



# UN-Habitat in Africa Investment Action Plan [2026-2029]

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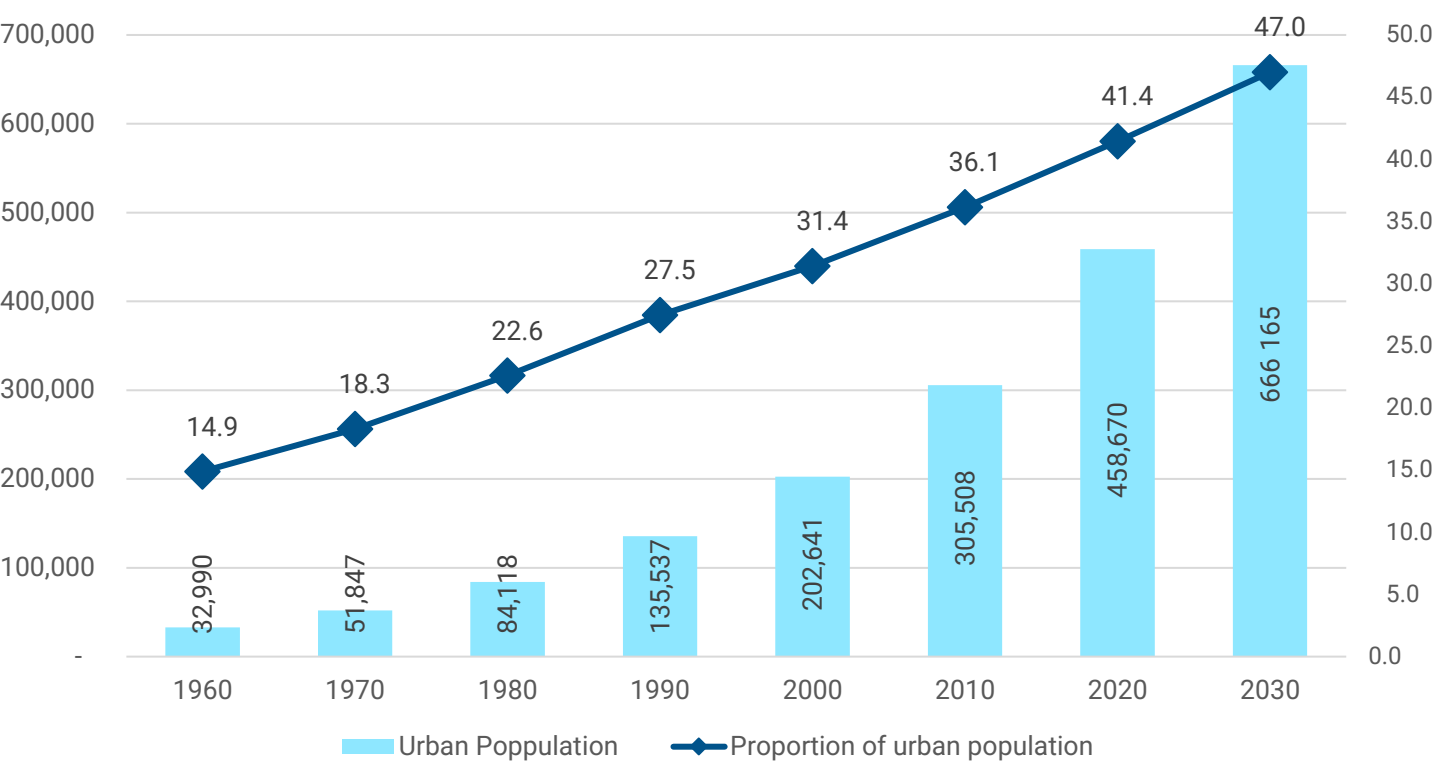
Roadmap for Implementation of the Strategic Plan

May 2025

# Overview of Urbanization in the Region

## Urbanization Trends in Africa


Urban population in Sub-Saharan Africa (1960-2030) thousands, and % of population



\* Source: UN-Habitat Urban Indicators Database 2023

### 40%

Today, 40% of the population lives in urban areas.




### 75%

are youth

### 56%

In **2050**, 56% of the population will live in urban areas.



### 2×

Cities' population will have **DOUBLED**



### ~53%

With ~53% of the urban population living in **INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS**.

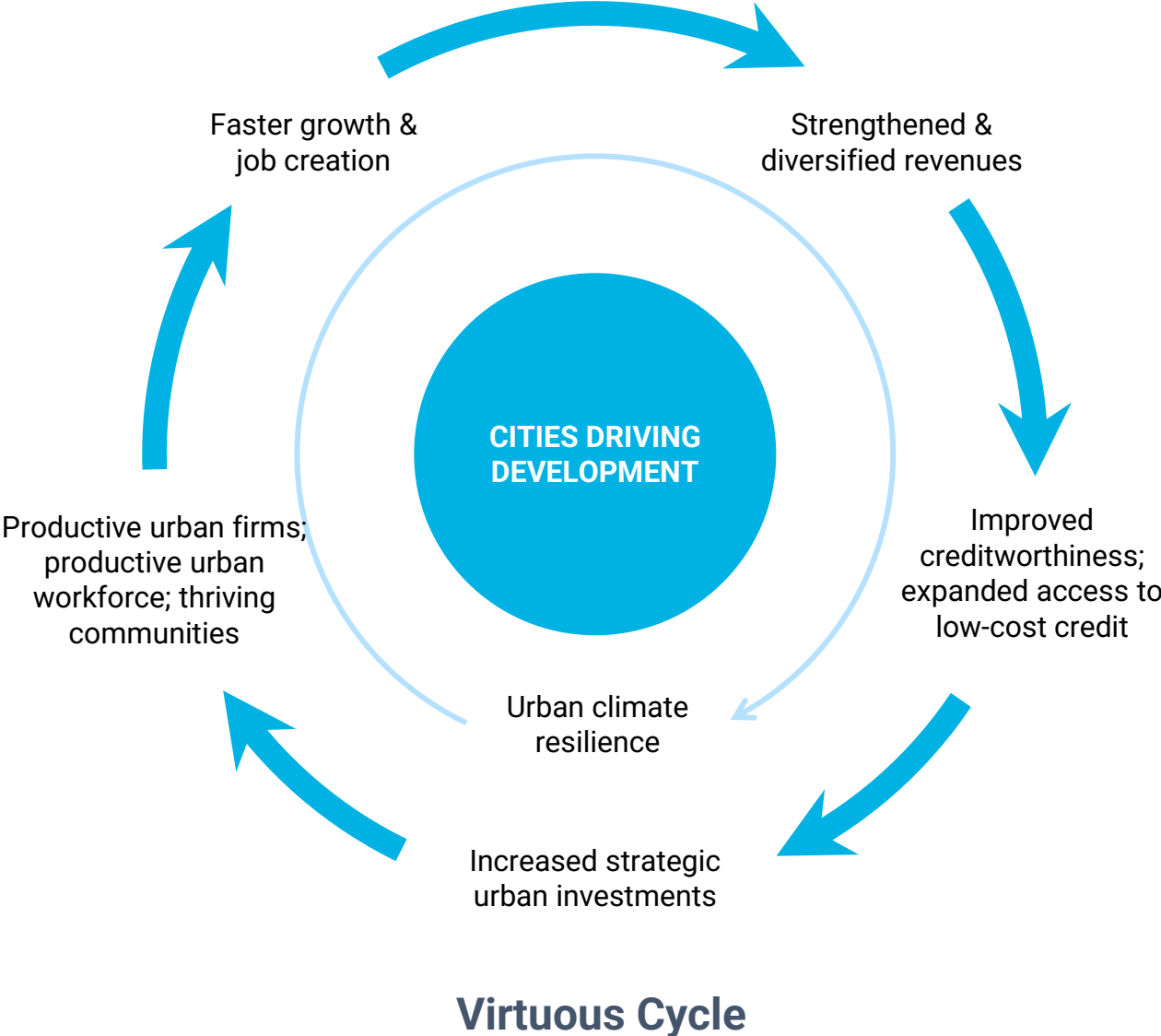


# City Economies

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Proof of investment

# City Development & Investment Cycle





# Lagos, Nigeria

Lagos's economy is larger than the economies of 46 out of 54 countries in Africa.

- It's also the second-largest city economy in Africa, with a GDP of \$259 billion, only behind Cairo.
- This makes it a significant city-economy powerhouse on the continent.
- This substantial increase underscores the state's **robust economic framework amidst ongoing reforms and infrastructural investments.**





# Freetown, Sierra Leone

## City Property Tax Reform

- Freetown City Council's property tax register **increased by over 100%** (from about 57,000 to over 120,000). The new database reflects the current status of the properties which was useful for tax valuation/assessment purpose.
- Council now have a fair idea of its property tax potential which could be useful for planning purposes. Based on the reform, **the top 25% of the properties would now contribute 70% of the revenue potential.**
- A relatively simplified, automated, fair and progressive system largely driven by data have been developed and adopted.



# Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

## Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system (USD 450 Million)

- This investment led to approximately **900,000 people coming into work every day by public transport.**
- Significant positive impact on the city's economy, primarily by improving access to the labor market and goods markets, and by increasing productivity. The BRT has also led to job creation along the corridor and reduced travel times, contributing to overall economic growth





# Kigali, Rwanda

## Kigali Innovation Smart

- 61-hectare smart city project located at Kigali Special Economic Zone, in the Gasabo district of Kigali, the Rwandan capital, will be worth more than 2 billion U.S. dollars and is expected to position Rwanda as a major producer of next-generation technology
- **Investors:**
  - Rwanda Development Board (RDB)
  - Africa50
- **Expected Impact:**
  - 50,000 jobs to be created
  - Over 150 million U.S. dollars in exports of technology and innovation services,





# Investing in Cities: The Business Case



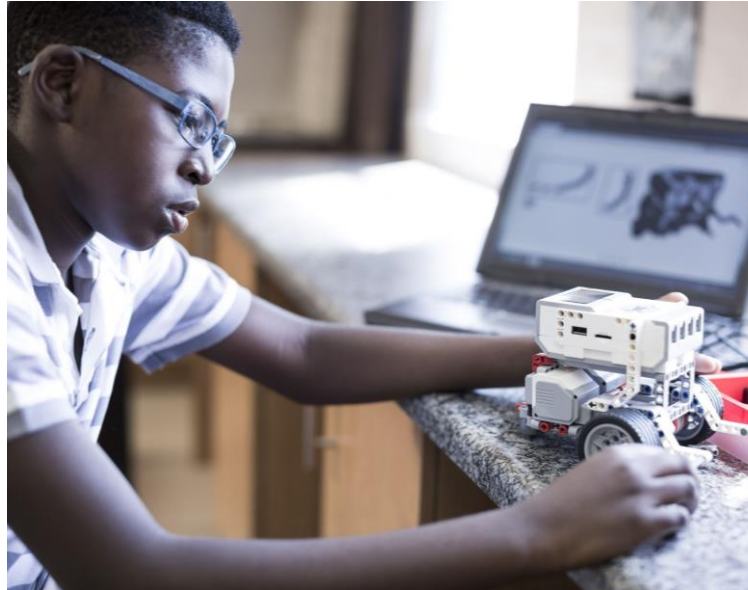
## Convergence Factors

- The convergence of urban growth, youthful demographics, resource wealth, technological advancement, and supportive governmental policies makes African cities an attractive frontier for investment, offering high potential returns



## Business Case

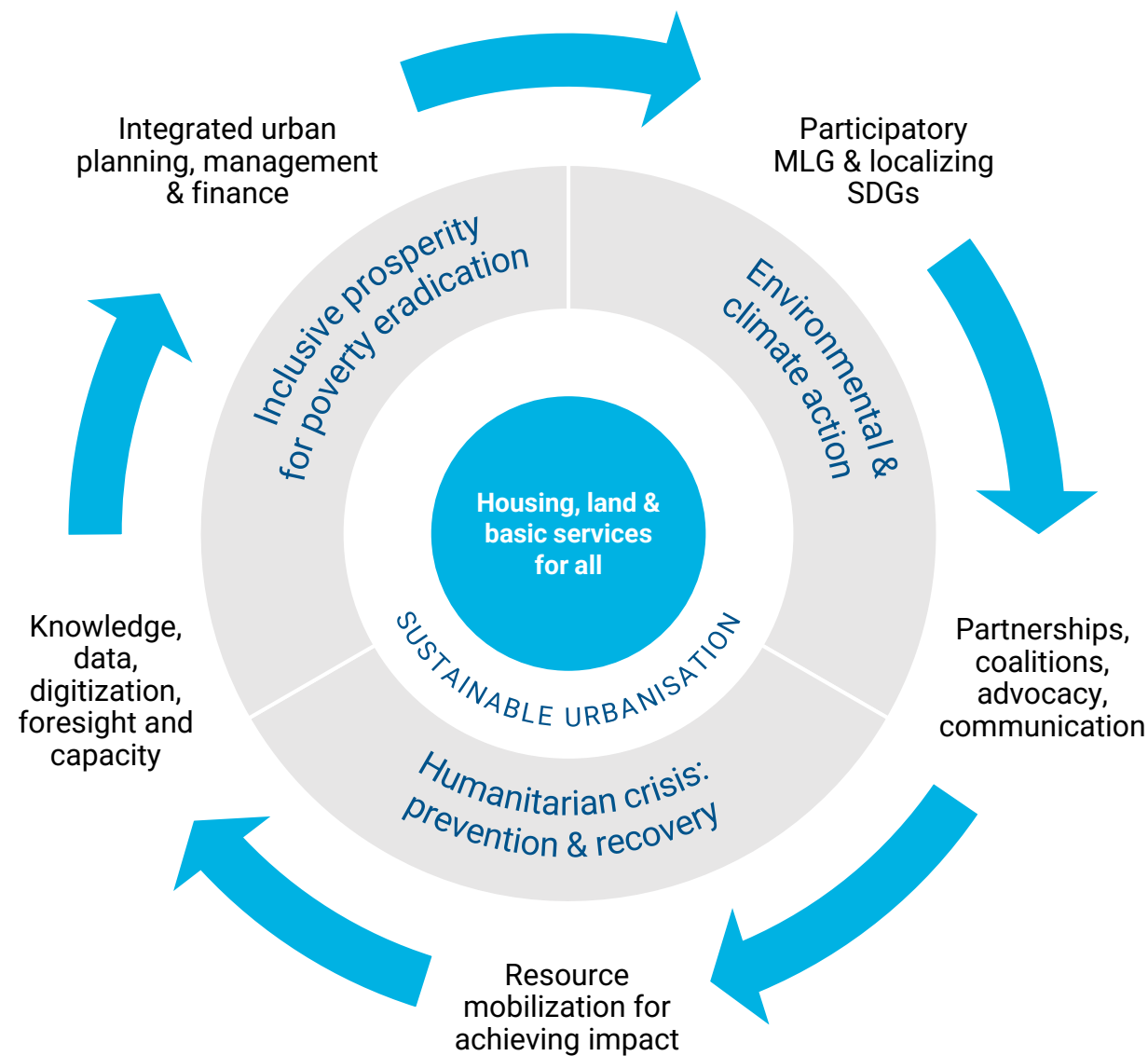
- An opportunity to capitalize on economic growth but a chance to contribute to sustainable development.
- Addressing urban challenges—including infrastructure, housing, and social services—presents a multifaceted investment landscape, offering potential for significant financial returns while fostering resilience in rapidly growing urban centers.



## Development Case

- An opportunity to be part of a transformative story of growth, innovation, and sustainable development.
- By capitalizing on urbanization trends and supporting emerging markets, investors can help unlock the continent's vast potential while achieving significant returns alongside the opportunity to contribute to sustainable development

# UN-Habitat Strategic Plan [2026-2029]





# Contextualizing the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan

## Areas of Intervention in African Cities





# Regional Office for Africa Investment Action Plan

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2026 - 2029

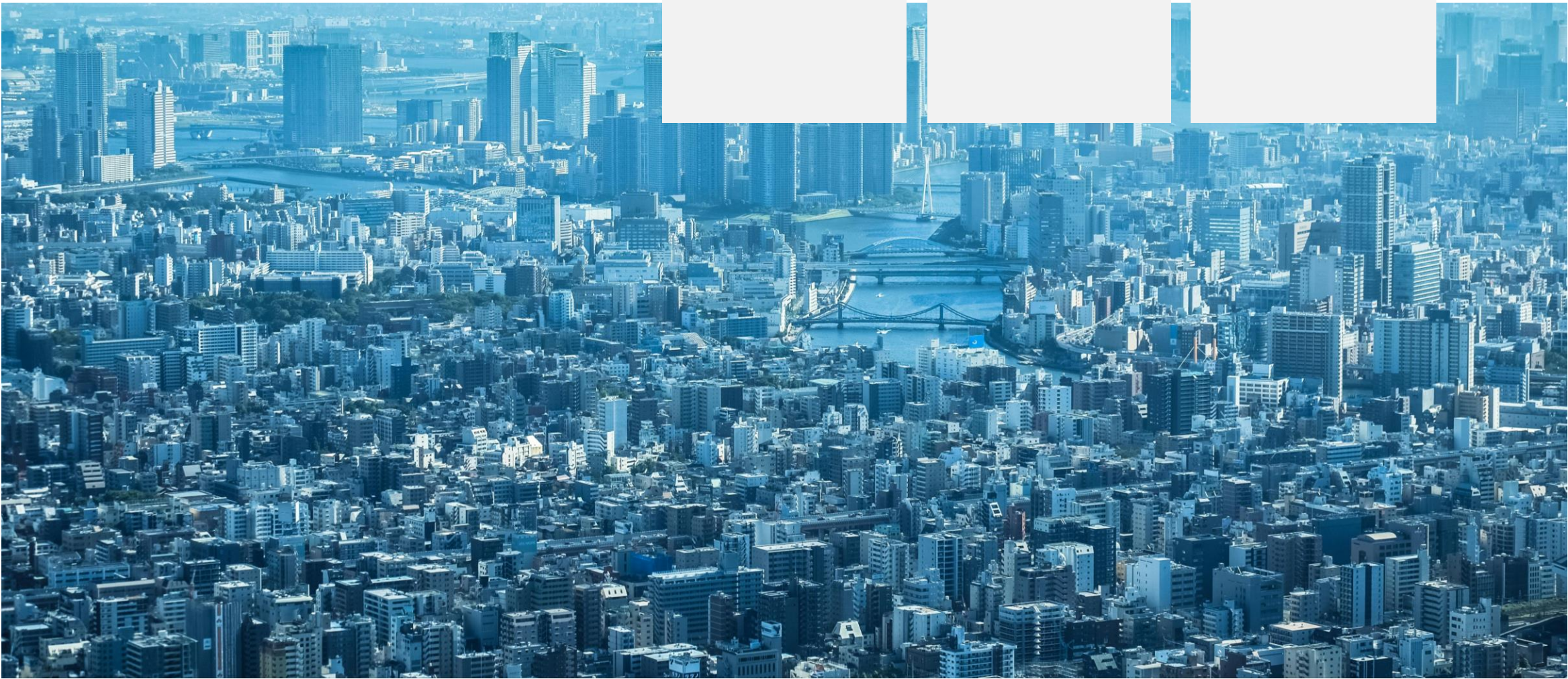


# Relevant Urban Frameworks in Africa

Agenda 2063

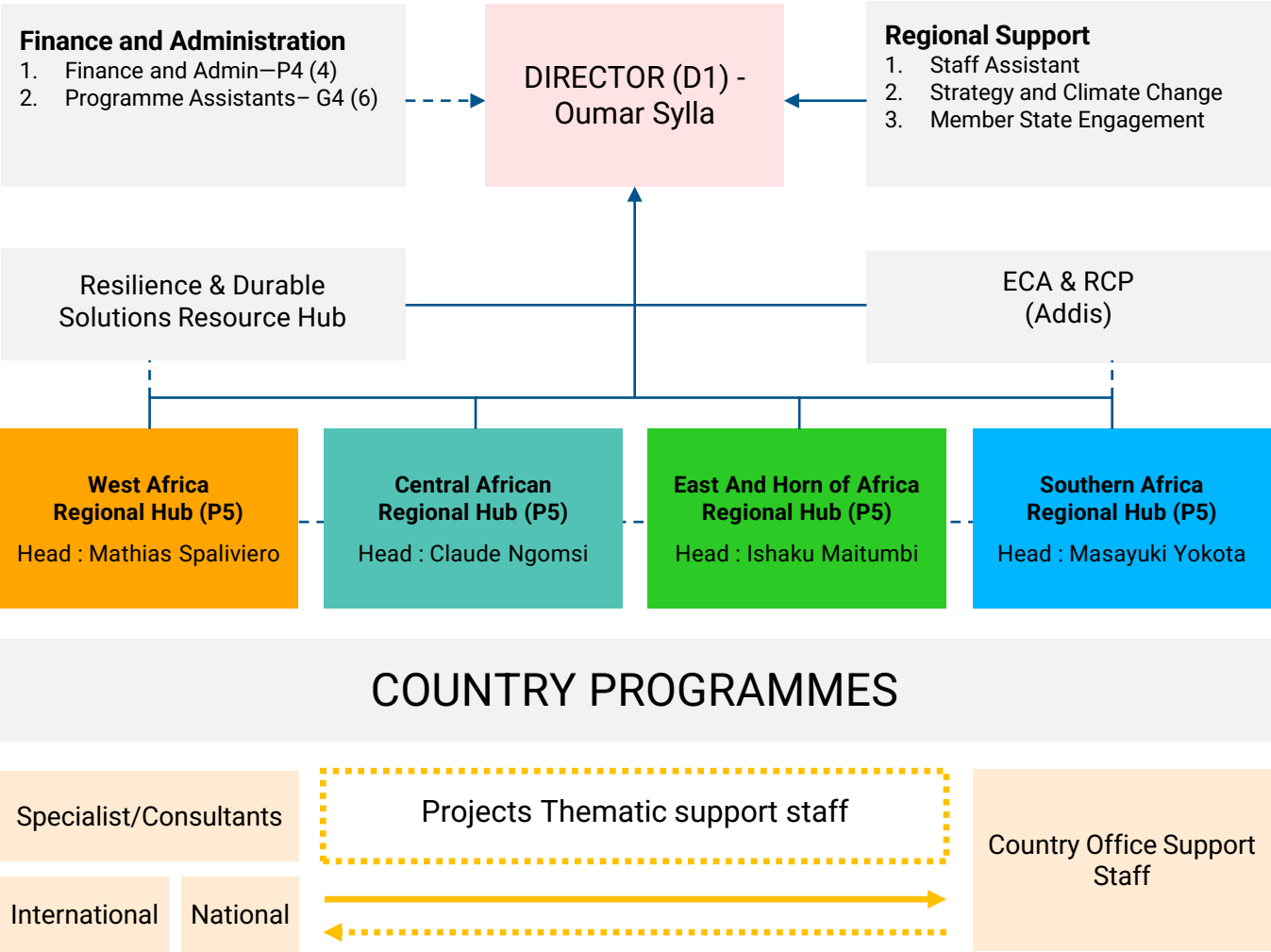
New Urban  
Agenda

African Urban  
Forum  
Declaration





# ROAf Function Structure & Map





# ROAf Strategic Goals



Ensure equitable access to sustainable infrastructure, well-managed land resources, and essential basic services for all communities, fostering long term urban development that promotes resilience, inclusivity, and environmental stewardship.

Promote inclusive urban development by ensuring the availability of affordable housing and effective urban planning that fosters sustainable, resilient, and livable communities for all residents through well planned urban spaces.

Foster inclusive governance by leveraging innovation, technology and AI, to enhance transparency, participation to unlock urban finance for cities ensuring equitable development and access to resources for all.

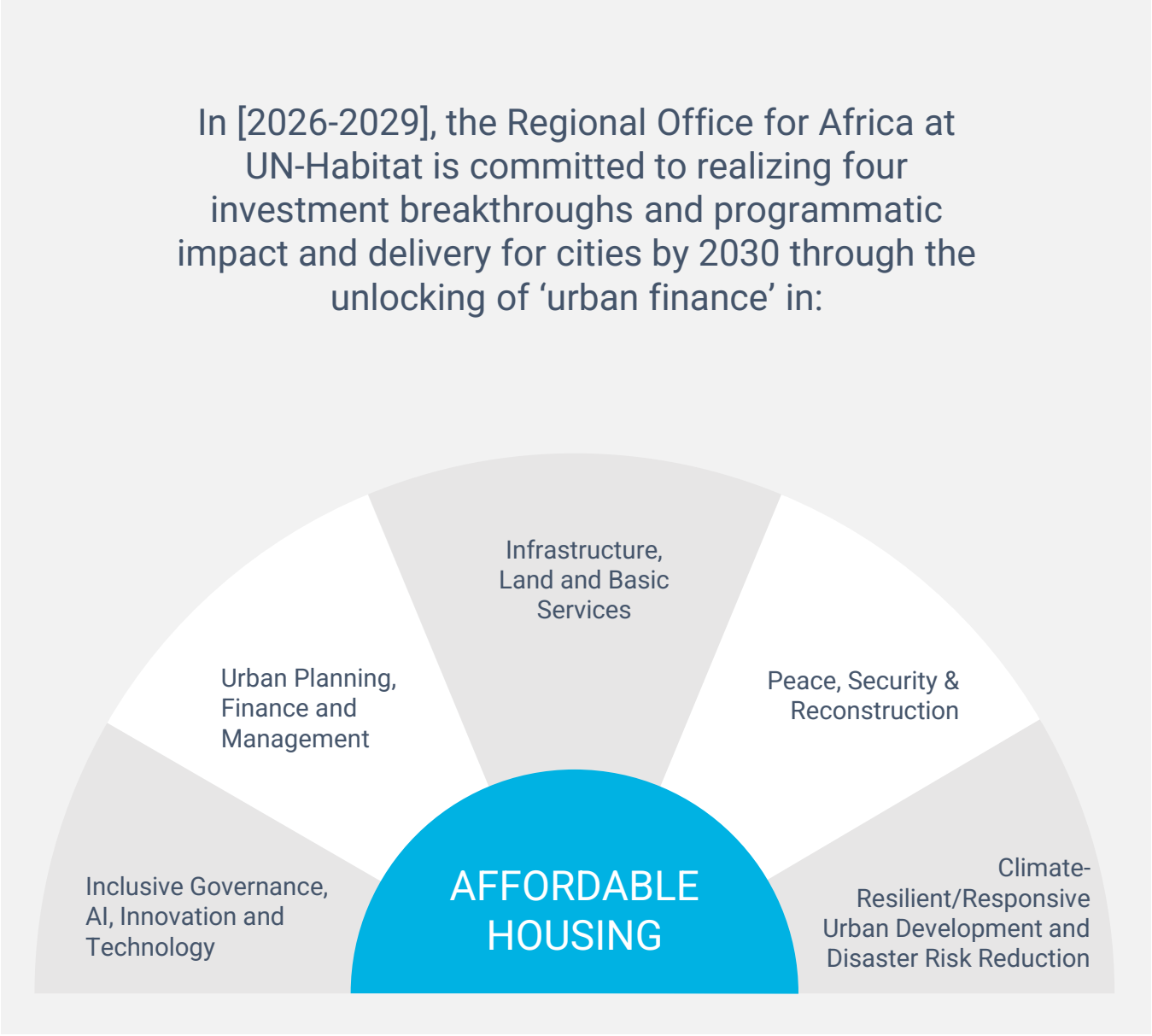
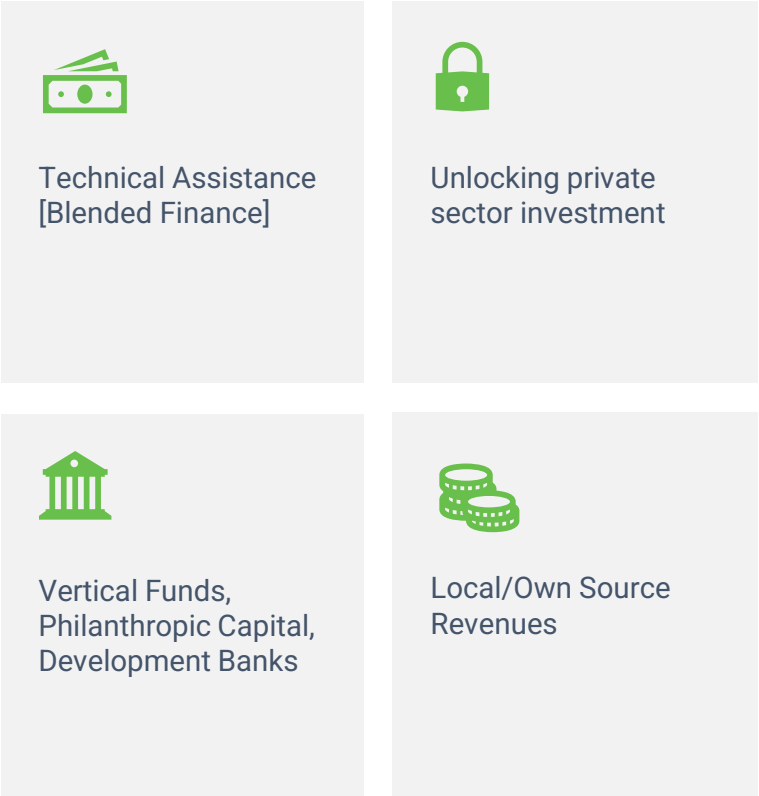
Drive climate-resilient urban development through proactive disaster risk reduction strategies, strengthening urban biodiversity, fostering sustainable, adaptive, and secure urban environments by unlocking urban climate finance.

Deepen private sector, IFI collaboration and philanthropic partnerships to diversify funding opportunities including investments and to scale up programs and enhance programmatic impact.

Strengthen and ensure the financial sustainability of sub-regional hubs and country offices for localized and targeted solutions.

Elevate the urban agenda into the priorities of the African Union and Regional Economic Commissions such as the EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC.

# Paradigm Shift: From Grants to Investments





# Special Focus and Cross Cutting Areas



## Cross Cutting Issues:

Gender

Human Rights

Children, Youth & Older Persons

Persons with disabilities

Capacity Development

# Enablers: How ROAf Implement the Action Plan



Foster strategic, equitable & mutually beneficial partnerships, and deliver on our commitments to sustainable urban development



Utilize data and research to generate evidence and learning to inform programing and advocacy



Be an accountable and preferred technical partner to our funders by increasing value for money and efficiency alongside the strengthening of sub-regional hubs and country offices



Secure diversified stable funding to deliver impact for cities in Africa



Increase integration & utilization of innovation , technology and AI for improved urban efficiency & impact



Integrate climate action for sustainable urban development

# Road map Regional Implementation Plan



## UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029

- SDG 11 and other relevant SDGs
- New Urban Agenda
- UN-Habitat Resolutions
- Other international Declarations



## Define Africa Priorities

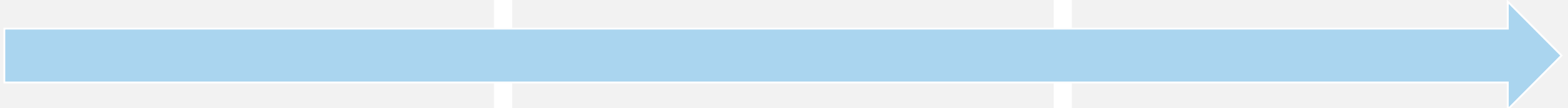
This include;

- Regional Priorities from NUA report
- The Africa Urban Forum Declaration and Background Paper
- AU 2063 Africa We want Strategic document



## Consultations with Africa Member State and Regional Bodies

- Consultation with Member State and RECs to examine their priorities and get buy-in in during implementation process
- ADC Retreat
- Draw lessons from country program.







# Thank you.

