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Agenda item 7

**Adoption of the outcomes of the session**

## **Proposed consensual changes to the draft strategic plan as contained in document HSP/OECPR.2025/13**

*The following changes have been agreed by consensus at the third Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and will complement document CRP.1 – “Draft decision 2/6 on the strategic plan for UN-Habitat for the period 2026-2029”.*

18. 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, coastal erosion, subsidence, storms (including dust and sand storms), heatwaves, water scarcity, desertification and droughts, water and air pollution, vector-borne diseases and sea level rise. By 2050, climate change may force up to 158 million more women and girls into extreme poverty, 16 million more than men and boys. Disasters cause \$300 billion in damage to infrastructure globally each year, with cities accounting for a significant portion of this loss. The effects of disasters exacerbate existing inequalities and place immense pressure on urban systems, particularly in informal settlements, where infrastructure is often poor.

26. Guided by the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, UN-Habitat’s approach is people-centred and anchored in international human rights law. This ensures that urban development prioritizes inclusivity, equality, non-discrimination and resilience, preventing inequality and exclusion, which undermine the sustainability of cities and human settlements. Without this approach, urban growth runs the risk of perpetuating inequality and exclusion, further undermining the sustainability of cities and human settlements and the well-being of their inhabitants, in particular those in vulnerable situations.

31. Similarly, the important social and ecological functions of land and its economic value must be emphasized from a public goods perspective. Proximity to and socioeconomic accessibility of public facilities and basic services are at the heart of adequate housing, which itself underpins secure access to services, employment and urban life, thus enhancing social cohesion, well-being, and quality of life, which require well-functioning cities and human settlements. The prioritization of implementing the right to adequate housing in local, national and global frameworks is key to ensuring dignity and empowerment for all and as a pillar of social protection. 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 because of differences in economic structures, institutional capacity and available resources.

37. Adequate housing, aside from being a precursor to other essential aspects of social inclusion, such as education and health, also serves as an asset in creating livelihood opportunities. Well-located, well-connected and appropriately densified mixed-use and socially mixed neighbourhoods enable equitable access to services and opportunities for all. Well-designed networks of accessible, green and high-quality public spaces, accessible to all and free of crime, all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls, along with safe, equitable, affordable and accessible mobility systems, are key to promoting inclusive prosperity. These interventions help to eradicate poverty, recognizing the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations, to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls.

45. The interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation and the current global housing crisis create obstacles to effective climate adaptation and mitigation. Housing and infrastructure provision that encourages urban sprawl and increased reliance on motorized transport lead to traffic congestion and 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, as well as those of other challenges, such as drought and desertification, land degradation, wildfires, pollution and floods, and coastal erosion, on people in vulnerable situations, especially in informal settlements and slums.

47. Urban planning and management that ensure adequate densities, green space retention and expansion, and the promotion of nature-based solutions offer potential for urban heat mitigation, flood risk reduction, biodiversity preservation, enhanced human well-being, quality of life, and socioeconomic co-benefits. Energy-saving infrastructure and effective waste management are critical for both climate change mitigation and sound economic development. In addition, due regard must be given to the importance of preserving architectural heritage while respecting the specificities of each region and strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

54. In all means of implementation, special attention will be given to eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and empowering women, children, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, in particular the poorest and those in vulnerable situations who are disproportionately affected by the global housing crisis and other urbanization-related hardships.

58. At the national level, given the significant impacts of urbanization on development, spatial planning is vital for improving the strategic prioritization and sequencing of investments in coherent territorial development across the rural-urban continuum. This is essential for guiding and implementing local development plans and achieving their targets, with housing interventions embedded within broader spatial development strategies that integrate urban, peri-urban, and rural systems to ensure balanced and sustainable territorial development.

59. UN-Habitat will provide normative guidance and technical assistance to Member States and other partners on participatory, inclusive, sustainable, integrated and evidence-based urban planning and infrastructure development in order to improve the capacity of all levels of government to coherently plan, manage and implement productive, equitable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable urban development. This includes planning for urban densification and urban extension, renewal and regeneration, with public open green spaces and other basic services and efficient and accessible public transport systems, that are safe, affordable, accessible, sustainable and efficient and include non-motorized mobility in alignment with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030. UN-Habitat will promote spatial planning for cohesive economic development and public investment at all scales, strengthening environmentally sensitive economic productivity and social inclusion in cities, human settlements and territories across the urban-rural continuum, seeking to decrease disparities in living conditions in rural and urban areas, and supporting local and regional governments in developing urban plans that incorporate zoning and regulatory mechanisms to increase the supply of affordable housing.

62. The Sustainable Development Goals must be met for all segments of society, leaving no one behind, including through the localization of sustainable development. Transforming the global goals into long-lasting change at the local level and the collective pursuit of more inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities and human settlements require effective localization processes that foster alignment between national frameworks and communities' priorities, leveraging real-time urban data.

64. UN-Habitat has been requested by the Member States to promote the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Making use of the localization approach, the Programme will leverage its leadership and expertise on sustainable urbanization, qualitative and quantitative data, planning, capacity-building and finance, as well as other tools, to promote city-level transformation by building robust multilevel governance systems that serve the attainment of the Goals.

67. In its resolutions, the UN-Habitat Assembly has recognized and called for improvements in data collection on and the monitoring of sustainable urbanization. It is urgent to leverage digital technology and smart city approaches to improve data collection, analysis, and decision-making for better quality of life in cities and human

settlements, while managing the associated risks to ensure an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all. Participatory methods, geospatial tools, data platforms for modelling, training and research partnerships, and digital twin technology are crucial in ensuring that data reflects the lived realities of diverse communities, thereby supporting more inclusive and equitable urban planning. Disaggregated localized data is a tool for empowering communities while enriching the evidence base for monitoring urbanization.

74. UN-Habitat will strengthen its partnerships and stakeholder collaboration by actively engaging its advisory groups and prioritizing strategic coalitions. These activities will include partnerships among institutions responsible for urban development policies, national and local governments, universities and research institutions to support data-based decision-making, the organization of meetings and debates and the sharing of good practices at the regional and international levels, including through capacity building and investment support at the local level to strengthen on the ground implementation.

82. UN-Habitat will leverage its existing capacities, and intelligence to manage and improve existing initiatives and mechanisms for resource mobilization aligned to Member States' needs and priorities to broaden and deepen donor engagement while also scaling up partnerships with international financial institutions to leverage resources and expertise.

92. During the process of elaborating the monitoring framework, the following will be considered:

e) Given the substantial data gaps many countries face, including at local level, to ensure robust attribution of change to the work of UN-Habitat, careful consideration is needed to distinguish monitoring overall global progress from monitoring progress in the countries and cities where UN-Habitat works. Well functioning monitoring frameworks require indicators and reporting systems that are simple, manageable, and aligned with existing national systems.