

Minutes of the 64th Ad-Hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary, and Administrative matters

[Secretariat's notes in square brackets; Grey highlighted text signals changes requested by Member States and amendments made by the Secretariat and/or indications where requests were already reflected]

CHAIR:

- Reminds that guidance and comments of Member States - today inputs are sought for a final draft to be submitted as in-session document to the Executive Board

Opening remarks by the DED:

- Purpose today is to advance work on draft Strategic Plan (SP)
- For easy orientation, Secretariat has prepared overview of what changed
- Reminds delegations of deadline – submitting latest draft as in-session document to the next session of the Executive Board (submit text to UNON conference services Wednesday, latest Thursday this week)
- Based on Member States' guidance and agreement we hope to proceed

Presentation by the Secretariat on recent changes made

- Changes for clarity and style
- Changes on request by Member States (both technical and substantive)
- Changes on language – from the New Urban Agenda (NUA) or UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions

PORTUGAL

- Comments on the process:
 - o Did not expect a line by line negotiated document. Comments verbally exposed in the room were expected to have as much weight as those sent in writing
 - o There were clear comments from a lot of delegations that those changes recently made are not acceptable
 - o Future comments and any comments should be accompanied by a note verbale; an online platform should be set up so that all Member States can see the comments
- Comments on language itself: marginalised communities vs. people in vulnerable situations
 - o The first one is broader; it includes groups experiencing systemic exclusion; for us it would be normal that UN-Habitat works on this; we heard comments on these terms allowing for irresponsible readings, but for us it is necessary that UN-Habitat complies to the UN charter that emphasises equal rights for all
 - o But we also said if it is in the NUA and if the context is appropriate, we can support it. It is not ideal but as NUA in general refers to the usage of “people in vulnerable situations” we can accept it. But, changing from marginalised to people in vulnerable situations is not the same as simply deleting it as was done on one of the outcomes
 - o Gender-related language: Let us be clear: SDG 5 is achieving gender equality; also, NUA refers to gender equality. We did not find once the term mainstreaming gender equality. Even in the UN-Habitat Assembly resolution that the Secretariat refers to it says achieving gender equality - not

mainstreaming. This is because mainstreaming is only a process to an outcome. The SP should have the outcome as achieving gender equality, and not mainstreaming. We can have mainstreaming, but it always has to be coupled with achieving gender equality as outcome.

- Comments paragraph by paragraph:
 - o Executive summary and paragraph 28: In the expected global impact there is a need to add: “in particular those in vulnerable situations” [added as suggested]
 - o Executive summary and paragraph 53: Outcome 2 says “mainstreaming” which is fine but every time we need to add “and achieving gender equality” [added as suggested]
 - o paragraph 17 refers to NUA, OP 165, when talking about an overarching paragraph, but OP 165 is very context-specific. We propose to change this to NUA, OP 15 sub para c. It will then read: Therefore, (..) UNH will leverage its capacity to support MS to adopt a sustainable, people-centred, age and gender responsive and integrated approach to (...) [amended as suggested]
 - o paragraph 20: introduce “in particular, those in vulnerable situations” [added as suggested]
 - o paragraph 30: must read “decent jobs”, but has already been corrected here
 - o paragraph 39: between “and can hinder.. and ...pollution and floods” we do not have a specific suggestion for reformulation, but request to rephrase it as the way it is written now underscores that these are environmental effects of climate change, which is not the case [revised as suggested]
 - o paragraph 53: should read mainstreaming and achieving gender equality [added as suggested]

COLOMBIA

- Acknowledges that the process is not easy. Understand and appreciate putting together all request and differences in position, thank you for trying. The process that you followed is according to what is used to be done in the framework of the informal AHWG
- Acknowledges adjustments made in the outcome on participatory multi-level governance: it addresses issues raised by Member States in last sessions and refines clarity while remaining the essential focus (i.e., equitable governance and inclusive participation).
- Recognises revisions made to paragraph 12, by focusing on convergence of crisis affecting urban areas. New version has clearer and more accessible narratives. It also deepens the focus on the human impact of the crisis, moving beyond infrastructure concerns to highlight how urban inequalities are exacerbated. Adjustments underscore the need for inclusive urban resilience and reflect the holistic understanding of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of urbanization. We hope this new version will foster greater consensus among Member States, particular those sensitive to the inclusion of certain politically charged references.
- Recognises revisions in paragraph 46 with clearer emphasis on empowering specific groups, which reflects a significant step towards inclusivity by explicitly highlighting the effects of global housing crisis on these groups, the new version strengthens a focus on equity and human rights. We commend the inclusivity of this approach, and believe it would be further strengthened by including people of African descent [included as

suggested]. Similar to other groups highlighted in the para, they experience specific challenges and disproportionate impacts in urban environments that warrant recognition. We are however open to considering flexible wording that acknowledges other affected groups, ensuring that the SP remains inclusive and reflective of diverse realities faced by marginalised communities.

- We welcome the inclusion and emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment that features strongly in the governance and implementation framework. We hope this will also work as consensus between the Member States present
- Significant enhancement is the introduction of a more comprehensive Monitoring Framework that builds on results-based management principles. A clear definition of impact, outcomes, and outputs enhance accountability;
- Generally, the articulation of the SP with resolutions adopted in the past reinforces the SP's relevance and coherence; it also strengthens alignment with UN-Habitat's strategic direction and its broader mandate

COSTA RICA

- Thanks the ED and the Secretariat for this tremendous effort
- Portugal has already said many things we wanted to say
- Proposal is still under review by our headquarters, particularly the human rights department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- We regret that human rights language is being backtracked
- We reserve our right to come back later with specific comments
- Will appreciate a document in track changes as has been shown this morning

MEXICO

- Thanks the Secretariat for monumental work to try accommodate Member States' priorities and perspectives;
- We commend the inclusion of climate change within the global challenges section
- Would like to see more references to migration, internal displacement, refugee crisis and its impact in cities in order to better integrate these issues in the Programme's work [included in paragraph 38]
- On gender mainstreaming, we recognise there was a need to find compromise but we deeply regret that language related to human rights-based approaches and gender-based approaches were deleted [or diluted?]; the same happened with marginalised groups.
- We believe that the seven aspects of adequate housing should continue to guide UN-Habitat's work, particularly tenure security
- On the Monitoring Framework: how are you planning to integrate quantitative and qualitative indicators, what does it entail and how does it look like? [response integrated in new paragraph 91] We propose to consider the pact principles [was not audible clearly] along with smart principles to leverage UN-Habitat's impact, since they also consider the process itself and not only the results
- We can support all language proposed by Portugal

NETHERLANDS

- We support comments by Costa Rica and Portugal, both content and on process

- We regret the changed the changed language in human rights and gender.
- We do not understand why we hear from the Secretariat that we stick to the agreed language from the NUA but then we see omissions in the references, such as on NUA gender equality and people in vulnerable situations. Paragraph 13 c reads `achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls`. We hope to see this language reflected in the new document [already reflected in paragraph 23, addressed additionally in paragraphs 31 and 53].

GERMANY

- Appreciates efforts to align the draft more consistently with the language of the NUA
- Strongly supports comments made by Portugal and supports inclusion of terms that are more specific and explicitly reflect the needs of vulnerable urban communities and of specific marginalised groups
- Stresses that terms that have been established in the NUA and other UN frameworks internationally agreed should be welcome in the SP. This includes specific terms: gender-based violence and marginalised communities. However, our delegation remains open to deliberations on this language and we hope we can accommodate this objective.
- Believes that as part of the UN system, UN-Habitat must ensure that its work fully aligns with established human rights principles, including gender diversity, non-discrimination and inclusion of all marginalised communities. We believe that addressing human rights, gender equality and inclusivity is essential for a just and sustainable urban development. These principles are critical to build resilience, equitable and reliant cities for all and should be highly reflected in the SP [articulated in paragraph 20]

EGYPT

- Thanks for the progress made, welcomes the new version
- It is more relevant to the work on programme, also less contentious and controversial
- There are still some minor comments that will be sent in writing
- Question on next steps: when are you sending it to translation? Some new comments will come and Member States need to know next steps in order to be ready with our comments on the final draft

BRAZIL

- Takes note of the new version
- Recognises Secretariat's efforts in addressing concerns of some MS while maintaining consistency with agreed language and multilateral commitments, particularly the SDGs and the NUA
- We echo comments made by other delegations
- Understand that this is not a line-by-line negotiation
- Encourages Secretariat to apply a more consistent approach in conducting this process to avoid asymmetries in the negotiation process
- Appreciates revisions made on implementation and monitoring, which takes into account inputs provided by Member States; encourages further refinement of the section to ensure a robust and effective framework for tracking progress
- Underscores the importance of clearly defining roles and responsibilities within UN-Habitat for the implementation of the SP. To this end, we request the inclusion of a topic

on accountability of implementation within UN-Habitat; ensuring transparency and effectiveness in delivering on the SP objectives [included in paragraph 81]

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- Thanks the Secretariat for outstanding work trying to incorporate the concerns of a large number of delegations while maintaining agreed language without meeting any lacunas of definitions
- Notes that the notion of gender equality, human rights and violence are addressed in the draft – especially related to priorities of UN-Habitat; Given that this is a strategic plan for a specified agency working on housing, this is the right approach
- Recognise the need to be consistent with the process and be in time and encourage Member States to refrain from propositions that might make us spend more time than necessary on this important document

ALGERIA

- Appreciates the Secretariat for considering Member States' views in the new draft
- Welcomes approach of being inclusive and transparent
- Commend Secretariat for new foundation and the language on people in vulnerable situations, gender mainstreaming and gender equality. This is relevant to UN-Habitat's work and its mandate
- Stress that SP elaboration should be inclusive and transparent and respect national context
- Echoes question by Egypt on next steps
- Reserves right for further comments on new amendments on the document

CHAIR:

- Secretariat should take note of concerns of Member States raised concerning the need to still improve the process
- It is important to highlight that these are informal consultations, no technical negotiations.
- Yet, some issues still remain regarding the language on human rights and gender. Effort by the Secretariat was to bring in language of the NUA. Still there are differences. Let us keep open to find ways of anticipating a way to find consensus.

SGB (Ulf Björnholm):

- One more opportunity to have another iteration: hard deadline to submit the SP for the UN-Habitat Assembly is 6 March 2025 (translation).
- The AHWG PBA on 5 March 2025 provides one more opportunity to look at new iteration to submit as pre-session doc for assembly, which also would be background doc for the Executive Board, with the opportunity to provide recommendation of the Executive Board to the UN-Habitat Assembly for adoption
- Asks Member States to send comments as soon as possible but no later than Friday noon.

PORTUGAL

- Reiterates that comments in writing should be made available to other delegations on a platform

COSTA RICA

- Reminds of the importance of circulating the document in track changes - it will ease the task ahead

Language proposed in writing during and after the meeting:

EGYPT

- Paragraph 46: to add in the end of the paragraph "and other Urbanization hardships". [integrated with slight stylistic amendment]

requests to delete what is highlighted in red as follows:

- 1- Paragraph 20. delete "and anchored in international human rights standards".
- 2- Paragraph 31. delete "and harassment".
- 3- Paragraph 46. delete "and girls".
- 4- Paragraph 63. delete "between institutions and government" and "and aligns with international guidelines". [all done as requested]

MOROCCO

- 1- The importance of preserving architectural heritage while respecting the specificities of each region, according to SDG 11 and its target 11.4 on strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage; [included in paragraph 40]
- 2- With regard to the implementation guidance of the axes of the 2026-2029 strategic plan, it must be carried out through actions on the sectors of housing, territorial planning and urban management, and develop a framework for managing the actions through orientations and intervention methods by specifying them by sector and intervention tools. This will apply for instance for the two first means of implementation namely, Integrated management of territorial and urban planning, management, investment and finance and Participatory, multi-sectorial governance and localization of SDGs. [introduced with slight editing as new paragraph 80]

PORTUGAL

Insertions in **bold**, deletions in [square brackets]:

17. Against this background, UN-Habitat will focus on guiding and promoting strategic planning, synergetic investment and coherent implementation to prevent urbanization from exacerbating existing inequalities, overburdening infrastructure and increasing vulnerabilities to climate and environmental risks. Therefore, in the period of 2026-2029, UN-Habitat will actively leverage its capacity as a focal point of the United Nations system on sustainable urbanization to support **Member States to adopt sustainable, people-centred, age- and gender-responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development by implementing policies, strategies, capacity development and actions at all levels, based on the fundamental drivers of change identified on the New Urban Agenda.** [territorial

systems to integrate urban and rural functions into sustainable national and subnational spatial frameworks and systems of cities and human settlements This will also include promoting integrated, polycentric and balanced territorial development policies and plans.] [amended as suggested]

Comment Portugal: NUA 15c)

GERMANY

- The Strategic Plan should outline clearly and explicitly that **human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination** are fundamental to achieve sustainable urban development and squarely fall within UN-Habitat’s mandate. [paragraph 20]
- UN-Habitat’s strategic plan must align with **internationally agreed language**, particularly that of the **New Urban Agenda**.
- GER strongly advocates for the inclusion of terms in the strategic plan that explicitly **address the needs of vulnerable urban communities and marginalized groups**. Key terms such as “gender-based violence” and “marginalized communities” are internationally recognized and firmly established in the New Urban Agenda and other UN frameworks.
- If no consensus can be reached on the above-mentioned terms, we propose **adding “in all their diversity”** in paragraphs addressing the needs of women, girls, and other marginalized groups. [included in paragraph 46]
 - For example in paragraph 31: “*Well-designed networks of accessible, green and high-quality public spaces, accessible to all and free from crime and sexual harassment – in view of the urgent need **to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and harassment against women and girls in all their diversity** – along with safe and equitable mobility systems, are key to promoting inclusive prosperity.*” [amended as suggested]
- GER acknowledges the importance of ensuring that **Member States support the strategic plan and adopt it** during the continued UN-Habitat Assembly in May. To achieve this, broad consensus is needed. However, this should not come at the expense of fundamental principles such as human rights, gender equality, and inclusivity, which are essential to sustainable urban development and must remain integral to the plan’s narrative.
- GER underlines the need to **include reference to UN wide sector strategies related to UN Habitat’s** core mandate such as the UN Systemwide Strategy on Sanitation and Water. Financial scarcity increases the need for cooperation and coordination to leverage synergies across UN agencies. [included in paragraph 73]

EUROPEAN UNION

Insertions in **bold**, deletions in [square brackets]:

16. Urbanization presents both a challenge and a significant opportunity for achieving sustainable development. When guided by proper spatial planning and managed and

developed sustainably, cities and human settlements – along with their systems – can drive innovative solutions to address housing shortages, access to land, and basic services, taking the territorial dimension of sustainable development into account. To achieve [this] **economic transformation for advancing the potential of countries to conceive and implement sustainable urban and territorial development policies**, all territorial scales need adequate infrastructure and effective institutions that underpin productive and equitable economies, leaving no one behind. [amended as suggested]

21. Addressing the global housing crisis and challenges related to poverty, climate change, and humanitarian crises is key to ensuring that cities and human settlements evolve into sustainable, equitable, resilient spaces and communities where no one is left behind. **Analysing challenges and opportunities** within the broader context of sustainable urban and territorial development, UN-Habitat will focus on the opportunity to address these global challenges above through adequate housing, land, and basic services for all, including the transformation of informal settlements and slums. [amended as suggested]

76. This engagement, in turn, will help **the Member States** to mobilise resources for their own [work] **urban and territorial action** [of the Member States themselves], especially in response to the demand in developing countries and countries most in need. Beyond traditional donors, UN-Habitat will closely collaborate with multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the private sector, leveraging its strategic focus **to promote and advance sustainable urban development**. [amended as suggested]

ALGERIA

Insertions in **bold**, deletions in [square brackets]:

12. There is a growing convergence of crises impacting urban areas. Urban centres worldwide, especially in developing countries, often have characteristics that make them and their inhabitants especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and other natural and human made hazards, including earthquakes, extreme weather events, flooding, subsidence, storms, including dust and sand storms, heatwaves, water scarcity, **desertification** and droughts, water and air pollution, vector-borne diseases and sea level rise. Disasters cause \$300 billion in damages to infrastructure globally each year, with cities accounting for a significant portion of this loss. Their effects exacerbate existing inequalities and place immense pressure on urban systems, particularly in informal settlements, where infrastructure is often poor. [amended as suggested]

Comment by Algeria: Desertification, as much as droughts, forces displacements and causes internal migration.

14. As repeatedly acknowledged at the United Nations Conferences related to Human Settlements, notably in the Vancouver Declaration (1976), Habitat Agenda (1996), and New Urban Agenda (2016), effective human settlement strategies are essential for promoting inclusion, social equity and economic growth, and human settlements are inseparable from national development. The transformative potential of urbanization lies in its ability to address spatial and

social inequality, foster economic opportunities for all, create access to essential services without discrimination or exclusion, and build resilient communities across the rural-urban continuum. **Specifically, for the period of 2026-2029, UN-Habitat will focus on the tremendous opportunity to address the mentioned challenges through adequate housing, land and basic services for all and the transformation of informal settlements and slums.** [amended as suggested]

Comment: Algeria support the maintaining of this insertion. It aligns with strategic focus.

39. The interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation, and the current global housing crisis create obstacles to effective climate adaptation and mitigation. Housing and infrastructure provisions that encourage urban sprawl and increased reliance on motorised transport lead to traffic congestion, declining green cover, and exacerbate air pollution, with detrimental effects on human health, the environment and climate change mitigation. A deficit of adequate housing aggravates the human cost of weather-related disasters and can hinder adaptation to the environmental effects of climate change - such as drought and [aridification] **desertification**, wildfires, pollution and floods - on people in vulnerable situations, especially in informal settlements and slums. [amended as suggested]

44. The means of implementation (Mol) are instruments for seeking outcome that jointly serve to attain the global impact through the strategic focus (adequate housing, land, and basic services **for all**). Two substantive and three supportive Mol have been formulated in the draft SP. To be effective and efficient, they must be used coherently in horizontal (among the Mol) and vertical (headquarters – field) collaboration. [amended as suggested]

Comment: Algeria supports keeping this insertion to be coherent with the rest of the text. All the strategic plan is build on equity and inclusiveness, basic services should be provided to all.

MALAYSIA

1.0 Overall, the document is well-composed, clear and comprehensive. It focuses on housing as a lens from which basic urban services, land rights and poverty alleviation can be achieved. It builds on the achievements of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan particularly its relations to sustainable urbanisation to achieve the SDGs and other global goals.

2.0 As in item (17), the role and responsibilities of UN-Habitat is clearly defined. It provides “guidance and promote strategic planning, synergetic investments and coherent implementations to prevent urbanization from exacerbating existing inequalities, overburdening infrastructure and increasing vulnerabilities to climate change and environmental risks.” Clearly the role and responsibilities of member states are also well-articulated. This has been Malaysia’s experience, and its spatial planning and urban development trajectory is a good example of plan-led development.

3.0 In item (18), the Strategic Plan makes clear that “UN-Habitat makes a unique contribution to addressing the urban and territorial dimensions of these global challenges by providing guidance and support to the Member States and other actors on harnessing the transformative potential of sustainable urbanization, critical role of adequate housing, and urgency to address the issue of informal settlements and slums.” In the case of Malaysia, we have demonstrated over the last fifty years our commitment to ‘transform’ informal settlements through our public housing programmes. However, the urban renewal act (draft) provides opportunities to upscale, improve and re develop public and social housing estates to improve the built environment and quality of life of our urban communities.

4.0 Responding to item (19), it is clear that “At the global level, UN-Habitat collaborates within the United Nations system as a partner and contributor to legislative and inter-agency mechanisms, as well as the follow-up and review of global agendas and action frameworks, including the Pact for the Future.” Malaysia welcomes the articulation of this specific role as this architecture was set up under the guidance of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in 2022. This represents a clear articulation of the role of UN-Habitat within the UN System with specific roles for the Programme through its localisation of the SDGs and climate goals.

5.0 The strategic focus of UN-Habitat in the next four years will be: (item 21): “UN Habitat will focus on the opportunity to address the global challenges above through adequate housing, land, and basic services for all, including the transformation of informal settlements and slums.” The theme remains relevant to Malaysia and in many ways, Malaysia is a good example of the achievement of these strategic goals. It’s experience in uplifting both rural and urban communities to bridge the gaps through improving infrastructure, economic opportunities, and quality of life in both areas through multi-governmental agencies including Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA), Urban Development Authority (UDA), Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB), 1Malaysia People’s Housing Programme (PRIMA) can be global examples.

6.0 The Strategic Plan returns housing to the center of UN-Habitat’s work and here housing refers to “tenure security”, “basic services”, “affordability”, “habitability”, “accessibility”, “location” and “cultural adequacy”. Malaysia’s own experience in building on the distinct land tenure matters as well as other legacies from its colonial history is a good example of the amalgamation of multiple cultural practices in terms of housing into a single national policy and practice in the provision of adequate, accessible and affordable housing in the past 50 years. However, the Strategic Plan allows calls for a review of our own housing policies and practices, mapped against 21st century requirements and expectations.

7.0 In item (25), “Affordability of housing and access to basic services are universally important, even if the means of improving them might differ in developed and developing countries: from access to housing finance to

availability of affordable building materials.” Here Malaysia supports this well-articulated and balanced statement. Notable is the distinction of ability, resources and financing between developed and developing countries. Upper-middle income countries like Malaysia face significantly different challenges as we transition to a more knowledge centric economy. This defines the supply side of affordability - do we build and price according to the income levels of our citizens instead of allowing for a completely free enterprise model in private housing?

8.0 Item (26), “Slum dwellers are members of our communities who should be equal in rights and dignity and who play important cultural, economic and social roles. Here is a rights-based approach in the definition of adequate housing. Malaysia can support this with the caveat that this only applies to Malaysian citizens or that the needs of Malaysians citizens are prioritised.

9.0 Item (33), defines the role of UN-Habitat working in partnership with member states on poverty eradication through the provision of housing as a basic first step. “It promotes the efficient and equitable use of land to deliver sustainable urban development, including adequate housing, and to maximise the security of tenure for the social and economic benefits that this provides, including the protection of dignity.” Malaysia housing policy is a global example on how this strategic can be achieved. Here we can champion the Malaysian model in the efficiency of the provision of housing (our building industry) and our pro-poor policies (New Economic Policy, New Development Policy and Madani Economy) that we have implemented consistently over half a century.

10.0 As the world is now facing more challenges, conflicts and natural disasters, we can support the strengthening of UN-Habitat’s role within the UN emergency standing committee (IASC). Malaysia can support this as stated in item (36): “Working across the whole cycle allows UN-Habitat to help integrate humanitarian and development efforts and leverage its comparative advantages as called for as in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, adopted in 2024.”

11.0 Items (39) and (40) are on climate change and the role of urbanisation as a basis for localising the climate goals. Again, this function of UN-Habitat in this area that resulted in the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Urbanisation (COP27,28&29) as well as World Clean Up Day (2024) and International Zero Waste Day (2023). Item (39) “A deficit of adequate housing aggravates the human cost of weather-related disasters and can hinder adaptation to the environmental effects of climate change - such as drought and aridification, wildfires, pollution and floods - on people in vulnerable situations, especially in informal settlements and slums. (Item 40) A shift towards a circular model in the buildings and construction sector and the use of sustainable building materials is urgent to reduce the carbon imprint of construction. Malaysia stands ready to share its multi-agencies approach in developing green buildings, low carbon cities and sustainable construction practices to reduce environmental impact.

12.0 (Item 42) highlights the importance of aligning the mandate of UN-Habitat's line ministries with that of climate (NRES for Malaysia) as well as rural development (Ministry of Rural and Regional Development) to close the loop between the urban rural continuum. "Additionally, UN-Habitat enriches the efforts of the United Nations system by addressing the urban and territorial dimensions of key issues, such as water resource planning and management across the rural-urban continuum." Malaysia's National Spatial Plan provides a comprehensive framework to guide the country's overall development by defining spatial strategies for urban and rural areas, to achieve balance and sustainable growth across the nation. The plan also addresses climate change, sustainable urban development, bio-diversity, food security, green technology and inclusive development between urban and rural areas.

13.0 With regards to outcome and measurement of implementation, item (45) is once again aligned with Malaysia's impact indicators and measurements. "Outcomes constitute a distinct level in the hierarchy of the results chain: a) impact at the top, where we have only indirect influence: what occurs in people's lives; b) outcomes in the middle, where we have a more direct influence: what we help our partners to do better; and c) outputs at the bottom, where we have full control: deliverables of our work. This hierarchy of results will be monitored through corresponding levels of indicators.

14.0 On the role of integrated planning, Malaysia can support item (49) "Effective urban planning is the backbone of delivering inclusion, resilience, accessibility and sustainability in cities and communities. "And item (51) UN-Habitat will provide normative guidance and technical assistance to Member States and other partners on participatory, inclusive, and sustainable integrated evidence-based urban planning and infrastructure development to improve the capacity of all levels of government to coherently plan, manage and implement productive, equitable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable urban development." Malaysia's urban planning development plan system has roadmaps align to the SDGs and UN-Habitat's normative guidelines, demonstrating its commitment to achieve the SDGs.

15.0 (Item 54)" The Sustainable Development Goals must be met for all segments of society and leave no one behind, including through the localization of sustainable development". Malaysia fully supports the importance of localising the global goals, its Malaysia SDG Cities program has encouraged cities to align its local policies and execute plans, programs and solution to address local issues that contribute to the global goals.

16.0 (Item 59) "To leverage digital technology for a better quality of life in cities and human settlements." Malaysia fully supports the importance of digitalisation that is instrumental to change our lives, where technology will be at the core of this transformation of businesses and society. Malaysia's Connectivity for All program will ensure digital connectivity to every corner of the nation and this has also assisted small home-based entrepreneurs and young people. And Malaysia's smart city initiative uses technology to address urban issues and

improve quality of life. The goal is to create cities that are more sustainable, safe, and inclusive.

16.0 Finally, Malaysia welcomes efforts on diversification on the mobilisation of resources (a trend introduced by ED Maimunah during her tenure where 93% of the entire USD 1 billion budget was earmarked that resulted in two years of surpluses). “Guided by this strategic plan, UN-Habitat will mobilise greater, diversified, and more predictable resources for its work, including the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly.”

COSTA RICA

1. **Paras 9, 12, new 28, new 31, new 39 and new 46:** as it has been indicated on previous discussions, the terms “vulnerable communities” and “marginalized groups” are extensively mentioned in strategic documents from other UN agencies (for instance UNODC (1) (2), FAO (1) (2) and WFP (1) (2) (3)) that went through a governing body process with the involvement of all Member States, as well as in internationally-binding instruments, for instance the Paris Agreement ([article 7.5](#)).

In this regard, once again, we reiterate our position that multilaterally-agreed language on human rights **cannot** be backpedalled. Costa Rica is **not** in a position to support a Strategic Plan that **disregards** agreed language.

Moreover, we are appalled on the removal of the sentence on **para 12** that states “*By 2050, climate change may force up to 158 million more women and girls into extreme poverty, 16 million more than men and boys*”. The Gender Snapshot findings are based on science and evidence, it is a technical report rigorously produced. [reinserted as suggested]

Further to this, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognizes the link between environmental degradation and women's empowerment, highlighting the need to address the gendered impacts of environmental issues (paras [246 to 258](#)). The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women's General Recommendation No. [37](#) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, acknowledges the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls, including increased vulnerability to gender-based violence and economic insecurity.

Nevertheless, we welcome the addition, as a **complement**, of the sentence from NUA's OP 20.

2. On **new para 20**, while we prefer the original drafting, we can accept the deletions and additions.
3. On **new para 35**, we can accept the deletion, given the context.
4. On **para 52**, we prefer to use (last sentence) “fiscal policies” instead of “subsidies and incentives”. [amended as suggested]