持续开展合作。

最后，衷心祝愿尼亚米拉繁荣发展！祝愿郡长阁下及家人身体健康，万事如意！



2023 年 12 月 19 日

— 1 —

Christmas and New Year's Greetings

Your Excellency Mayor Amos Nyaribo,

On the occasion of Christmas, on behalf of 240,000 people in Songyang, I would like to extend New Year greetings and best wishes to you and the people of your city.

A bosom friend afar brings a distant land near. Although Songyang and Nyamira are thousands of miles apart, through the link of UN-Habitat, the two places signed a letter of intent to establish friendly relations this year, agreeing to carry out various forms of exchanges and cooperation in the fields of agriculture, economy, trade, culture, education, sports, health, tourism and characteristic industries, and maintain frequent contact to discuss issues together and promote the common prosperity and development of the two places.

Thank you for your care and support to Songyang. We cherish the opportunity of friendly exchanges with your county very much. We hope that in the near future, the two places can officially become sister cities to further deepen exchanges and carry out cooperation in depth.

Finally, I sincerely wish Nyamira prosperity and development! I wish you and your family good health and all the best!

Songyang County People's Government
December 19th, 2023

— 2 —



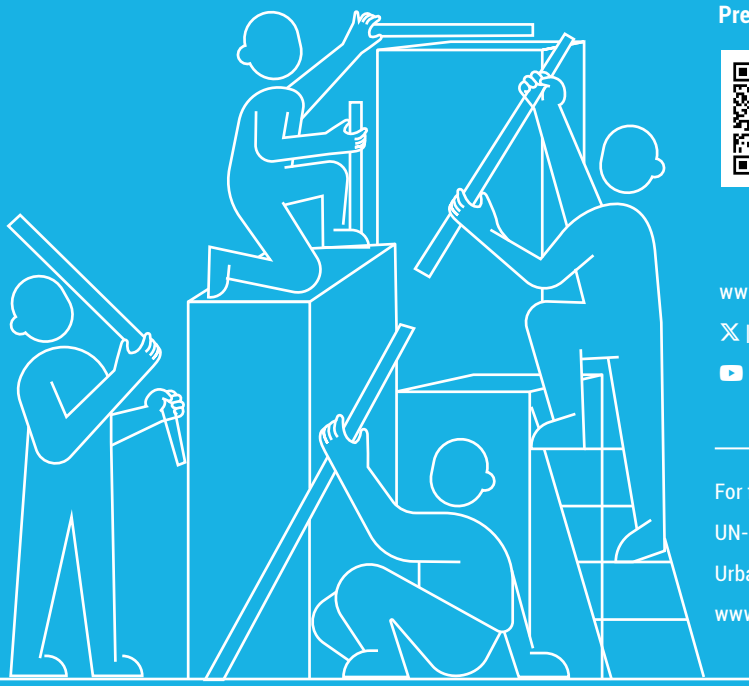
PLGS Annual Report 2023

The Annual Report 2023 of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section of UN-Habitat showcases the work done in the past year to work towards and support the achievement of the main goal of sustainable urban development.

Much has been achieved by PLGS: more than 44 activities in over 37 countries globally, that consolidated collaboration with donors, development partners and beneficiary countries along the themes of policy, legislation and governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.

Specifically, the report presents the progress of the PLGS with the UN-Habitat strategic context; it contains an outline of achievements under the various focus areas, a review of the financial portfolio, and features the planned outcomes the section has for 2024. The report also demonstrates how the section contributed to global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

The report is of benefit to all stakeholders working towards sustainable urban development and will galvanize all to commit their support to UN-Habitat and to each other to realize actionable outcomes.



Access the interactive version here



2023

Previous PLGS Annual reports



2020



2021



2022

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Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division

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