

Item 9

Statement of the Russian Federation on Smart-cities Guidelines

This delegation expresses sincere gratitude to the UN-Habitat Secretariat and the expert group for the dedicated work and for the careful consideration given to the inputs submitted by Member States. We continue to uphold the technical focus of the document and the agreed language in it.

The current draft of the document already reflects a number of previously voiced recommendations. This demonstrates a commitment to building a balanced and substantive approach in formulating the Guidelines.

At the same time, we would like to draw attention to several key aspects that according to the current best available practice deserve more detailed inclusion in the text.

Any smart city relies heavily on digital transformation in urban governance. This includes effective use of data, cross-cutting digital technologies, and the integration of urban services into a one single ecosystem.

1. Particular attention should be given to the development of applied artificial intelligence solutions. These technologies are already being widely adopted in urban management in such areas AS automated procurement processes, transport flows analysis AND urban planning decisions. \
2. We recognize that the current draft includes references to digital twin technologies as a key tool for modelling, monitoring, and supporting decision-making. At the same time we find it desirable to further advance both directions (AI solutions in urban management AND digital twin technology) within the Guidelines, and call on to specifically highlight their role as practical instruments.
3. According to the best available expertise, it is essential to underscore the key role of the resilience and reliability of digital infrastructure in cities. Although the current draft contains provisions related to risk assessment and response mechanisms, we believe additional consideration is needed on scalability, reliability, and cybersecurity aspects of digital architecture.

Ladies and gentlemen, we support the approach based on partnership, openness, and exchange of experience among cities. We are convinced that continued joint work on the document and **further** - in its implementation on ground - will contribute to successful creation of people-centred smart cities across the globe.