



**UNITED  
NATIONS**

**HSP/EB.2025/7**



**UN-HABITAT**

**United Nations  
Human Settlements  
Programme**

Distr.: General  
28 January 2025  
Original: English

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**Executive Board of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme  
First session of 2025  
Nairobi, 25–27 March 2025  
Item 9 of the provisional agenda\***

**Update on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by  
the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

## **Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly\*\***

### **Report of the Executive Director**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present report provides a systematic update on the implementation of the 15 resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2019 and 2023. It highlights progress made within the September 2024 - January 2025 reporting period, including some elements of the presentation on resolution implementation delivered at the second session of UN-Habitat's Executive Board in 2024 (December 2024). Importantly, the creation of UN-Habitat's Assembly Resolution Tracker<sup>1</sup> and the activation of the Urban Action Funding Window mark the full implementation of resolution 2/10 and provide continuous access to detailed financial and programmatic information for each resolution.

#### **II. Implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session, held in 2019**

##### **A. Resolution 1/1: United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023**

2. Pursuant to resolution 1/1, 2025 marks the last year of implementing the extended 2020-2023 strategic plan. An independent midterm review of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2025 by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (HSP/EB.2024/4) was completed and presented at the 2024 second session of UN-Habitat's Executive Board. Progress on the implementation of the 2020-2025 strategic plan is detailed in HSP/EB.2024/17 and HSP/EB.2024/INF/12.

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\* HSP/EB.2025/1.

\*\* The present document has not been formally edited.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unhabitat.org/unhabitat-resolutions>.

## **B. Resolution 1/2: United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements**

3. Pursuant to resolution 1/2, UN-Habitat co-developed [The Urban Safety Monitor](#)<sup>2</sup> with mayors, academia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Human Security Unit, inter alia. UN-Habitat also developed an e-learning course entitled “[Urban safety and human security in cities](#)”<sup>3</sup>, for municipal practitioners, civil servants, urban planners, non-governmental and community-based organizations and other stakeholders. (OP4)

4. Together with the Global Network on Safer Cities, UN-Habitat organized multiple peer-learning events on safety and human security in cities, including during the 12<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo. Lessons learned have been analysed and summarized into a publication titled “[Neighbourhoods for All – Peer-to-Peer Learning on Safer Cities 2023-24](#)”.

5. Through the Global Network on Safer Cities, the focus continues to be on the implementation of the USM and promotion of the e-learning course, to support the development of inclusive urban safety and security policies at the city level. (OP4)

6. If further financial resources are mobilized, context-specific piloting of urban safety tools would also be achievable, along with the development of the inter-agency framework to strengthen partnerships and UN systemwide coordination on urban safety and human security. (OP4, OP5, OP6, OP7, OP8)

## **C. Resolution 1/3: Enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

7. Pursuant to resolution 1/3, a comprehensive Capacity-Building Strategy was endorsed followed by an Implementation Plan covering the period 2021-2024. These have since guided<sup>8</sup> agency-wide strengthening of capacity building as a cross-cutting function. (OP1)

8. UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda Illustrated, a practical handbook translated into French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and Chinese was digitalized in the form of online self-paced courses aiming at facilitating understanding, implementation and reporting on the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

9. The UN-Habitat Learn platform, created in 2021, supports innovation for learning through the digitalization of high-impact guidance and methodologies pilot tested on the ground across UN-Habitat operations. A catalogue of courses in multiple languages, supporting the transformative commitments of the NUA, was since developed.

10. Support to regional centers of excellence, training programmes and training needs assessments, partnerships with networks of academics and professionals, as well as private-sector partners continues, with a focus on low-income countries. (OP3)

11. Continuous guidance to strengthening capacity development as a cross-cutting organizational function is provided across the agency, including through sharing of expertise and practices, advisory services in tools and project development, digitalization and innovation. See HSP/EB/2025/6 for further details.

## **D. Resolution 1/4: Achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements**

12. UN-Habitat continues to prioritize gender mainstreaming, ensuring gender-responsiveness through day-to-day efforts and specific operational outcomes (OP1). The Human Rights, Gender and Social Inclusion Handbook for Project Managers is set for internal launch, in early 2025. (OP2, OP5)

13. Pursuing UN-Habitat's commitments under the UN-SWAP<sup>4</sup> on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and the Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, the UN Gender Marker on financial expenditure on gender equality and women's empowerment has started to be rolled out and is expected to be operational, within UN-Habitat, in Q1 of 2025. (OP2)

<sup>2</sup> <https://urbansafetymonitor.org/about/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://learn.unhabitat.org/enrol/index.php?id=91>.

<sup>4</sup> System-wide Action Plan. I9

14. Partnerships with UN entities and gender equality stakeholders are further solidified. The World Urban Forum (WUF), including the Women's Assembly and Women's Roundtable, provided a key platform for engagement on gender-related progress and challenges in urban contexts. UN-Habitat is currently preparing for CSW69, including Beijing+30. (OP3)

15. On the Women-led Cities joint programme<sup>5</sup>, current efforts are focused on resource mobilization, for the inclusion of up to 10 pilot cities and the establishment of a joint secretariat with partners. This innovative programme combines empowerment and capacity building of women mayors and city leaders with financial support for women in the informal sector and improvements to urban infrastructure, enabling women's full participation in socio-economic opportunities.

16. Additional funding is required in order to scale up efforts and boost the implementation of resolution 1/4, as there is no dedicated funding available at the moment to advance further on any of the OPs.

## **E. Resolution 1/5: Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements**

17. UN-Habitat has made progress in implementing resolution 1/5, through normative work, capacity building, advocacy, technical assistance and partnerships.

18. Over 58 case studies from 60 countries have been published across three compendiums, in addition to diverse knowledge products and seven newsletter editions, disseminating knowledge globally. (OPI, 3, 4)

19. Through capacity development, over 500 stakeholders, including students, experts and government officials in Africa and Asia, have been trained on urban-rural linkages (URL). (OP3, 4)

20. Advocacy efforts include three International Forums on URL co-organized with partners bringing together over 600 participants and contributions to global platforms like the G20 and UN Food Systems Summit, as well as the UNCCD 16<sup>th</sup> COP meeting in Riyadh in December. (OP3, 4)

21. UN-Habitat has supported 13 countries in integrating URL into national/sub-national strategies, engaging with partners from up to 22 countries overall. For instance, in 2024, UN-Habitat supported the development of the 'Grand-Bamako framework' in Mali, integrating urban and rural development. Additional funding avenues are being explored to respond to more support requests. (OP4, 5)

22. Partnerships with UN agencies, international and local organizations and diverse academic institutions have strengthened collaboration, resulting in the establishment of the African Center for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa at University of Nairobi, Kenya. (OPI, 3, 4, 5)

## **II. Implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its adjourned second session, held in 2023**

### **A. Resolution 2/1: International guidelines on people-centred smart cities**

23. UN-Habitat further advanced the drafting of the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities, continuing to involve consultations with global, regional and multi-stakeholder groups. The first and second expert group meetings (EGMs) for the development of the guidelines were held respectively in April (in-person) and September (online) 2024, with the 31 global experts nominated by Member States. The meetings outlined the structure and principles of the guidelines and identified critical actors and their responsibilities to be captured. The last EGM is planned for January 2025, online. Meanwhile, the group continues to provide expert insights to UN-Habitat through monthly meetings. (OP3, 4)

24. Between June and December 2024, UN-Habitat also held consultations with representatives of academia, civil society organizations, local and regional governments private-sector, international organizations and financial institutions and regional experts nominated by Member States. (OP3, 4)

25. Concurrently, the state-of-the-art assessment was conducted by Edinburgh Napier University, offering data-driven insights into emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in urban digital

<sup>5</sup> With UNCDF and Ella Impacta Alliance.

transformation. The report was launched at WUF12 in Cairo<sup>6</sup>. See document HSP/EB.2024/INF/15 for additional details.

## **B. Resolution 2/2: Accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030**

26. The transformation of informal settlements and slums continues to be one of UN-Habitat's high priorities. In December 2024, the agency hosted the first session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (see details in resolution 2/7). Slums represent one of the most extreme forms of housing inadequacy. As part of this session, UN-Habitat reported on progress made in implementing its programme of work, related to adequate housing, including addressing homelessness and slums upgrading (see HSP/OEWG-H/2024/5).

27. On the development of the subregional implementation framework with SADC countries<sup>7</sup> and the Government of South Africa, a contribution agreement has been signed. It includes funding for the development and implementation of a sub-regional strategy, with an annual budget allocation. The SADC Secretariat is in charge of the political component of the development of the strategy, while UN-Habitat was endorsed as technical lead. (*OP3 and 4*)

28. UN-Habitat country offices continue to implement a range of technical assistance and direct implementation projects for settlement upgrading and housing provision, particularly in humanitarian contexts. (*OP5, 6 and 7*)

29. Discussions with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS, 79 member States) continue for the design of a project largely aimed at the implementation of the resolution, including: advocacy and political mobilisation, capacity building and operationalization of the technical guidelines on multiple partnership approaches, and a competitive process for countries to apply for funds to support already ongoing initiatives in ACP countries from different thematic entry-points. (*OP5, 6 and 7*)

30. The Informality Taskforce of Cities Alliance has started consultations with its members on how to operationalize the 10 areas of action to deliver the resolution as a multi-stakeholder initiative. Priority countries were identified, and activities of partners mapped, as well as concept notes developed. (*OP5, 6 and 7*)

31. The outline of content of the 'Technical Guidelines for a Multiple Partnership Approach' has progressed. An agreement for joint resource mobilisation with IIED is being considered. (*OP8*)

## **C. Resolution 2/3: World Cleanup Day**

32. UNGA Resolution A/78/122 approved the establishment of September 20 as World Cleanup Day (WCD), inviting global action to combat plastic pollution and environmental degradation. Entrusted with facilitating its observance, UN-Habitat, together with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, GRID-Arendal, the FRAM - High North Research Centre for Climate and the Environment and Let's Do It World, celebrated the inaugural WCD in Tromsø, Norway. More than 50,000 cleanup events in 180 countries were registered as organising a cleanup on the day. (*OP2*)

33. A note verbale will be sent in January 2025 inviting Member States to express interest in hosting the 2025 and 2026 observances. (*OP8*)

## **D. Resolution 2/4: Biodiverse and resilient cities – mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning**

34. UN-Habitat has accelerated the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning. A brochure on the agency's urban biodiversity work was disseminated, events were organized at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali (October 2024) and at WUF12 (November 2024), and an information document on this resolution was submitted to the Parties to the CBD. (*OP1*)

<sup>6</sup> <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1k/k1k7qr9whu>.

<sup>7</sup> Southern African Development Community.

35. In parallel, two reports were produced: one on best practices related to multi-scalar and supra-municipal planning for prevention-oriented development and another on the urban content of national and local biodiversity strategies and action plans. (*OP2*)
36. Due to lack of funding for the establishment of an expert advisory group, UN-Habitat is in discussions with relevant organizations about convening a group of experts who would already be attending the upcoming CBD COP17 in Armenia and WUF13 in Azerbaijan in 2026. (*OP2*).
37. UN-Habitat has also explored opportunities for investment in and development of pilot projects and programmes through bilateral meetings with international financial institutions, their accredited implementing agencies, and relevant interested line ministries. (*OP4, 5*)
38. Pursuant to *OP6*, UN-Habitat is linking key elements of the New Urban Agenda, such as minimizing sprawl, to biodiversity protection. The agency co-organized a biodiversity webinar with the Environmental Management Group and is exploring the creation of an ‘issue management group’ on land use changes. Concurrently, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) is funding “BiodiverCities for the acceleration of the New Urban Agenda”, projects in Mesoamerican countries, building on the BiodiverCities network, a joint initiative of the World Economic Forum and the Humboldt Institute.
39. The development of the “Hotspot Stoplight” toolkit for biodiverse and resilient cities is well underway, in partnership with the McHarg Center for Urbanism and Ecology<sup>8</sup>. It uses open-source data, artificial intelligence and deep learning algorithms to project urban expansion and the risks of biodiversity loss and climate change to 2050. UN-Habitat presented the Stoplight at the 24th Understanding Risk Global Forum in Himeji, Japan (June 2024), and at a technical session of the World Bank in Washington DC, USA (January 2025). (*OP7*) For details, see document HSP/EB.2024/INF/16.

## **E. Resolution 2/5: Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience**

40. UN-Habitat organized the 2024 Innovate4Cities conference convening nearly 2,000 stakeholders across academia and research, government, business, and civil society to present cutting-edge research and practices. Following the conference, UN-Habitat co-published an updated Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science (GRAA), identifying current research gaps to guide practice-oriented research and innovation.
41. At the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, UN-Habitat launched its flagship World Cities Report on Cities and Climate Action, analyzing current and expected climate impacts and differing vulnerabilities faced by urban populations across different regions and cities. This report shows that cities are leading the way through innovative, community-led approaches - demonstrating the potential of collaborative, inclusive approaches to climate action. The GRAA and the World Cities Report are expected to contribute to the forthcoming IPCC special report on climate change and cities. (*OP1, 6*)
42. At WUF12 and COP29, held in Baku, UN-Habitat organized, co-organized or participated in over 50 climate change-related events including inter alia, on buildings, housing and climate resilient informal settlements, urban planning, water and sanitation, SDG localization, finance, urban health, loss and damage etc. Trainings on enhancing the urban content of the NDCs were also held. (*OP1, 4*)
43. The third Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, hosted by the COP29 presidency and co-organized by UN-Habitat, featured a high-level opening and four ministerial roundtables, for in-depth discussions on: i. Green Construction and Buildings; ii. Urban Transport and Infrastructure, iii. Nature, Health, and Resilience in Cities, iv. Urban Climate Finance. (*OP2, 8*)
44. The operationalization of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative received a significant boost, thanks to the funding committed by the government of the Slovak Republic. Resource mobilization continues, particularly for the COP30 Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, NDC3.0 enhancement and for SURGe regional hubs. (*OP3*)

## **F. Resolution 2/6: Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals**

45. UN-Habitat further accelerated the advancement of SDG localization. In 2024, UN-Habitat supported the development of 15 Voluntary Local Reviews (*OP2 b, c*), continued to build capacity for

<sup>8</sup> University of Pennsylvania.

the application of the Urban Monitoring Framework (*OP3, a, b, c*), and expanded its learning offerings with the “Planning for Change with the SDGs” training module, four upcoming SDG Cities courses and the launch of the SDG Cities Global Community, a platform for visibility, partnership and capacity building. (*OP2 b, f, OP3*)

46. In addition, the agency is scaling up work with national governments, through the development of SDG Localization Country Frameworks worldwide, and with cities, through the SDG Cities Global Initiative.

47. Advocacy efforts continued apace, with 13 events organized by UN-Habitat at the 2024 High-level Political Forum and the focus on localization at WUF12. (*OP2 b, f*) UN-Habitat also contributed to the Inter-Agency Policy Briefs on SDG Localization. (*OP2, b, c; OP3*)

48. Expanding partnerships, UN-Habitat has signed three MoUs: (1) with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of Italy to develop the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, granting funding for 3.3 million USD; (2) with the International Olympic Committee to launch the Sports and Sustainable Urban Development Initiative, granting 1.1 million USD (piloting will start in Egypt, Jordan, Brazil, and Ghana); and (3) with OECD to jointly develop the Global Stocktake on Localizing the SDGs, aiming to be UN-Habitat’s flagship publication in 2026 and a global reference on the status of localization worldwide. (*OP2 a, d, e*)

49. Within the framework of the G7 Italian Presidency, UN-Habitat has been engaged as a key expert organization in the G7 Urban, Environment and Development Cooperation Ministerial Tracks and was mentioned in the three resulting Ministerial Communiqués. (*OP2 e, f*) Furthermore, the agency has engaged with the G20 Process, particularly through the activities of the G20 Platform on SDG Localization and Intermediary Cities (G20 PLIC). (*OP2 f, OP9*)

50. Lastly, through the Local2030 Coalition, and with funding support from the Government of Spain and the Joint SDG Fund, 30 joint proposals were developed by UN Country Teams, with total funding of USD 24 million disbursed to accelerate SDG localization and advance the six transitions.

## **G. Resolution 2/7: Adequate housing for all**

51. The first session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All was held from 9 to 11 December 2024 in Nairobi. The first session deliberated on several substantive agenda items, captured in a summary by the Chair, and adopted terms of reference to supplement the Intergovernmental Working Group’s application of the rules of procedure of the UN Habitat Assembly.

52. Mexico, as president of the UN-Habitat Assembly, chaired the first session and France and Kenya were elected as co-chairs for the second session of the Intergovernmental Working Group. All documents related to the first session are available at: <https://unhabitat.org/meetings/open-ended-intergovernmental-expert-working-group-on-adequate-housing-for-all>.

53. The dates and agenda of the second session of the Intergovernmental Working Group will be determined by the Executive Board and the secretariat is consulting with the co-chairs on the implementation of inter-sessional activities.

54. France and Kenya jointly hosted a political briefing in the margins of the World Urban Forum. The event strengthened and broadened the coalition of countries championing the implementation of resolution 2/7.

55. UN-Habitat headquarters, regional and country offices continue to implement a series of adequate housing related projects, as described in the documents for the first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group. UN-Habitat is also working with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to support the Secretary General in reporting to the General Assembly on matters relating to homelessness.

## **H. Resolution 2/8: Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure**

56. Pursuant to resolution 2/8, Our City Plans platform has expanded its tools, case studies and thematic content, including planning activities and tools focusing on climate action, participation, socio-spatial inclusion, sustainable urban mobility and urban finance.

57. Additionally, UN-Habitat finalized the draft of “Local Approaches to Financing Sustainable Urban Mobility in Low-Income Countries”, a publication addressing linkages between spatial planning, infrastructure (implementation, operation and maintenance) and local revenue.

58. The Capital Investment Planning Methodology Guidelines are under review and set to be applied beyond India, Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan to Mozambique - with ongoing discussions with the World Bank on further co-developing the manual and guidelines. This methodology, linking spatial planning with regional and urban investments, was also provided as a training to national and local governments during WUF12.
59. The Atlas on Urban Regeneration, developed with the Sustainable Urban Regeneration Lab of Bocconi University, was launched at WUF12, featuring case studies on linkages between spatial planning and physical and social infrastructure. The Urban Regeneration Training package, covering spatial planning, socio-economic assessments, financing, and innovation, has been finalized. *(OPI)*
60. Consultations with Member States have been conducted to advance the resolution's implementation, with a specific focus on developing countries. *(OPI, 2)*
61. On engagements with financing institutions, under the lead of the Executive Director, a collaboration framework is being elaborated, and several events have taken place<sup>9</sup>, presenting UN-Habitat's strategic plan, methodologies and tools linking spatial planning and finance of housing, infrastructure and services.
62. Preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4, July 2025) continue, with a side-event planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> FfD4 PrepCom Session. *(OP5)*
63. Urban labs continue to provide technical assistance for integrated planning and infrastructure development, now in Mesoamerica, West Africa, Asia and Southern Africa (latter under negotiation). Additional portfolio has been acquired in Cuba, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Eswatini, Egypt, Jordan, Vietnam, Nepal, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, amongst others. *(OP6)*

#### **I. Resolution 2/9: Creation of a human settlements resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response, and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction**

64. At WUF12, consultations with partners on developing a comprehensive operational framework *(OPI)* highlighted key priorities, including bridging gaps between foresight, early warning, recovery, and resilience, and ensuring ground-level impact. Numerous partners committed to supporting the initiative. Further consultations and finalizing the draft framework depend on mobilizing resources.
65. The mapping of actors and country-level initiatives continues, to improve access to science and data on crises affecting human settlements for Member States, local authorities and other actors. *(OPI b)*
66. Progress continues in establishing partnerships for AI and technology innovation in data mining and analytics to enhance urban resilience decision-making. Further advancement depends on resource mobilization. *(OPI b)*
67. Post-crises urban recovery frameworks are being developed to support rapid recovery from urban crises in human settlements, complementing nationally-led recovery frameworks (i.e. Syria, Ukraine) *(OPI (e))*. Training materials based on the CRGP-AXA Housing Reconstruction Manual are in progress, pending resource mobilization.
68. The UN-Habitat emergency response fund (from crises to resilient development) is not yet fully reactivated due to lack of funding. However, UN-OCHA has offered to facilitate access to existing standby partnerships for humanitarian response and a business model for deployment of standby capacity is being developed (e.g., in support of the refugee response with UNHCR and the Geneva Technical Hub 2.0 under revision) and as part of UN-Habitat's Institutional Plan for Solutions to Internal Displacement.

#### **J. Resolution 2/10: Equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

69. Through its resolution 2/10, the UN-Habitat Assembly seeks to improve the funding of underfunded resolutions by establishing the urban action funding window as a new funding mechanism, complemented by regular reporting on the implementation of resolutions. This resolution is now fully implemented.

<sup>9</sup> Including WUF12 bilaterals and the World Bank URL Forum "Liveable Cities for a Liveable Planet."

70. In 2023, the funding window was established within the financial system of UN-Habitat, and its terms of reference were endorsed by the Executive Board in its decision 2023/6,3 adopted at its third session of 2023. (OP3, 4)

71. In 2024, the contribution agreement template was revised to include the elective transfer of project balances to the urban action funding window, with explicit reference to resolution 2/10, decision 2023/6 of the Executive Board and to the terms of reference for the funding window. Engagement with donors on such transfers will be supported through advocacy and communication. (OP5)

72. The tracking system for the implementation of resolutions is now available on UN-Habitat's website (<https://unhabitat.org/unhabitat-resolutions>) and will be updated semi-annually. (OP1)

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