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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) presents its compliments to the members of regional Group of the Western European and Other States (WEOG) and has the honour to refer to Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.1 on the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities, adopted on 9 June 2023 during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and to inform that consultations at the regional level are about to begin.

As may be recalled, the resolution requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to initiate the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities as a non-binding framework for developing national and local smart city regulations, plans, and strategies. The resolution further called for the guidelines to be developed through an inclusive consultative process. The preparation is thus being guided by 31 global experts nominated by Member States and appointed by UN-Habitat's Executive Director.

Furthermore, UN-Habitat, under the guidance of the 31 global experts, is conducting a series of virtual and in-person regional consultations to ensure the guidelines' development truly reflects geographical nuances and priorities of Member States. Specifically, a Regional Consultation for Eastern Europe and Western European and Other States is scheduled to take place in Bratislava, Slovakia, from **28 - 29 January 2025**. The goal of this consultation is to validate the final draft of the guidelines in the region.

In order for the consultations to benefit widely from the region, UN-Habitat would be grateful if, the members of the regional Group of WEOG could nominate a subject matter expert to join the Regional Consultation for Eastern Europe and Western European and Other States. The nominee should be a smart cities subject matter expert with a proven track record in this area.

Nominations should be submitted to <u>unhabitat-sgb@un.org</u> with a copy to <u>ig-pcsc@un.org</u> by the **29**th of November **2024**.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the to the members of regional Group of the Western European and Other States the assurances of its highest consideration.

18 November 2024

